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THE NEW TIMES

WHO CONTROLS
OUR FOREIGN
POLICY?

See Page 4

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. 10.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 1938.

Every Friday, 3d

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OUT WITH CASEY!

The Money Power is not yet legally sovereign in this country. It is the hidden Government, which through its control of money controls everything. Parliament lives perpetually upon an overdraft. The issuers of that overdraft may, overnight, destroy the whole fabric of Government by calling in the overdraft, and, consequently, Parliament enjoys no real independence. The Government of the day cannot even continue to pay its public servants without the consent of the money monopolists. Remember what happened to Mr. Lang!

The Dance of the Marionettes

In these circumstances finance prefers to remain hidden. Its puppets strut the stage to receive applause or brickbats, and to answer to the string pulling which governs their actions.

Control of money has always rendered it easy to procure a plentiful supply of puppets. Men outside the monopoly are faced with the alternatives of doing the bidding of the monopoly or remaining nonentities. The only alternative to starvation is, in their case, servitude. If they have ability, if they are fired with an ambition to get on, and if they can do the work, which the monopoly requires of them, their lot will be advancement, honours and substantial incomes—all secured at the expense of conscious or unconscious sycophancy.

Take, for instance, Joseph Aloysius Lyons, Professor Copland, John Latham and others. It is only in rare cases that they actually succeed in climbing right into the ranks of the monopoly, as Robert Gordon Menzies shows signs of doing.

The Monopolists Step Forward

The monopolists, as we have said, prefer to keep back-stage, but occasions arise when they deem it necessary that one of their numbers should actually come out into the glare of the footlights. These occasions arise when there is some particularly important task to be performed, or when it is necessary to watch, at first hand, what is going on. The task is too delicate to leave to a puppet.

Stan. Bruce, of the monopoly, successfully placed Australia's Central Bank beyond "political" control (i.e., control by the people), in 1924. He then went on effectively to pawn Australia to overseas financial interests, and, by holding a pistol at the States' heads, to pave the way for the enslavement of Australia by virtue of the Financial Agreements. Stan, then retired from the scene, and allowed Mr. Scullin to accept the brickbats. In recent years Stan, has lived overseas to collect pats on the back in Threadneedle Street.

Colonel Harold Cohen, of the banking, metal, beer monopoly, then took the stage in the State sphere to see that all went well with the Loan Council in its efforts to hamstring Australian Governments. Mr. Casey, also of the banking and metal monopolies, took the stage in the Federal sphere, just in time to take charge of Federal finances after the Scullin and Theodore marionettes had been peremptorily pulled into the wings for daring to dance differently from the way their string-pullers demanded of them.

The Hon. R. G. Casey, D.S.O., M.C.

This gentleman was born a member of the money monopoly. His father was one of the magnates of the bank owning metal monopoly. Young Mr. Casey was able to pursue his studies at Cambridge (where Stan. Bruce also studied), and the nature of the decorations received by him for

service in the first World War suggest that he served as an officer and did not see so much of the mud and foot-slogging side of things as the rank and file did. After the war he returned to Australia and was actively associated with the Collins House metal monopoly.

From 1924 to 1931 he quietly worked in London as liaison officer, a sort of go-between, with the British Government. There he had ample opportunity to make contact with City interests. The City had the like opportunity to sum him up, and he became steeped in City philosophy. His ranking at Threadneedle Street is Al. Mr. Casey owed his appointment as liaison officer to Mr. Bruce. His contempt for the plain Australian citizen is colossal and ill concealed. He has never suffered want.

In 1931, when it was obvious that Australian electors had had enough of Mr. Bruce, Mr. Casey returned post-haste from London to Australia, and entered Parliament as member for a "safe" constituency. He has been there ever since, though the last election proved a bit of a shock to him, and, as the title of this article suggests, we have sincere hopes that the next election will see the last of him.

Mr. Casey is a member of the Melbourne Club, a club with palatial offices in the leafy upper reaches of Collins Street, membership of which is rigidly restricted to members of the monopoly, and to members of the judiciary whom it is desirable to have properly conditioned mentally.

If a visiting R.A.F. seaplane were to disintegrate in the air, and to crash into the Melbourne Club, it might perform a real service to the country.

From early in 1932 after Scullin's retirement, Mr. Casey has been connected with the Federal Treasury, first, as apprentice to Mr. Lyons and very soon as Federal Treasurer.

Return to "Sound" Finance

When Australia returned to "sound finance" in 1932, her public debt was as follows:—

<i>Federal Debt</i> —	
Local.....	£223 millions.
Overseas	£176 millions.

<i>States' Debts</i> —	
Local.....	£363 millions.
Overseas	£426 millions.

The local debts are expressed in Australian currency, and overseas debts in sterling. The total, in polygenous currency, was £1188 millions, or £180/12/2 per head of population.

After five years' of Casey's administration corresponding figures were as follows:— *Federal Debt*—

Local	£215 millions.
Overseas	£172 millions.

States' Debts—

Local.....	£460 millions.
Overseas	£416 millions.

Total, £1263 millions, or £184 17/3 per head of population.

We see in these figures a slight decrease in overseas public debt, a vast increase of local public debt, and a net increase of debt per head of population. All this increase has been incurred in years of "sound finance" and "peace." In time of war the increase would be tenfold. In addition to this increase of funded debt, there has, since 1931, been an increase of £40 millions in short-term debt.

But we find something else as well—namely, that Mr. Casey has been allowed to dress the Commonwealth's window at the expense of the States. It is really not very material to the plain citizen, as Australia, the whole of Australia, and all its citizens are liable for the whole of the debt under the Financial Agreements.

Taxation Figures

On the occasion of the delivery of each annual budget, Mr. Casey has

boasted of alleged reductions in taxation. There have been one or two small remissions, but let us look at the total figures.

Total taxation in Australia in 1932 was £86,707,570, of which sum less than £33 millions was State taxation. The figure per head of population was £13/4/8 (£5/0/2 State taxation, and the balance Federal).

In 1937 total taxation had increased to £108,303,392. Of the £22 millions increase, over £9 millions represented an increase in Federal, or Mr. Casey's, taxation. It is true that direct taxes have decreased somewhat. The increase was effected largely by indirect taxation -- customs and excise. These indirect taxes hit rich and poor alike, and their incidence is more serious because they are hidden. For instance, not many people know that indirect taxation accounts for more than half of the price of a sixpenny packet of cigarettes.

Of all taxation, indirect taxation is the most fraudulent.

In spite of the official figures Mr. Casey will continue to boast of taxation decrease—until he is stopped. He will also continue to talk of "unexampled prosperity."

Interest Burden

The progressive increase in public indebtedness, while placing the nation further and further into bondage to the money monopoly, also creates a pretty problem for the monopoly to face. As the creation of the money loaned in the first instance cost the bankers nothing, they can face even repudiation with equanimity so long as their position as the sole creators of money is not thereby jeopardised. But if the bankers show that they are able to bob up smiling after frequent repudiations, it might become painfully obvious, even to normally unthinking people, that money is just a costless ticket, and not a holy mystery possessing inherent and magical value.

Actual repudiations are, therefore, discouraged. There are other methods of keeping the debt structure tottering along than knocking it all down and starting afresh to build it up again (as was done in Germany after the war). If the interest burden becomes too great, as it did in 1932; if too much of the national income has to be devoted to debt service, then temporary relief may be obtained by cutting the rate of interest. Herein lies the significance of the pseudo-voluntary conversions indulged in shortly after Casey's return to Australia.

In 1931 Australia's annual overseas public debt interest bill was £28 1/2 millions sterling. By 1937 this bill had fallen to £20 1/2 millions sterling.

In 1931 Australia's local public debt interest bill was £29 3/4 millions. The following year it dropped to £23 millions, but is now over £24 1/2 millions.

This step shows precisely how the bankers hope to remain in the saddle for a few years longer, until the yearly increase in debt again brings the yearly interest bill up to an unbearable amount. Precisely what dodge they will then resort to remains to be seen, always supposing that Australians are content to allow the fraud to continue that long.

Before we leave our consideration of the public debt it is necessary to record the fact that municipal and semi-Governmental authorities are in debt to an extent of £214 millions, over £27 1/2 millions, (sterling) of which is owed overseas.

The Debt Proves a Problem

It is probable that the banking fraternity would like to be able to forget about the problems of our steadily mounting public indebtedness. The whole idea of a public debt is only a very few centuries old, and the debt structure already shows signs

of getting out of hand. We are able flatly to contradict the rumour, which is going round that Mr. Casey bought his new Percival monoplane with a view to inspecting and, gloating over the upper regions of our public debt. He is sick of the sight of it, and of the way statisticians keep on publishing nice neat tables, showing its progress from a mere £294 1/2 millions in 1912 to over four times that amount in 1937, with a corresponding increase in interest payments.

Mr. Casey wants the principle still to apply that all money shall owe its origin to bank creation, and that all money shall be issued as a debt due to the banking system. But he wants us to go privately into hock, instead of going publicly into hock. He knows very well that we can't borrow ourselves out of debt, and merely wishes to have the increase of indebtedness going on in a sphere where it will not be so obvious, and where the effects of the ultimate repudiation, or loss of capacity of the debts to produce income, will not be so spectacular. And, what is more, he wants us to go further into debt to overseas banking interests.

