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# THE NEW TIMES

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

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MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1938.

Every Friday, 3d

## MELB. HERALD'S DELIBERATE LIE

### Can Professor Copland Retain His Mental Equilibrium?

### INTIMIDATION BY BANKERS

### Should Women Be Soldiers?

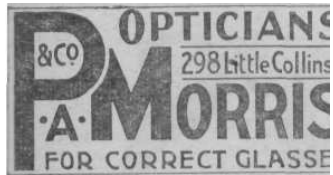
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# Can Professor Copland Retain His Mental Equilibrium?

At the beginning of the year 1924 Australia enjoyed a fair degree of "prosperity." Money had flowed freely during and after the war years, even though it was debt-money. At the University of Melbourne students could study for the established professions of law, medicine or dentistry; they could become engineers or graduates in arts; they could study agriculture, veterinary science or music, and many other things besides. Students in arts and laws could, if they were so minded, or if they wished to obtain a pass or honours in an easy subject, study a subject called Political Economy. They did this under the guidance of a kindly gentleman, affectionately known as Ned Kelly, whose habit was to illustrate his points by reference to a pair of boots. It is true that a few students entered on the study of Political Economy from higher motives, believing fully that an understanding of economic "laws" and of the behaviour of "economic man" would assist them when their courses had finished and they had to take part in economic activity and the struggle for existence. Their disillusionment came later, for it must be confessed that Adam Smith's description of the behaviour of economic man in the pre-machine age has precious little application to the modern world, and that "Ned Kelly," with all his virtues, did not unduly emphasise the fact of bank creation and cancellation of money by book entry.

However this may be, political economy, as then taught, was quite harmless. It was not administered in sufficient doses to condition the student mentally and emasculate his powers of independent thought. It was axiomatic that the student who did eight hours work per year outside lectures would annex the Cobden medal and first-class honours. A pass could be had from attending a few lectures, and reading small portions of Gide. The subject seemed to hang together in orderly fashion, like the laws of auction bridge, and to be essentially artificial and irrelevant to real economics as those laws.

## Preparing for the Depression

The prosperity enjoyed by Australia up to 1924 had been due, to a considerable extent, to the spending of loan moneys, and to the refusal of Sir Denison Miller, Governor of the Commonwealth Bank, to initiate deflation, or to allow the trading banks to deflate. On Sir Denison's death, the Bruce-Page Ministry re-constituted the Commonwealth Bank so that it fell under the control of a board, comprising members of the private banking monopoly. The stage was now set to deflate at any future stage thought to be suitable. A depression is, however, not the easiest of things to put over a people who have for some time experienced the joys of prosperous times. Agents had to be found to "sell" the depression to the people, and these agents had, first, to be invested with some sort of status in the community.

## Enter Professor Copland

It was at this stage that the Faculty of Commerce was founded. The Council of the University then included the following gentlemen:

*Sir John Henry MacFarland, M.A., LL.D.*, a director of the National Mutual Life and of other companies;

*John Percy Jones, M.L.C.*, the wealthy ex-Labor politician, who somersaulted with Ned Hogan on the Premier's Plan issue, and has done much in depression years to foist "economy" (ie. financial stringency) on the people. His business is making suits for sale to people who are too poor to pay more than 2/6 per week for same.

May be said to have a vested interest in other people's poverty;

*Frederick William Eggleston, M.L.A.*, the noted publicist and now a member of the body, which deals with the doling out of grants by the Commonwealth to the States, also a director of the M.L.C. Life Assurance Co.;

*Sir Robert Gibson, K.B.E.*, late Chairman of the Commonwealth Bank Board, director of several companies, the prime initiator of deflation after 1929; Montagu Norman's loud-speaker in this country, until the grim reaper put an end to his activities;

*John Greig Latham, C.M.G., K.C., M.A., LL.B.*, champion of High Finance, who later slew the inflation dragon of Mungana Ted, who overthrew Jack Lang and stepped aside from the Prime Ministership for Honest Joe, was knighted and elevated to the Chief-Justiceship of the High Court. Also formerly a member of prominent directorates. A lawyer of parts;

*Sir J. W. Barrett, I.E.* (in everything). Of him it is related that he drew up a very fine constitution for heaven, but that same was not accepted because of a disinclination of the Almighty to be vice-president.