English Capital

The belief has long been encouraged that money is of mystical origin, governed by natural laws, and by no means a humanly created and managed device subject to human control. According to this view, if a party became shipwrecked on an uninhabited island without money, but with tools, seeds, domestic animals and so on, they would be condemned to starvation and economic inactivity. They could not develop the resources of the island, for the simple reason that they had no money. It would be impossible for them to institute and operate their own money system to reflect the facts of their production and consumption of real wealth.

If, on the other hand, they could somehow communicate with the City of London, and either float a loan, or induce City interests to "invest" in the industries which they proposed to establish, in either of which cases they would pawn their real wealth in return for money, costlessly created by book-entry, then they would be permitted by "sound" finance to engage in economic activity, such as, the production of food, shelter, clothing and some of the amenities of existence, and to have a limited access to the fruits of their labours. They would have to pay a perpetual tribute to the City interests.

The whole thing is insulting to the intelligence, and yet not only has Australia been the victim of this fraudulent practice in the past, but Mr. Casey wishes to see the practice continued and extended.

Are We a Debtor Nation?

A survey of Australian imports and exports of real wealth over a long period of years establishes the fact that Australia has sent overseas far more in real wealth than she has received in return. She should be a creditor nation. Yet she is publicly in debt, as we have shown above, and much of her real wealth in the private industrial sphere is pawned to "England" through the investment of City of London capital. This manipulation of figures has us in perpetual bondage, and the lower the prices of our products overseas, the more real wealth must we send out of the country.

On April 20, 1937, Mr. Casey was in London, at our expense, for the purpose of participating in the Coronation celebrations. In an address at Chatham House, Mr. Casey stated that he believed today's process to be high prices, and that Australia would, in years to come, receive less for her

(Continued on page 7)

A GREAT SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY

By YAFFLE, in "Reynolds News."

Turn off the wireless and stop cracking nuts while I tell you of the latest epoch-making scientific discovery.

The *Times* has discovered that if people don't eat enough, their health declines. In a special article headed, "More Food From the Farmer. The Demand for Nutrition," it says:—"Scientific and medical opinion is now convinced that an adequate intake of high-class proteins, mineral salts, and vitamins is essential for the resistance of disease and the maintenance of sound conditions of health."

This startling discovery that food is necessary to health will have the most revolutionising effects on modern scientific and economic thought. There has been nothing like it since Professor Schweinpelz discovered that fishmongers cannot breathe under water.

Note, for instance, the word "intake." For many years scientists have known that the common person has a hole in the front part of its head. But they had always assumed that this was merely an outlet for noises, such as the love-call of the male in the mating season, or for the correction of football referees. They never thought it was an intake as well as an outlet.

I gather that one day a young biologist, noted for the boldness of his speculations, said to his colleagues, "I say, you know that hole in a worker's face? Well, I believe he eats with it!"

He was laughed at, of course, and the joke spread throughout the Royal Society and the School of Economics. But after further research he proved his point with a snapshot of a cotton operative eating bread and cheese.

This created a stir in scientific circles. The idea that workers needed food, though often mentioned in literature had never been taken seriously by experts. Eating had always been regarded as a pastime for those who could afford it, like polo or fretwork.

But now all doubt has been dispelled. They have been making experiments. "Evidence of a startling character," say the *Times*, "is available . . . The provision of additional milk to 10,000 school children in Scot-

land resulted in . . . increases in height and weight. . . . It has also been found that where . . . higher rents caused decreased expenditure on food, family health has suffered."

This evidence was so startling that two Ministry of Health officials are reported to have died of heart failure.

There have been other experiments. I am told that at one place two blast furnace men were put into cages under scientific supervision. One was fed on steak and the other on water. At the end of three weeks a doctor tested their reactions to a punch on the nose, and the one that had been fed on steak displayed unmistakable signs of superior vitality.

This revolutionary theory that workers can't live without food has thrown many leading politicians and economists into a state of consternation bordering upon the jitters.

For the economic system was not designed to allow for workers eating. A wage, as you know, is carefully estimated so as just to enable the workers to keep the landlords, traffic combines, and insurance companies going. No one thought it was necessary to leave anything over for food. Rough calculations show that the sum left over per week from the average industrial wage will barely meet the cost of a grasshopper's lunch.

That is why any increase in the food supply is always destroyed. If anyone suggested putting it into the people, some politician would indignantly rebuke him on the grounds that the free and independent British public is neither dustbins nor incinerators.

You may wonder, therefore, how the *Times* ever came to admit the principle that people ought to eat. One would have thought that any sound economist, faced with the alternatives of giving the people food or letting them die off, would have chosen the latter rather than unbalance the Budget.

The reason, I think, is another great discovery mentioned in the same article. The *Times* says that the policy of restriction as a means of improving trade is now regarded less favourably.

"HARVEST THANKSGIVING-IS IT A MOCKERY?"

Anglican Clergyman Hits Out

The Rev. C. M. Kennedy, of Holy Trinity Church, Benalla, Victoria, is to be warmly congratulated on his courageous and really Christian sermon on the occasion of the annual harvest thanksgiving service at his church on February 27. The following are typical extracts from his address, which was based on the text: "Dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed," from Psalm 37, verse 3:—

"Surely we must realise that it is more true today than ever it was that we owe everything to God. This is true not only of the actual food provided by the earth, but also of the skill of men, their scientific knowledge, chemical, engineering, medical knowledge, such boons to life as wood, coal, electricity. We have each year far more to be thankful for than our fathers of even last century.

"And God never fails to provide it. His sole conditions of giving are that we should be thankful, and use them rightly. We are met today to utter those thanks; but what about our use of them? Jesus labelled some men of His day as 'white-washed sepulchers.' Is it possible that He would say the same of our harvest festival today? Because I am going to say that there is a sense in which it is true that this harvest festival of ours is a hollow farce, a mockery.

"Why should I say that? There is no need to enlarge upon the vast resources of this, our country. As indicative of these, we may remember simply that in one commodity—wool—our country supplies up to a quarter of the whole world's needs. And yet,

"It is being realised that there is much more prospect of solutions along the lines of increased consumption. Improved nutrition would tend towards the solution of agricultural difficulties. The science of nutrition has opened up new vistas—of expanding, rather than contracting, markets."

In other words, the experts have discovered that if the people ate more food the farmers might sell more. And I bet it gave them a pain in the brain.

Yearbook figures tell us that 71 per cent, of our breadwinners in Australia earn less than £3 per week. What do you yourself earn? Is it between £4 and £5 per week? You are in small company—only less than 8 per cent, earn that much. Is it over £5 per week? There are only 10.9 per cent, of you in Australia. Abundance of food? Think of how often you read of the dumping of goods, or rotting wheat, of other commodities destroyed by false and arbitrary market prices. And then go to the Dudley Flats of Melbourne, and see, as the recent Housing Commission report having seen, people fighting over the refuse, not only to build their dreadful hovels from the scrap-heap, but to pick out any miserable refuse that will give them a scant saleable value. Read of the phenomenal number of increases in rent that followed in the first six weeks after the basic wage was raised a miserable pittance last year. Consider that never in the world's history were there so many countless auxiliaries and charitable organisations for the relief of distress in our land, just nibbling, nibbling at the vast problem of poverty.

"Remember that you read in your press of police protection being asked for to prevent carters' being mobbed for the sordid refuse that means life to some people. Read the Commission's report of hundreds of houses with no water supply at all, save one tap over an outside gully-trap, with small rooms, hessian and paper walls, ceilings below 8 ft. (no less than 720 are but 6 ft. high), with women and little children fighting a losing battle against rats and vermin, with no bath, no wash troughs, no decent cooking facilities.

"Do you wonder that I say that this our harvest thanksgiving is truly farcical, a mockery? In a state of primitive nature, a man can work and live, or starve. We today are giving him three choices. He can thief, and be gaoled (but we will still feed him); he can hang upon charity (and be degraded); if in despair he takes his own life, we brand him as having transgressed the law of God and man. We deny him the right to work as a means of securing the essentials of life, which his self-respect, his willingness, his healthiness in so many cases all rightly demand. We compel him to live on, by means of the dole.

"Most of us have passed the stage, now, of being apathetic, so long as our livelihood is secure, and realise that there is a problem. We must pass quickly to the next stage, that of getting to know the extent of the problem. That means, getting to know facts. Nothing can acquit us from attempting to do that. And the remedy? I have said nothing-tonight about economic expedients, systems, party politics; you would say, 'He is beginning to mix politics with religion.' And, perhaps, that would be right. It may conceivably be wrong to mix politics with religion. But whether that be so or not, of this I am certain, we must mix more religion with our politics.

"The Bible opens, as we saw, with the account of God's bounteous creation of all things necessary for life, and the supply is becoming more inexhaustible each year, so far as we can see. We read also our text, 'Dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.' What a mockery we have made this text to seem! Let us look around and see everything, which we have made (for we, too, have our share in the creative activity of God). Can we, too, look round at the world as we have made, and say 'Behold, it is very good?'"

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 2.)

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Mrs. McEwen.

Wife of the Minister for the Interior

Dear Mrs. McEwen, —

We are exceedingly sorry to learn from the Melbourne "Argus" that, since your visit last Monday to the Canberra schools, you have not been able to rest under the injustice you found perpetrated there to the Australian fruit growers. Nevertheless, we rejoice that there is, at least, one among our Ministers' wives who has prescience enough to observe a monster in our midst, and is self-sacrificing enough to deny herself repose until the monster is flayed.