The Council looked around for a professor to initiate the School of Commerce. Their eyes lit upon one Douglas Berry Copland, of New Zealand origin. Mr. Copland, as he then was, was possessed of no more academic qualifications than a New Zealand Arts Degree. He, apparently, believed that the "laws" of orthodox economics were laws of the same order as the laws, which govern the tides, and the boiling of water. He entered Australia, as it were, through the back door. His first University post was at Hobart, Tasmania. Many other "distinguished" economists have entered Australia by the same way. They were first tried out on the dog.

## Not Without Prejudice

We can recollect clearly the attitude of other University students to the Commerce School in the early years of its existence. The belief was widely and firmly held that commerce students were divided into two classes—first, those who desired a practical knowledge of double-entry bookkeeping, as an adjunct to some other course, and could, therefore, be excused; and, secondly, those who were generally considered to have insufficient wit to follow any other course, and really wanted to be economists after the pattern of their professor.

It is possible that a newly-established Faculty of Morticians or of Hairdressing would have been greeted with the same prejudice, but who can say, after thirteen years of studying the outpourings of Bachelors of Commerce and other offspring of Professor Copland's intellectual loins, that the 1925 prejudice against the new School of Commerce was not soundly based?

Included amongst the members of the Faculty of Commerce in 1925 were: *E. C. Dyason* (stockbroker); *R. B. Lemmon* (of Coomb's Mercantile Agency, a business which has a vested interest in that form of monetary stringency which leads people into litigation, bankruptcy, pledging their assets, etc.); *W. F. Cuming* (an honest industrialist, whose business has now largely been absorbed by the I.C.I. octopus); *H. E. Dixon* (Associated Banks); *J. May* (Stock Exchange); *H. E. Turner* (Insurance Institute); *E. V. Nixon* (Joint Council of Accountancy Bodies, now a director of Noyes Bros. Ltd. And recently a member of the Royal Whitewashing Commission of Inquiry into Banking); and *M. B. Duffy*

(then Trades Hall, now director of the Commonwealth Bank).

These were the gentlemen who worked hand in hand with the professor and shaped the policy of the new Commerce School.

## The Professor Gets On

Whatever prejudice there was amongst ribald undergraduates, it was not shared by the outside public. To them a professor is a professor, whose weighty pronouncements must not be lightly dismissed. They do not stop to consider that Professor Douglas Berry Copland, C.M.G., M.A., D.Sc. (N.Z.), Litt.D. (Harvard), was once plain Mr. Copland and before that young Mr. Copland, and before that a bawling infant, and before that an unmentionable hope. By the end of 1929 Professor Copland had been afforded much favourable press publicity, and had become quite a prominent figure.

He was called upon to lead the band of "experts" who initiated the Premiers' Plan, and who proved very learnedly to Australian citizens that the way to raise their standard of living was to lower it. It was his function to "sell" the depression and the Premiers' Plan to the people of Australia, and to convince them that they should tighten their belts in spite of rapidly increasing production of real wealth. A monument to his labours is to be found in Victoria's Statute Law, in the preamble to what is entitled "An Act to make necessary provision for carrying out a plan agreed on by the Commonwealth and the States for meeting the grave financial emergency existing in Australia, re-establishing financial stability, and restoring industrial and general prosperity. (24th September 1931). The preamble reads as follows: "Whereas at a Conference between Ministers of the Commonwealth and Ministers of the States, convened in Melbourne on the twenty-fifth day of May, 1931, to devise measures for meeting the grave financial emergency existing in Australia and thereby averting disastrous consequences, a plan was agreed upon for re-establishing the financial stability of the Commonwealth and States and restoring industrial and general prosperity by means involving a common sacrifice" etc. (Our emphasis.)