On the walls of one of the kindergarten-rooms, we are told, you actually saw a poster illustrating Canadian fruit. How horrible! What far-reaching impressions may thus be formed in the youngsters' minds? How do we know that careful observations in the playground might not reveal a dialogue something like this between two four-year-olds: "Do you know, my dear Gwennyth, I am much impressed by the apparent superiority of the Canadian over the home-grown product." "Yes, I confess, gentle Pamela, that I myself feel disposed to transfer my patronage."

And what if the Canadian apples in the kindergarten failed to satisfy the frightful thing's appetite! What if - we reached the state of affairs when we would see in the first grade room, "Fishing in Finland"; in the second grade room, "Wheat growing in Wyoming"; in the third grade room, "Orange-growing on the Orinoco"; and in the fourth grade room, "Pig-raising in Pennsylvania"! There might even be such an affront to our natives in North Queensland as "Alligators in Africa," or our gardeners in Canberra might have perpetrated on them the injustice of "Tulip-time in Holland."

However, we are glad to observe that you intend to obtain posters depicting Goulburn Valley fruit and other Australian produce, and will have them sent to the Canberra schools. That is what we call ACTION, and we think the "Argus" is to be

commended for giving you a double-column report about it. There is no doubt the "Argus" knows an important piece of news when it hears one. Perhaps some day a grateful public will erect a monument to you, and we must admit that monuments HAVE been erected with far less justification.

But the important aspect of the event is that your "discovery" has astonished people in Canberra, and caused them to recognise that the Canadian Trade Office "has stolen a march on Australian producers." What a good thing it didn't steal something else! Your discovery was a splendid achievement, more particularly when we remember that we have only to tell children how good a thing is for them to rush off and get some. What a pity the kiddies of Australia were not informed earlier of the excellence of the Australian fruit, because had that been done all the marketing problems of our orchardists would have been solved!

If this splendid idea is adequately developed we may soon expect to find our school walls covered with pictures advertising different kinds of fruit and produce. We know that Tasmania is celebrated for its wholesome fruit and vegetables; that Queensland pineapples are delicious; and that grapes and citrus fruits from South Australia are all that could be desired. Space must be found for all of them.

But what happens after we have done all that? The youngsters will be completely convinced that the pictures are true and that the fruit advertised is good to eat. Do they, then, go to the shops and help themselves, or do they go home and tell their parents about it? Parents, no doubt, would welcome the news and actually believe it, but how would they get confirmation? Could THEY help themselves in the orchards and shops?

Dear Mrs. McEwen, we had always thought that we needed MONEY to get these desirable things, but now we know it is only necessary to tell the kindergarten children about them. Please forgive us, and thanks for your wonderful help.

Yours, etc.,

THE NEW TIMES

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Australia's Banking Policy

From the very inception of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into banking and finance in this country it was obvious that the verdict would be one of "not guilty." The whole thing was a "whitewashing" campaign from start to finish. The personnel of the Commission reminded one irresistibly of Low's famous Billy Hughes cartoon, "Trial By Jury." The accused was Billy; the judge, the jury, the associate, the police and officials were all Billies. The verdict was, of course, one of "not guilty."

But, when faced with the question of ultimate legal sovereignty in Australia, and ultimate responsibility for monetary policy, the Commission really had to acknowledge that the private banking monopoly had no legal sovereignty, and was only too willing to agree that the bankers should be freed of legal responsibility. A desire to escape responsibility for its acts has long been a characteristic of the monopoly.

The Commission made the following very guarded recommendation:—

"Paragraph 530:—

"Neither of these answers commends itself to us. In our view, the proper relations between the two authorities are these: The Federal Parliament is ultimately responsible for monetary policy, and the Government of the day is the executive of the Parliament. The Commonwealth Bank has certain powers delegated to it by statute, and the Board's duty to the community is to exercise those powers to the best of its ability. Where there is a conflict between the Government's view of what is best in the national interest and the Board's view, the first essential is full and frank discussion between the two authorities with a view to exploring the whole problem. In most cases this should ensure agreement on a policy to be carried out by the Bank which it can reconcile with its duty to the community, and which has the approval of the Government. In cases in which it is clear beyond doubt that the differences are irreconcilable, the Government should give the Bank an assurance that it accepts full responsibility for the proposed policy, and is in a position to take, and will take, any action necessary to implement it. It is then the duty of the Bank to accept this assurance and to

carry out the policy of the Government. This does not imply that there should at any time be interference by the Government or by any member of the Government, in the administration of the Commonwealth Bank. Once the question of authority is decided, there should be little difficulty in preserving close and cordial relations between the Commonwealth Government and the Commonwealth Bank."

The Lyons Government was urged by the London financial press to give legislative effect to the Royal Commission's findings immediately, and thereby obviate the risk that the Labor party might have the task left to it. The hint was given, however, that it would be unwise to restrict the Bank's control of policy.

The Lyons Government is the direct lineal descendant of the Bruce-Page Government of 1924, which emasculated the Commonwealth Bank, and, by placing it under the control "of a Board appointed from representatives of the private banking monopoly, effectively placed the Bank beyond control by, or for, the people. Prior to that Sir Denison Miller had put up some sort of a fight against the trading banks. Bruce is now our overseas ambassador to the City of London, and Page is still a member of the Government. R. G. Casey has stepped into the shoes of Bruce as the bankers' Government representative.

The legislation which the Lyons-Page-Casey Government intends to bring down is aimed to incorporate the unimportant recommendations of the Royal Commission—the things that do not matter and cannot matter.

It is announced, however, that legislative recognition is not to be given to any reassertion of Governmental sovereignty.

The Bank is to remain untrammelled in its control of money, and through that control, in its power to hamstring our Governments and to leave our people suffering a dim nightmare of economic strangulation and frustration.

The intention of the Lyons Government in originally appointing the Commission is becoming clearer every day, and the one finding of any possible virtue is to be shelved and, they hope, forgotten.

But not for long. For the creeping error of the present system will continue to creep to the eventual discomfiture of Joe and his paymasters. The trouble is that other citizens as well will suffer—if they are fools enough to continue to allow Joe to have his way.

It is a sacred duty of the Government to assume control of the country's money supply, and to see that principles of issue and recall of money are adopted which will allow producers free play in production, and will give consumers sufficient money to allow them to purchase the whole of industry's product. National sovereignty and solvency cannot be achieved otherwise.

Australia's Foreign Policy

Australia's monetary policy is, in the last analysis, controlled by international financial interests, operating through the City of London. The functionaries of our local monopoly of finance have their headquarters in London. The

late Sir Robert Gibson admitted that he was in almost daily contact with the Bank of England to receive advice. The visit of Sir Otto Niemeyer, of the Bank of England, has not been forgotten, nor has the nature of his mission.

Foreign policy is a matter intimately bound up with financial policy. In Australia's foreign policy there is evident an appalling subservience to the policy of the British Government. At the beginning of the present century Australia assisted England to make the gold of the South African gold-mines safe for the City of London. In 1914, when the war broke out, allegedly "out of the blue sky," Australia's Prime Minister promised Australia's last man and last shilling. We lost a great number of men, and, although shillings were created at an almost fantastic rate by the bankers, they were quickly made to disappear, leaving the debt alone remaining.

When the League of Nations was set up we duly joined. When the bankers wanted to disarm Britain, we disarmed, too. When the bankers wanted Britain to re-arm, we started to re-arm. This year we are to be taxed or have our debt written up to the extent of £14 millions for defence purposes, and Mr. Menzies might buy us a nice new cruiser when he is in London.

Since the early years of the war we had regarded the Italians as our gallant allies. But almost overnight, some three years ago, our Government discovered that Italians possessed characteristics too undesirable to allow them to remain our friends or to trade with us, and we joined with Britain, whose official spokesman was one Anthony Eden, in a chorus of approval of action through the League of Nations against aggression. Our Government expressed its firm belief in the efficacy of League action, and the imposition of Sanctions. Mr. Hughes, who dared to dissent, was promptly disciplined and told to shut his mouth.

[At the behest of interests outside Australia, our Government has since insulted our Eastern neighbour, Japan.

And now, to cap it all, when Britain has decided to throw over Anthony Eden and his "collective security" myth, and to resort shamelessly to the old secret-diplomacy-balance-of-power idea, Australia has taken a like somersault without turning a hair of Mr. Lyons' coiffure.

Mr. Lyons has declined the request of the Opposition Leader to allow Parliamentary discussion of the somersault, and his Cabinet decided on Thursday, March 3, to stand solidly behind Mr. Chamberlain.

The official view of the Government, as expressed by Mr. Lyons, is as follows:—

"I desire to point out once more that the criticisms recently made in certain quarters about the alleged inactivity of the Commonwealth Government in relation to the resignation of Mr. Eden are based on a misconception. There has been no substantial change in foreign policy, which, in the case of both the United Kingdom and Australia, still remains as it was last year. In order to clear up any doubts on this point, I communicated with Mr. Chamberlain and obtained his authority to state:

"(1) That the United Kingdom Government still adheres to the policy enunciat-

ed and discussed at the Imperial Conference of 1937;

"(2) That, in particular, there is no change in principle in the attitude of the United Kingdom Government towards the League of Nations and collective security. "Mr. Chamberlain's statement in the House of Commons was really a repetition, in other words, of his summary of the result of the discussion in the thirteenth meeting of the principal delegates at the Imperial Conference.

"There has been a difference as to the time and conditions of negotiations with Italy. Such a difference does not indicate a disagreement in relation to fundamental policy. It is a difference in method, and not in principle.

"I am quite sure that everybody in Australia will wish the negotiations, which are designed to re-establish friendly relations with Italy, every success.

"It has been said that Parliament should have been called together. May I point out that the Commonwealth Parliament is not the place for an argument about changes of personnel in the Cabinet of another member of the British Commonwealth of Nations, though it would be the appropriate place in which to discuss any change of policy to which the Commonwealth Government was directly or indirectly a party, or by which the policy of the Commonwealth Government might be affected.

"As it was quite clear that no such change has occurred, the Cabinet, while watching very closely all developments in the European position, will continue the important work of preparing its extremely heavy legislative programme, and will meet Parliament as soon as that programme is ready for presentation to it."

Even such a conservative paper as the *Argus* refused to swallow the assertion that there has been no change in English policy. The *Herald*, on the other hand, inclines to believe Mr. Lyons, but it has published certain views held by Sir Clive Baillieu, of the metal and banking combine, which indicate that there really has been a change in the outlook of Britain on foreign affairs, and that that change has been dictated by high financial policy to avoid a war at all costs.

In Sir Clive's view, Britain's current international policy is made up of three main elements, viz:—

"*Rearmament*, designed to protect us from predatory attack, and to restore Great Britain's voice in world affairs.

"*Trade appeasement*, to break down trade barriers and quicken and build up international trade, thereby raising living standards and removing pressures that are driving dictator countries to extreme courses.

"*Political appeasement*, designed to meet fairly and squarely some of the disabilities and grievances of certain Powers, thereby eliminating potent causes of conflict and probably war.

Sir Clive Baillieu urged wholehearted support of Mr. Chamberlain for his "courageous efforts." "Was Britain," he asked, "to continue in her old course, hoping that her rearmaments would stave off threatening disaster, or was she to make sincere and wholehearted efforts to secure an agreement with those nations with whom she was most likely to come into conflict?"

Britain is going to enter into

an attempt to drive a bargain with Italy. She has virtually abandoned the ideal of collective security through the League, an ideal that monetary reformers have consistently pointed out to be hopeless of attainment.

But what is the alternative she is resorting to? It is that very policy which led up to the First World War—armaments and alliances; secret diplomacy.

And, all along, that insidious struggle for markets and employment, which must eventually lead the nations to face the alternatives of suffering economic extinction or of cutting each other's throats.

The bankers talk of economic appeasement, when their system is mathematically incapable of achieving that appeasement. They talk of peace merely because they have a horror of war, but they retain their system, which renders peace impossible. The Governments of Britain and Australia are doing the bankers' bidding in trying to buy off Italy and to avoid war a little longer.

The League has fallen to the ground. The new appeasement idea will also fall to the ground under the remorseless pressure of a money system, which will not work. There is no prospect of anything other than chaos, debt and death, until we tackle the bankers and their system, and demand appeasement of the crying demands of our pockets for more money.

In a world bursting with plenty we should need no foreign policy, other than to trade peacefully with other nations, to visit their lands and welcome their tourists, and by trade and travel to diversify our consumption and extend our knowledge.

Under the present system Australians are not only at war (economically) with Italy, Germany and Japan. We are similarly at war with New Zealand, as witness the imposition of new duties in New Zealand. We are at war with every other economic unit on the face of this earth, and the warfare will continue until Australians are given a sufficiency of money. And until then foreign policy will continue to be a problem.

War(?) On the Slum Evil

Mr. Dunstan indulged in a little self-congratulation on the occasion of the inauguration of the Housing Commission.

In the best military fashion he exhorted the Commission to "up guards and at them."

But a general usually likes to see his troops armed before they go over the top, and here Mr. Dunstan had to make a pathetic admission of impotence and failure.

"The Commission," he said, "would be limited by finance, which, even to him, was purely an unknown quantity, dependent on the Loan Council."

Well, what of it? Was not the Loan Council brought into being by agreement between the State and Federal Governments? Is there anything in the nature of things to prevent these Governments from coming to a fresh agreement that they will no longer be subjected to financial stringency? The Governments are, between them, legally sovereign, and can be made to do their jobs if Australians insist.

It is not good enough in these

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MINISTERING ANGELS OR DEMONS IN DISGUISE?

Women of the United Country Party

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir,
Leonora Polkinghorne referred, in one of her splendid articles, to women as Ministering Angels, and many of us have always regarded them so. Perhaps we have been wrong. A glance through the agenda for the forthcoming annual conference of the women's section of the United Country Party, to take place at Ballarat on March 30th, suggests rather that some of them at any rate may really be demons in disguise.

The agenda consists of ninety-five items, and the ninety-first is, "that owing to the difficulty in obtaining farmhands for constant work, sustenance for single men be discontinued." Had this been a matter of hearsay, I would have hesitated to believe it, but a printed copy of the agenda is actually before me, and I can assure everyone that that is the proposal. It has been submitted by the Flinders District Council on behalf of the Dandenong branch, and, believe it or not, the motto on the front of the copy is "Equity and Progress."

Fundamental Question Ignored

Of the ninety-five items to be dealt with by the Conference, no less than forty-eight are matters which are controlled by finance, and yet, apart from a couple of proposals from Koo-wee-rup urging the acceptance by the Federal Government of the Banking Commission's recommendations, the important and fundamental question of the community's financial

(Continued from page 4)

days of enlightenment on money matters for Mr. Dunstan to shelter behind the skirts of the Loan Council.

Road Safety

Even the Melbourne *Herald* occasionally hits the nail on the head on this question of road safety, as will appear from the following report:—

"ONLY FIVE DEATHS IN TEN YEARS.

"Safety in Tunnels.

"Though more than 100 million vehicles, mostly automobiles, have passed between New York and New Jersey by way of the tunnels under the Hudson River, there have been only five fatalities—three to motorists and two to employees engaged in the tunnels.

"Costing £10 millions, these tunnels were completed ten years ago. Each is about a mile long, and has two roads, twenty feet in width, fast and slow vehicles being separated.

"The figures indicate the safety possibilities of special highways, free of pedestrians and cross traffic.

"An additional tunnel, which took 3½ years to build, was completed last December, and another will be open for traffic in 1941. The total cost will then have been £17 millions. A toll is paid by every driver for the use of these tubes." (Our italics.)

It shows what can be done when money is made available. We have nothing to add, beyond stating that it is really not necessary to make drivers pay a toll. Services such as these should be charged for in bulk by a draft on the national credit.

arrangements is not to be bothered about at all.

Early last year, one of your readers in the north of Queensland took exception to criticism I had offered to the effect that the Country Women's Association talk about almost anything except the thing which controls every other thing—*money*. Now here we are a year later with further evidence that responsible women in that organisation are actually seeking the reintroduction of slavery in its worst form, and they are doing it because of ignorance on the subject of money. When they do come to a realisation of the facts they will forever be ashamed of themselves for allowing such a proposal to be included in the Conference programme.

Why Farm Work is Not Rushed

Why is it that youths and men are not rushing this farm work? There must be some good explanation for it, and I for one am not prepared to accept the view that the majority of these young fellows prefer idleness to healthy and agreeable occupation. That is unnatural.

There is a young man known to most of the readers of the *New Times* who recently went out to a farm and accepted employment so that he could see the conditions for himself. I refer to Eric Butler, and those who know him are ready to believe what he says. He found that these farm labourers are required to work from early morning till late at night for a "wage" calculated in shillings per week, plus keep. The "keep" consists of plain food and poor accommodation, and for taxation purposes is usually regarded as the equivalent of £1 a week. This means that in the best circumstances—i.e., at the best farms, the highest gross wage would be in the vicinity of £2 a week including everything. Why is it that farmers and their wives are actually fighting to compel men to submit to such outrageous conditions? Can it be that the farmer is himself too poor to offer anything better?

How Production Has Increased

In a leaflet issued by the Abolition of Poverty movement in New South Wales I am informed that since the year 1900 our production of the things the people need has increased to a remarkable extent, and the following examples are given:—

Dairy cattle	200	per cent.
Sheep.....	60	" "
Beef cattle	38	" "
Wheat	269	" "
Wool.....	101	" "
Butter.....	324	" "
Sugar.....	374	" "
Honey ..	345	" "
Cheese	213	" "
Bacon and Ham . . .	100	" "
Wine	100	" "
Principal fruit crops	228	" "
Eggs and poultry	240	" "
Manufactured goods	406	" "
Machinery and plant	566	" "

My own inquiries have confirmed these figures, and I also found that between 1930 and 1934 (the period that might be regarded as the years of the depression) this increase was maintained, as follows:—

Oats, by 3 million bushels;
Hay, by 850,000 tons;
Tobacco, by 2½ million pound;
Cotton, by 10 million pounds;
Sheep, by 4 million;
Cattle, by 2¼ million;
Pigs, by 30,000;
Butter, by 152 million pounds;
Milk, by 300 million gallons;

Gold, by 420,000 ounces;
Silver, by 1½ million ounces;
Copper, by 100,400 tons;
But the community obtained no benefit from it!