The means were the means devised by the learned Professor Copland, who was well aware how rapidly real wealth was increasing.

It is no wonder that the late Eimar O'Duffy dealt so harshly with economists in his masterly work, "Asses in Clover."

## Another Dragon to Slay

Having effectively slain the dragon of plenty and established the fact that the best way to behave when one's larder is full to overflowing with food is to go on an eighteen-day diet; the professor found that there was another dragon to slay. Certain wicked citizens had been proclaiming throughout the land the fact of plenty and that all that was lacking was a supply of monetary tickets equivalent to the supply of real wealth. They irreverently pointed out that economic "laws" were man-made, and that if man altered his economic behaviour by issuing enough money to buy his own production, the good old "laws" of Professor Copland would be thrown into the dustbin. They affirmed that the way to deal with a problem of glut was to let out their belts and eat more, and that the way to deal with an era of mechanised production was to let the machines do the work while man enjoyed paid leisure. They claimed as their prophet a gentleman who had been inside a modern factory, who was an

engineering graduate of Cambridge, who had engaged in modern production, whose administrative experience was vast, and who really knew a little about mathematics. This Scottish gentleman was rightly of the opinion that professional economists presumably knew a lot about some economic system, but that such system was not in operation on this globe. He advanced technical and mathematical reasons to prove his contention that much of the income distributed to citizens is sidetracked or cancelled before it can be used to discharge industrial costs. Indeed, he went further than mere theorising, and referred to certain objective factors which could be explained only on the basis that his theories were correct. These factors were the enormous increase of public and private debt (representing undischarged costs), the struggle by all nations to achieve an export surplus, and the alarming increase of bankruptcies, liquidations and suicides. Finally, he pointed out

## "THE FAMILIAR METHODS"

"The Living Age" says: "Depression wages and a rapidly rising cost of living are the real reasons for the unrest in Great Britain's sugar island of Trinidad, Barbados, Mauritius and other colonies. Strikes, processions and petitions for higher wages and better working conditions have been repulsed by the familiar methods. Warships have been called and marines have fired upon demonstrators, killing and wounding a considerable number; in each of the islands the authorities have distributed arms to plantation managers with full discretion, it seems, to fire as they please upon the workers."

that the persons who administered our money system in this wrong fashion were the bankers, that control rightly belonged to the community, and that such control had to be exercised in accordance with certain common-sense principles if things were to be put straight.

Professor Copland's first reaction to this general traverse of the teachings of his dismal science was to say that it was time that somebody (i.e., somebody else) took the wicked engineer on. Eventually he had to do the job himself, and it must be confessed that he made a hopeless botch of it. His sally did, however, draw two very instructive replies, and, therefore, proved of value. The professor has not been dragon hunting since. He is no St. George.

## Stimulation of Investment

Although he had all along denied the validity of the analysis, which disclosed that people did not get from industry enough income to meet industrial costs, the professor then began to propound schemes for supplementing the flow of industrial income to the community by means, which would not involve the bringing of more consumable goods on to the market. He has never explained how it should come about that an adequate flow of income should stand in need of supplementing. He came down heavily for "stimulation of investment," which, when boiled down, merely means the placing of money in people's pockets by way of capital production—i.e. production of roads, factories, battleships, etc., which do not come on to the market immediately. Of course, the capital goods must

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eventually be financially paid for, but the time for such payment is postponed.

### Tired of the Fight

The wicked monetary reformers quickly spotted that the Professor's latest proposals confirmed the truth of their analysis, and it is difficult to believe that the Professor himself can have been totally blind to this fact. It is reasonable to suppose that he is becoming heartily sick of the contradictions of his science, and the way they continually catch him out.