Is the Farmer Short of Money?

In the face of the fact that production of this wealth has increased on the average by 275 per cent, while our population has increased by only 75 per cent, what justification can there possibly be for farmers' wives to be trying to force young men to accept conditions which would be an affront to serfs? Why doesn't the farmer offer better accommodation, better food, better working conditions, and better pay? I repeat the question—Why doesn't he? Evidently the answer is that he has the wealth but not the money. It is obvious from the figures quoted that our living conditions should be three times higher than they actually are. Then why aren't we enjoying that higher standard? Here again, the answer appears to be that we cannot enjoy the things because we haven't the money to get them. Surely that is the aspect the country women should be investigating.

A Few Questions

Can they deny that their difficulty in obtaining farmhands for constant work is due to the fact that farmers are not in the position to offer attractive conditions? Can they deny that this is due to the fact that the man on the land cannot find a satisfactory market for the disposal of his produce? When we speak of a satisfactory market, do we not mean a place where people gather who can pay a reasonable price for the things they want? And does not their ability to buy at a satisfactory price depend upon the amount of money they have to spend? Obviously, those who have small incomes can only purchase small quantities, and is it not because farmers cannot obtain a sufficient return for their goods that they are unable to offer reasonable conditions for farm assistance?

80 Percent, in Poverty

How can these women expect their husbands to get buyers for the output of their farms when eighty out of every one hundred of the Australian people are in receipt of such small incomes that they are compelled to live in conditions of poverty? Why is it that instead of seeking to remove this stupid and un-Christian state of affairs, they are seeking to have those conditions made even worse? Despite the great abundance of production referred to, the great bulk of the people are inadequately fed, poorly clothed, and miserably housed, and the conditions on the farms are evidently a reproach to the community. Would it not be much better if the farmers could be sure that they would be able to sell what they produce at a remunerative price? In that event they would have no difficulty in obtaining help, because they would be in the position to employ the best equipment and apply the best methods on the farms, and it would also mean that they could pay decent wages to men working decent hours under decent conditions.

Become a Slave or Starve

Instead of this, however, the Flinders District Council of the Country Women's section are advocating that if any man is not prepared voluntarily to accept conditions of slavery he should be forced to accept them by having his sustenance refused. Like Mr. Maurice Blackburn, M.H.R., they wish to practise the idea that the threat of starvation is necessary to force men to work, even though the conditions under which they are asked to work are repugnant to all decent minded citizens. "Equity and Progress", forsooth! It is still another example of people using words without understanding their meaning, and if the women responsible got what

THE BANKER AND THE ECONOMIST

The sun was shining brightly
Upon the fields below;
He did his very best to make
The corn and fruit to grow;
And that was wrong because it
brings
The prices down, you know.

The corn was ripening in the fields,
The fruit upon the tree;
The shops were full, and laden
ships
Were sailing on the sea;
All things had a fictitious look
Of fair prosperity;
And that was wrong because the
world
Was ruined utterly.

The Banker and Economist
Were walking hand in hand.
They wept like anything to see
Such plenty in the land.
"If this were only stopped," they
said,

"The prospect: *would* be grand!"

"If seven pests and seven plagues
Were loosened every year,
I think," said the Economist,
"That things would then be
dear."
"I wonder," said the Banker,
And wiped away a tear.

they deserve they would be ostracised.

Why Didn't They?

The position is that we have the wealth and the power to make every family comfortable and happy, but because we have an insufficiency of money, both the wealth and the power go unused, and our homes, in many cases, are places of physical stress and mental anxiety. This was put very strongly and very truly in a recent issue of a circular entitled *Advance*, as follows:—

"While potatoes, onions, fruits, and vegetables are not profitable to market, our brothers and sisters at Dudley Flats root amongst the garbage for 'specked' fruit, etc. The greatest indictment against the Government is that whilst plenty abounds so does penury. They had the goods but didn't have the 'nous' to distribute them. They could easily have given £5 per week to every family, and they could have ceased doles, sustenance, sales tax, unemployment tax, income tax, and land taxes, and brought freedom in security to all. We demand to know why they didn't do this."

Something Useful

This is the sort of demand the countrywomen should be making, and if they were to concentrate on that they would be finding the solution to their problems and doing something useful to the community. The circular went on to point out that full power is given to our Government to control the source and creation of all Australian money, and that failure to exercise this power has been due either to ignorance or to political wickedness. It further stated that murders, suicides, starvation, malnutrition, and other community ills have been the direct result of this failure on the part of our Governments.

Even Senator McLachlan, of South Australia, has called attention to the fact that "for the five years of the Depression, ended June, 1937, Australia's production had in everything been greater than any five years of her history, yet during the same period there had been more poverty, unemployment, bankruptcy, and suicides than in any previous five years on record."

In the face of these facts, it is amazing to think that the Women's Section of the United Country Party is about to hold an important Conference, which will not even touch upon them or their cause, but on the contrary, will fiddle about with questions and ideas that will get them nowhere.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE H BROWN

"Consumer, come and walk with us,"
They both did make request.
"The time has come to tell you what
We think for you is best."
"O thank you," the Consumer said,
With lively interest.

"And first," said the Economist,
"It's needful to explain
The economic laws which prove
That trade must wax and wane,
And why abundance is a curse
And scarcity a gain."

"But not to me," the man replied,
Turning a little white.
"Such dismal scientific stuff
Would stupefy me quite.
I'll take it all on trust because
I know you must be right."

Two winking eyes behind the back
Of that Consumer met,
As if to say: "This blessed boob
Has asked for what he'll get."
"Old chap," said the Economist,
"Your trust you won't regret."

"This gross abundance that you see
Before your hungry eyes
Has ruined all the primary
Producing industries;
And so, to set things right again,
We must economise."

"And first we'll make a cut in costs
By cutting down your screw,
And next we'll cut production down
Till prices rise anew.
Then, though you'll have less goods to buy
More work you'll have to do."

"Right oh!" the good Consumer
said
(A sturdy Briton he),
And, smiling bravely, yielded up
His share of L.S.D.
By such contraction wages show
Their elasticity.

"It seems a shame," the Banker
said,
"To play him such a prank."
With sobs and tears he cancelled
out
A credit at the bank;
And that was right, unless you are
A monetary crank.

"Consumer," said that pleasant
pair,
"We've had a useful day. Shall
we be trotting home again?"
But nothing did he say;
And that was right enough because
He'd faded quite away.

—Eimar O'Duffy.

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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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Melbourne.

MENCKEN VERSUS DEMOCRACY

The Occasional Virtue of Hair-Splitting

By HENRI D'ELLESHOPE

Most of us have met the professional hair-splitter. He wantonly obstructs an otherwise satisfactory discussion by insisting on the substitution of pedantically precise and comprehensive terms and phrases for terms and phrases which, while not being worthy ingredients for a legal statute affecting the lives of millions, are entirely adequate unto the purpose of the participants in the discussion, and probably less unwieldy to wield.

Many have wondered if the Noxious Weeds Act could not be stretched to cover the activities of such pestilent gentry, with a view to their apprehension and constitutional destruction.

The Right Direction

At the same time it cannot be urged too strongly that they "err in the right direction." This, of course, does not excuse them for going a couple of light-years too far in the right direction. Even the Tramway Board could see that, as witness their hostility to the man who buys a two-penny section ticket on his home line—and rides to the terminus.

It has been truly said that only a hair's breadth sometimes divides the false from the true, and it would be no exaggeration to suggest that the course of human history can deviate in accordance with the meaning attached to an ambiguous term or phrase, especially if it reaches, influences and is used by the multitudes (and/or the few who by delegation or usurpation wield the powers of the multitudes).

The Higher the Fewer

The last section of the previous sentence (following the second last comma) largely indicates the answer to the question—to split or not to split? Also it, at last, gives application and meaning to that impregnably mystical assertion: "The Higher the Fewer"; the translation being, that *the higher* the number to whom a statement may spread *the fewer* should be its ambiguities. If the circle of influence be confined to my wife and myself, and the point at issue to the whereabouts of a discarded boot, the use of terms and phrases having many possible meanings to others, but pungent and precise of purport to us two, is unlikely to result in the decimation of a

nation's standard of living—nor will it cause a single throne to totter.

But let some person who has somehow acquired a measure of favourable (or even neutral) notoriety discourse upon a matter of high import. Let his remarks receive a measure of non-destructive publicity. Assume that he uses language, which allows him, undetected, to build up logically constructed conclusions from false premises (or vice versa)—then look out for rocks on the starboard bow!

Enter Mr. Mencken

Which brings me to Mr. H. L. Mencken. At which I become stern and serious (really!)—and in spite of repeated warnings against ever taking Mr. Mencken seriously.

Mr. Mencken, in a characteristic effusion in an American paper (and I have seen the said effusion reprinted in an Australian publication, so heaven knows where else it may have been inflicted on an unsuspecting public), has cast sundry aspersions on democracy.

Now, I count democracy among my idolised friends, and that is why you see me forsaking my lowly lawn mower, careering Mencken-wards, brandishing the scalping knife and emitting those vindictive noises associated with the latter instrument.

Not that I have ever seen democracy—I have never met or heard of a man who really has. Ever and anon some Circe arises (heavily disguised) who parades as democracy and claims the homage and protection which democracy merits, and although the stern and steadfast seekers of the "real McKay" are neither deceived nor beguiled, the undiscerning are.

Democracy Defined and Defamed

Like the detective who has not yet spotted his prey, but issues a description of his quarry, based upon an hypothesis, we can define the lineaments of democracy, and thereby know whether we've got her yet or only some other, having at a cursory glance, a family likeness. Let me regale you with some pen-portraits of our hypothetical desirability. First: "A society in which the will of the majority prevails." Second: "Government of the people by the people for the people." Third: "A society in which each individual has the utmost liberty, consistent with the freedom of his fellows."

Speaking of the United States of America and such places, Mr. Mencken says: "Democracy is dying of its own inherent infirmity." Bearing in mind our first definition we may ask (for example) whether it is *the will of the majority of U.S. citizens* that millions of their fellows (including a large proportion of innocent children) should endure want, while the production which would satisfy that want is destroyed on a grand scale, restricted on a grander scale, and sent out of the country on the grandest possible scale. I think we may safely assert that such a course is *against* the will of a majority of U.S. citizens. Our second and third definitions imply self-government, which means unlimited freedom of choice in regard to what shall be done or attempted. Who would suggest that the citizens of the United States, or of any country with a similar political mechanism, have such a freedom of choice? Their choice is confined to voting for one of the political party platforms (concocted in each case by a handful of persons behind the scenes, and expressive of the same fundamental philosophies). In practice this is inferior to having thrust upon them the restricted choice of being boiled in oil, hanged drawn and quartered or shot at dawn—inferior insofar as

the agony is much longer drawn out. Such a political mechanism is only the crude forerunner in social evolution of real democracy. Their freedom of choice in the private sphere is, likewise, artificially restricted to an enormous extent. The allegedly dying one bears a family likeness, even in its senility, but nothing more. In short, Mr. Mencken attributes to democracy the dithering decrepitude of her grandmother!

A Double-Barreled Postulate

Speaking in the one breath of Communism and Democracy as being close relatives (and a few hairs might be split with advantage on that point), Mr. Mencken says: "Both rest upon the postulate that *men in the mass know what is good for them, and can look ahead. That postulate is completely nonsense.*" Leaving Communism to look after itself, *does* Democracy rest on this double-barreled postulate stated by Mr. Mencken?

Looking Into the First Barrel

In regard to the first barrel, if Mr. Mencken changed the wording to read, "*Men in the mass know what they WANT—i.e., insofar as men's individual wants relate to politics and economics, they have a common denominator*"—then I would agree that it is a postulate of Democracy, but could not agree that it is complete nonsense. But what does Mr. Mencken mean by the phrase, "what is good for them"? Mr. Mencken, of course, never stoops to clarifying or qualifying his phrases, or to defining his terms. He sweeps blithely and ecstatically onward, reminding one of nothing so much as a super stump-jump plough careering behind a very last and powerful tractor. A most exhilarating spectacle indeed, but prone to leave some concealed snags behind.

By "what is good for them" he obviously does not mean a possible state of affairs, which "men in the mass" are aware of and want, because he says *they* do not know. So he must mean either a possible state of affairs, which men in the mass *don't* know of, or one, which they do know of, but don't want, because they don't know it is "good" for them. It could hardly be the former, because men in the mass *do* know of poverty and plenty, of tyranny and freedom, of security and insecurity. If "men in the mass" prefer plenty and security with freedom (which I am sure they do, and really well-informed persons agree that it *could* be given to *all* of them), can it be that Mr. Mencken thinks it would not be "good" for them?

A Peculiar Type

There is, of course, a peculiar type of human who, having an arbitrary and absolute standard of human conduct in the private sphere, is not content to live by it himself and recommend others to try it, but, if possible *forces* it (or has it forced) upon all others.

He goes further—he thinks (and sometimes asserts) that those who don't believe in and conform to his standard are either degraded, wicked or stupid. Or all three.

He goes still further—he thinks (and readily asserts) that, unless people are *forced*, by economic, legal or other means of compulsion, to conform to the aforesaid standard (chosen by him or thrust on him by his environment), *they* will automatically fly into the arms of the opposite standard.

Mania in Three Parts

These are the three phases of his mania, and each betrays a cardinal crime, from which humanity has suffered too much and too often. The first betrays the "will to power," which has given us all our tyrants' bullies' and domineering sticky beaks. The second betrays a colossal and astounding conceit, arrogant to the point of insanity. The third betrays an utterly stupid and unreasoning Puritanism, for, unless we assume

that the standard set up by our maniac is utterly and universally revolting, why should people so unanimously, automatically and hastily fly from it?

Are we to conclude that Mr. Mencken is infected with this mania? That he thinks that if "men in the mass" obtained plenty and security with freedom they would use such opportunities to live their lives even less in the Mencken manner? That not to live in the Mencken manner is not "good"? - according to Mr. Mencken? That Mr. Mencken would like to *force* us all to live in the Mencken manner?

First Barrel Explodes

If Mr. Mencken has such ideas he has no conception of what Democracy is like, because Democracy does not imply "men in the mass," knowing how Mr. Mencken (or anyone else) lives, and knowing it is "good." If he hasn't such ideas then his remark is, for want of knowledge, clarity of thought or necessary hair-splitting, a meaningless slander. Take it either way, Democracy does *not* rest on the first barrel of the alleged postulate—and just as well, for that barrel is either a cardboard imitation or is constructed of nothingness!

Looking Into the Second Barrel

The second barrel of this postulate put forward by Mr. Mencken, as being part of the very bone-structure of my friend, Democracy, is that "*men in the mass . . . can look ahead.*" That, says Mr. Mencken, is complete nonsense.

If, by the ability to "look ahead," Mr. Mencken means the ability to work out and agree upon a detailed plan that will lift national economics to the sphere of sanity, and keep it there—well, "men in the mass" do *not* possess that ability, and I certainly agree that it is complete nonsense to suppose that they do. But such a supposition is emphatically *not* a part of the anatomy of Democracy. The evolving of technical methods of implementing those desires (of national implication) which are common to "men in the mass" is a job for technicians engaged (on a merciless judgment-by-results basis) by Parliament—that *is* a vital part of the real Democracy, and the only way in which "men in the mass" need to "look ahead" under such an arrangement is to see what next, under their noses, is physically possible and desired by a majority of their number - - a task within their powers.

Mistaken Identity and a Further Explosion

This matter of H. L. Mencken and Democracy certainly seems to involve mistaken identity. Let us hope Mr. Mencken does not carry his failing into other spheres. One can imagine him accosting some young lady, faultless of character and a perfect stranger, and publicly abusing her roundly and loudly for the vices and imperfections of some aged crone of his acquaintance!

At any rate, we have dutifully inspected Barrel No. 2, and found it quite unfit for actual service—it blew itself to bits at the first discharge! Will somebody remove all that remains of the double-barreled democracy-destroyer? Ah—thank you!

Masses Always Wreck "Government"—So Hornswoggle Masses

Although Mr. Mencken grants that "men in the mass" can see "a few inches beyond their noses," he says that they "are doomed to folly as the sparks fly upwards." He continues: "Let them alone, and they will wreck any government ever devised, just as they will wreck any machine." You will infer that Mr. Mencken has rather a low opinion of "men in the mass." He has. You will also infer that he considers men ("in the mass") are made for systems.

He does. The idea that a system, however beautiful a piece of mechanism it may be (regarded independency and in the abstract), has no justification, unless it produces *results* satisfactory to "men in the mass," does not seem to have occurred to him. The fact that government has two quite distinct aspects—(a) *What* shall be done; (b) *How* it shall be done; or, in other words, *policy* and *administration*—seems to be unknown to him.

The principle that "men in the mass" should lay down *their* policy (what they want) and elect a board of directors (Parliament), specifically appointed to engage technicians to implement that policy, seems to be equally unfamiliar to Mr. Mencken, which indicates his ignorance of the characteristics of the object of his attack—Democracy.

Mr. Mencken lumps policy and administration together, and because millions of men and women, diverse in many ways and geographically scattered, cannot be expected to administer *anybody's* policy successfully, he would wean them altogether from government, although the policy administered vitally affects their lives in *their* country.

Mr. Mencken defines government in three words: "*Hornswogging the masses.*" The modern American language was not taught at any of the schools I attended, so I cannot be quite sure what "hornswogging" means—but I have a horrible suspicion. Pulling the wool over their eyes and getting them to accept the "leadership" idea, thus shunting them, under their own steam, along a set of rails leading to a state-of-affairs which *somebody else* considers "good" for them—that, I suspect, is an approximate definition of "hornswogging the masses." On that assumption I shall leave Mr. Mencken to the "mercy" of the reader's judgment this time and conserve my pugnacity—for worse is to come.

Off With Their Votes!

Mr. Mencken next says that our present political system, which he mistakes for Democracy, "has become simply a battle of charlatans for the votes of idiots. The way to save it is not to try to put down the charlatans, for turning one out only lets another and worse one in." Very apt; but harken to the Mencken solution: "*Take the vote away from the idiots.*" So that is the "parlour" we are being asked into! "Not today, thanks, Mr. Longshanks!" We are much too "fly."

Mr. Mencken describes his disfranchisement-of-"idiots" plan as cleaning up Democracy. If we use the colloquial Australian interpretation of "cleaned up," we can agree that his plan would certainly have that effect.

Dictatorship?

You will perhaps have jumped to the conclusion that Mr. Mencken envisages a political dictatorship, monarchical or otherwise, with himself, perhaps, as the dictator. But, no. He makes it quite clear that he is opposed to dictatorship. Not as violently as some people, but opposed. He thinks, however, "Any dictator America ever produces will be a more comfortable boss than Hitler, Mussolini or Stalin." Why he should suppose that, heaven and Mr. Mencken alone know. Mr. Mencken, of course, does not tell us.

At any rate, in regard to the unpleasant possibility of a dictator, Mr. Mencken says: "I'd like to see his advent postponed until after I am safely dead, stuffed, and deposited in Dr. Becker's Museum of Anatomy."

Back to B.C.!

Well, you may say, if he does not like the present Pseudo-Democracy, nor Dictatorship, and is not acquainted with the *real* Democracy, what on earth is he aiming at? Simply this—believe it or not—the ancient Greek form of Pseudo-Democracy!

(Continued next page)

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(Continued from page 6.)

As might be expected, Mr. Mencken does not explain or say so in so many words (or their equivalent), but, by a process of elimination and deductions his object is made clear enough. In "A Short History of the World" H. G. Wells says of ancient Greece: "... Their so-called 'democracies' were aristocratic; every citizen had a share in public affairs and came to the assembly in a democracy, but everybody was not a citizen. The Greek democracies were not like our modern 'democracies' in which everyone has a vote. Many of the Greek democracies had a few hundred or a few thousand citizens and then many thousands of slaves, freedmen, and so forth, with no share in public affairs." Mr. Wells' emphasis, etc.) It should be noted, also, that the citizens in the Assembly debated and decided not only what was to be done, but also how it was to be done. Because their community was small and compact, and their national economy extremely simple (as compared with ours today), that the "how" required no specialised technicians, the arrangement, no doubt, worked fairly smoothly. The policy pursued would be agreeable to a majority of "citizens"—but what of the "many thousands of slaves, freedmen, and so forth"? Sometimes very disagreeable to the latter, I should say. "Just what was 'good' for them," Mr. Mencken would say. Well, we have covered some of the ground relative to such use of the word "good" before, so let us not go back in that direction; Mr. Mencken has already caused us to go back to B.C.

Past and Present Realities

Leaving out any question of the "rights of man," it should be sufficient to point out the obvious historical fact (and theorem for the future) that a civilisation, which does not give "men in the mass" what they want, as far as physically possible, can NOT be either stable, durable, really progressive or happy. With the passage of time that becomes a more striking truth, because (a) the desirable possibilities of life are enlarging, and (b) "men in the mass" are enlarging their (mostly secondhand) knowledge of those desirable possibilities.

Of course, there are artificial forces resisting the two factors just mentioned. For example, an insane money system tends to sabotage the material super-abundance which science has made available, while Sir Josiah Stamp denies its existence, and a prostitute press applauds. But, on a balance, these malignant forces lose ground.

Exit Mr. Mencken (Hastily)

To sum up: Mr. Mencken surveys the stage of life at a time when young Democracy is unseen in the wings, waiting for her first "big chance." He perceives the feeble, maudlin antics of Demo-

OUT WITH CASEY!

(Continued from page 2.)

produce overseas. It is possible that the City interests have things arranged this way, and if so it is clear that our overseas indebtedness, public and private, will automatically become more burdensome.

In these circumstances we might expect to find Australia's Treasurer exploring ways and means to decrease the burden, and to see that there can be no possible repetition of past mistakes, which led up to the incurring of the debt. But, not a bit of it.

"Great Opportunities"

The *Herald*, in its issue of February 2, publishes at length an article entitled, "Great Opportunities," which, it states, is being published in the *Times*, London. The author of the article is none other than R. G. Casey, Federal Treasurer. Let us quote Mr. Casey. (The passages emphasised have been emphasised by us, and show clearly that Australia, a financially bankrupt country, has a mentally bankrupt Federal Treasurer.): —

"Australia is a land of opportunities. While Australians are usually not slow to seize them, there may be danger of overlooking one great opportunity that is now before us. This is the investment of overseas capital in the great and steadily-growing primary and

secondary industries of the Commonwealth. For many years before 1929 the development of Australia had been going on with the assistance of a substantial amount of loan money, borrowed abroad each year. "This policy has met with some criticism abroad. It has been said that such expenditure was prodigal: "I emphatically repudiate that suggestion. We were—and are, for that matter—a new country, in the developmental stage, requiring railways, roads and bridges, dams and water conservation projects, postal, telegraph and telephone works, and public utilities generally—all capital assets necessary for the exploitation of the country's resources. Had we relied on our own Australian savings to develop the country, the rate of progress would have been appreciably slower, the population would have been even less than it is, the purchasing power of the country would not have reached its present level. . . . Australian people and the Australian Governments are at one in regarding with distaste the prospect of any substantial increase in our fixed interest bill overseas. This leaves us in a dilemma. *Australia still needs overseas capital.* Although our *domestic savings have been growing steadily they are quite inadequate fully to exploit the developmental opportunities of the Commonwealth.*

"Further, many of these opportunities can be best exploited by Government investment. Governments, in the nature of the case, are prepared to take a longer view and to wait longer for their returns than are private investors who rely upon their investments for present income. There are also some enterprises which, in their indirect benefits to the community, would warrant expenditure by Governments, although the direct return would not justify private enterprise in undertaking them. Government investment is necessary to prepare the ground for private enterprise.

"Australia is ideally suited the joint progress of public and private initiative.

"There is a way out of the dilemma. This is for Australian Governments to rely upon the internal market for loan money for Government development works, and for private enterprise to rely more than hitherto upon overseas supplies of equity capital."

In the rest of his article Mr. Casey eulogised Australia's virtues as a debt-security, the way her people, during the depression, did their dullest to keep on giving the usurer his pound of flesh, and the way Australians can be kept on the straight and narrow path by such institutions as the Loan Council, Arbitration Court and so on, if they try to kick. He boasted of Australia's stability, soundness, saneness, reasonableness, etc., etc. Other countries, he pointed out, had not proved to be very good securities. He referred to our great resources of real wealth.

Mr. Casey concluded with the following glowing words: —

"I believe that Australia represents probably the most attractive field for investment of any country in the world."

If the reader wishes to be sick—i.e., really physically sick—without the expense of crossing the Australian Bight or the Bay of Biscay, we can only urge him to read the whole of Mr. Casey's article.

How Australia Should be Developed

The development of Australia, as Mr. Casey well knows, will take place through Australian energy and skill expended in this country.

The materials used will be almost exclusively Australian. The money paid out during the development will be Australian money. Dollars and pounds sterling don't circulate in this country.

Yet this man, this political bankster, who knows very well, on the authority of Reginald Mc-Kenna, Hawtrey, the Encyclopedia Britannica, and the Macmillan Report how easily money is created, has the enormous impudence to suggest that we are incapable of writing the necessary figures in ledgers ourselves, and must pawn our enterprises to overseas financiers, and let them write figures in their ledgers. He speaks of savings when he knows that new enterprises should be financed by new money.

It is Australia's real credit which is to be pawned, the ability of Australians to produce goods and services, as where and when required. This real credit is substantial and almost limitless. We have the power to demand financial access to it, to initiate ourselves the proper flow of financial credit to enable production and consumption of wanted goods and services, and to develop and exploit our resources. We have this power right here; and without asking leave of witch doctors in Threadneedle Street.

But the use of this power is denied to us by the banking monopoly, of which Mr. Casey is a member. It is denied to us by a Federal Parliament which is not game to face up to the monopoly and reassert its sovereignty. Mr. Casey's job is to see that the Government never does face up to the monopoly. That is what he is there for, although he is drawing pay as one of the people's servants.

Throw Him Out

Mr. Casey is an insidiously dangerous man. He is not just a paid actor like Joe Lyons, a buffoon like Professor Copland, or a go-getter like R. G. Menzies.

He is one of the inner gang, knows what he and the gang want, and relentlessly pursues that objective. He is loyal to the money monopoly and a traitor to his country. He must be thrown neck and crop from the public life, and it is the job of Australian citizens to see that he and his system are finally and irrevocably cast out.

We don't want any more visits from Sir Otto Niemeyer, telling us that we are living beyond the financial means City of London interests care to make available. We don't want our annual tribute to the City increased, either in the public or the private sphere. The tribute is too large already.

We want the sovereign people of Australia to have sovereign control of their own money supply, a control that has been filched from them. Casey is not merely an accessory to the filching. He is one of the gangsters.

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(Continued from page 3.)

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ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

VICTORIA

ERIC BUTLER. - - Eric addressed supporters and sympathisers at Wangaratta on Wednesday, 2nd inst.; and, after those present heard him outline present political developments from the aspect of pressure politics, it was unanimously decided to form a U.E.A. group in this centre on the same lines as that in Benalla. Eric has arranged with both Benalla and Wangaratta groups to forward regular contributions to our fighting funds. The Northeast would appear to be getting down to action now, and Mr. McEwen will be having something to think about before long.

Leaving the Northeast on Friday morning on his bike, Eric covered 145 miles for the day—arriving at headquarters that evening. He is leaving for a Mallee and Wimmera tour early next week. Dates of meetings will appear as they are arranged. All centres throughout the Mallee and Wimmera can expect a visit from this Young Crusader, and all supporters are urged to offer as much co-operation as possible. As he has not access to the credit supply, supporters are asked to offer hospitality as much as possible in order to keep down his expenses.

An invitation to address a Methodist Fellowship at Yalourn has also been extended to Eric. He will probably address this meeting on April 17th, when he hopes to be conducting a tour through Gippsland. He is also in contact with the secretary of the Riverina United Electors, and arrangements are being made for him to tour this area in the late autumn. It looks as if things are going to move at high speed from now on, and supporters will be fully extended to keep pace with this dynamic youth.

YOUTH MEETING. —Several new faces were present at the meeting held in the Rooms on Monday evening, March 7. Many ambitious proposals were brought forward, and if half of them reach actuality, things will certainly be moving. It is the fire and venturesomeness of the young people, which sends the blasé older folk to seek refuge in cynicism as a defence against

waning vigour. The difficulty is to get youth together and started in the right direction. Monday's meeting accomplished both, to a degree. Now that they are off—look out. If they make mistakes, it's all to the good; they will become wise to the fact that the shortest road does not always get one there first. Next meeting, Monday evening, March 21, in the U.E.A. Rooms, McEwan House, Little Collins-street, City.

SPEAKERS' CLASS - The programme of addressing organisations calls for speakers. Practised debaters are invited to attend a meeting in the Rooms,

WHAT HENRY FORD SAYS

Henry Ford, in an interview with the United Press, said that this generation would see the greatest era the world had ever known.

Mr. Ford blamed the efforts of financial interests to control prices, production and pay for the recession.

"Financiers are trying to break the country so as to control all industry," he asserted. "If this small group is successful, prices will go up and wages will come down."

"However, I am glad to see finance recognising grain, such as wheat and maize, as the true basis of wealth. After all, money is simply a token of what has been done. Gold itself is not very useful."

—"Sun News-Pictorial," March 7.

McEwan House, next Wednesday evening, March 16, to discuss the salient points, for presentation, of the objective of the U.E.A. The meetings will be continued fortnightly, and it is hoped that they will provide the opportunity for supporters to meet and learn of the Movement's activities. Facilities will be provided for practice in speaking, and possibly debates will be favoured.

HECKLE HOUR, over 3DB, will be interesting next Saturday night, March 12. The subject is "Can Poverty Be Abolished?" Dr. John Dale takes the affirmative; Mr. Bruce Brown the negative.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

T. J. MOORE MEMORIAL FUND

Reference in a recent *New Times* to the late Tom Moore's *Story of Money*, and to the fact that it brought him no pecuniary gain, suggests a means of simultaneously aiding the fund and the cause he so ably advocated.

If every reader of the *New Times* would undertake to give, or sell, at least one copy to someone in need of instruction, a special edition could be produced. Cash with application should obviate the risk of loss.

"J.M."

STIRRING UP STAGNANT POLITICIANS

Electoral campaigners may be interested to hear of an incident that occurred at a meeting I attended to hear a lecture on Social Credit. Granted the speaker did not do justice to his subject, but in the audience was Mr. Brennan, M.L.A. (Batman), and I was surprised to hear him state that a *national dividend* was impossible, and could not be introduced (extract from notes of meeting). If this is the general opinion of members of the House, then I sincerely hope campaigners will see the need to redouble their efforts and prove that the united will of the people can make financially possible anything that is physically possible. I ventured to reprimand Mr. Brennan after the meeting on making such a sweeping assertion, and said it reminded me of the early days of the I.L.P. in Scotland, when Tom Johnston was educating the people to the idea of Labour forming a political party. It was then said: "It would be impossible." "Tom Johnston? I never heard of him!" said Mr. Brennan. Yet he was Lord Privy Seal in the last Labour Government and editor of *Forward* since its inception. So, campaigners, here is the reason why you should redouble your efforts and get the will of the people to prevail over such stagnant thoughts by our representatives.

ANDY WHYTE.

Northcote.

Relative Poverty

"There can be no doubt, therefore, as to the present existence of a large measure of poverty which it is no exaggeration to describe as abject. But to an even greater extent we are today confronted with something, which "we may describe as *relative poverty*." Many people who, by comparison with the absolutely poor—with those who are literally without the means to maintain life at a proper physical level—might be considered well off, are yet relatively poor judged by their reasonable needs and the plenty which could be so abundantly provided. Very few indeed are the people who could not do with a larger supply of this world's goods, or with goods of better quality, or newer goods, to replace old ones—goods that manufacturers and shopkeepers are clamouring for them to buy. The abject poverty of those whom we have described as the absolutely poor is more striking, and makes a more instant appeal to our sympathy; yet the relief of this rock-bottom poverty would still leave the majority of people relatively poor in comparison with the possibility of plenty which is physically within their reach."

—C. Marshall Hattersley, M.A., LL.B., in his new book, "Wealth, Want and War."

"THE ROAD TO BUENOS AYRES"

By ALBERT LONDRES.

A REVIEW BY M.P.

This is a somewhat startling account of the white-slave traffic, with details of hundreds of particular cases investigated by the author.

The author's conclusions are as follows:—

"The foundation of prostitution is hunger. If hunger did not exist there would still be some women for sale, but the number would be less by eighty per cent. There would be left only those who are willing, not those who must.

"For years the League of Nations has been conducting an extensive secret enquiry into the white-slave traffic. Its agents have swallowed a quantity of dust, but it came from documents, not from the high road. They looked for the truth in documents and they did not find it, because it was not there.

"Documents are no use against the white-slave traffic; they simply serve to unburden the responsibility of the officials who are supposed to contend with it.

"For the League of Nations gentlemen, virtue is vice that cannot be seen. They clean the front of the building and keep the dirt inside. They organise a grand clean up and then go to bed. And next morning they are astonished to find women still walking the streets!

"It is really the tragedy of women who are poor. A bully creates nothing; he only exploits what he finds. If he did not find the goods he would not sell them. But he knows where they are made.

"He knows the mighty factory whence comes the raw material, and that factory is called Poverty.

"When people talk of the white-slave traffic they always cry out

against the men who carry off the women; nobody says anything about the poverty which makes them willing to be carried off.

"Poverty is like a foreign country. Only those who have lived there know anything about it. When other people do happen to say anything about it, they say the sort of thing they would about a country they had never seen; in other words, they talk nonsense.

"People who have always had enough to eat and always had bed to sleep in should sew up their lips before informing us what they would, or would not, have done had they been poor.

"The missionaries of the League of Nations will come back to morality for their conclusion: They will inform the public, in the best pulpit manner, that the boats must be watched and the bullies put into prison. And then suppress the brothels.

"But what of the pavements?"

"Enough of morality. It is not brothels and bullies that we must contend against. As long as women cannot get work, as long as girls are cold and hungry, as long as they do not know where to go for a bed, as long as we allow the bully to take our place and offer the bowl of soup, the evil will continue.

"The responsibility is ours and we cannot get rid of it."

The reader will reflect that the granting of economic security to women will not only wipe out the white-slave traffic, but will also avoid for women the necessity to enter into distasteful marriages merely for economic reasons.

*(Obtainable from F. M. Stapleton, 166 Little Collins-street, Melbourne, C.1. Price, 4/6; posted, 4/10.)

THE RULES OF WAR

By J.M.

Is it not strange that people whom it is difficult to interest in such a vital subject as the poverty surrounding them can be so easily stirred to action over international affairs? They refuse to exercise the power they possess locally, yet make themselves ridiculous by abortive efforts where they possess none. The slave-dealing Abyssinian is dearer to them than the starving family next door; Spaniards and Chinese are more deserving of their help than the residents of Dudley Flats; and a change of Foreign Secretaries upsets them more than a change of Kings. The reason is, of course, that they do not think. They accept their opinions ready made, not realising these are so often designed to keep them enslaved.

A case in point is the popular reaction to the bombing of civilians in China and Spain. Money manipulators, politicians, prelates and other non-combatants of good standing are understandably indignant and alarmed, and the daily propaganda sheets do no more than their duty to their masters in condemning it, but why should the multitude join in the outcry? Certainly their wives and children might be endangered, but why begrudge them a quick death? Life after the next world war will probably be a less desirable alternative.

It has ever been the aim of the gentlemen who promote wars to conduct them on such sporting lines that sufficient recruits are always offering. What is to become of the sport if it is made

so horrible that young men cannot be induced to play? And how can war retain its popularity if it is no longer safe for the war maker?

It is understandable that financiers and their yes-men should want to confine war to the front line trenches. They have property and the pleasures of their own worthless lives to consider. But that potential cannon fodder should support their protests indicates a sheep-like mentality. Why should the soldier, who is mostly conscripted, and has no voice in the making of war, be regarded as the only legitimate target for bombs? Tommy Atkins is no more war guilty than his wife. She also has a vote

As an example of humanitarian motives, consider a recent cable from America, which stated that the U.S. military authorities would not include civilian bombing in their programme, as experience in Abyssinia, Spain, and China had demonstrated that results did not warrant the expense!

Under the present economic system, which makes foreign markets a necessity, war is inevitable. Our best guarantee against war, short of changing the economic system, is the adoption of "all in" rules. Until we have removed the cause of war let us do nothing to make it more attractive.