To have an assured income, to achieve trips overseas, to spend the Christmas holidays at Mount Macedon, to have degrees and honours heaped upon one, to be chairman of the Professorial Board and to receive lucrative contracts for press articles—surely these are sufficient to lead the normal man to put his blind eye to the telescope when conscience counsels retreat.

But no! Weary of the fight, Professor Copland has endeavoured to secure appointment to the post of Vice-Chancellor of the Melbourne University in succession to Dr. Priestley, who resigned in disgust because he could not have his projects carried out for lack of money. Professor Copland would not have been so worried, as he would have realised that man cannot control money, but that money must control him!

Besides, the post is worth £2000 per annum.

But one John Dudley Gibbs Medley has beaten him to the post. What is behind this surprise?

The Council of the University is still graced by Sir James Barrett (now happily Chancellor), Sir John Latham and Hon. J. P. Jones. Sir Stanley Argyle, Sir Lennan Raws and W. R. Grimwade, Esq., are also members.

It is unreasonable to suppose that Mr. Medley can be suspected of incipient disloyalty to the precepts of sound finance. He has had business experience in the firm of Gibbs, Bright & Co., with which firm he has family connections. At the time of his appointment he was ill with influenza, and spent the day in bed at the home of Mr. Russell Grimwade (of the glass and drug monopolies).

It is possible that the money monopoly has wished to remind Professor Copland that though he has performed the difficult task allotted to him, as well as any other economist could have, he has been well paid for it and should not be too presumptuous. It is possible, again, that the monopoly requires him to pull more wool over the people's eyes when the next depression arrives.

### Intellectual Honesty and Sanity

However this may be, our advice to the learned Professor is to reassert his mental independence, to spill the gaff on his banking paymasters and their credit ramp, and to advocate the payment of additional incomes to people by means which do not involve an increase

of costs, debt, or the production of unwanted and useless capital production or armaments. In short, to demand the return to the people of control of their own money, to demand that money should be allowed to reflect the true facts of the people's productive capacity and consumptive desire, and to insist that money should effectively distribute the plenty of goods and the plenty of leisure now possible, without any aftermath of debt or international friction.

It is only by so doing that the Professor will be able to salve his conscience and retain his mental equilibrium. It is not without significance that a Professor of Economics in this country has already gone to an untimely and unexplained death by falling from an upstairs window.

If the Professor will not take our advice, if he continues to do the bidding of the banking monopolists, we will be driven to the conclusion that he has no sense of responsibility for the sufferings his teachings and planning have already inflicted upon Australian citizens; that he has no sense of the only means of personal salvation open to him, and that he has no sense, of the contempt with which he is regarded and has recently been treated by his paymasters.

The Professor must act while he yet has time! It is not possible to go on living a lie and remain sane.

### TODAY'S SIMPLE SIMONS

It is not so long ago that one Copernicus propounded a somewhat startling theory to an incredulous public.

Today we view with a smile of tolerant superiority the Simple Simons who obstinately maintained that it was the sun which went round the earth (a theory which, incidentally, never did anyone any harm); we gravely deplore the thick headedness of those who could threaten Galileo with the rack for disbelieving in the geo-centric system.

We cannot yet hear the gust of Homeric laughter which will burst the sides of future generations, viewing from a happier standpoint an Old Lady of Threadneedle Street indulging in a refinement of torture at the expense not only of those who dispute her ridiculous, impossible creed, but, with perfect impartiality, of those who do and those who do not.

—G. W. Bain, in *The Fig Tree*.

"Today there are men and women who are dreaming dreams that might be given substance."

"Utopia?" queried the fatalist, cocking a cynical eyebrow.

"Not Utopia," I corrected, "just a world in which the dreamers have called in the experts to give some reality to their ideals."

—Ritchie Calder, in the *Daily Herald*.

## WOMEN AS SOLDIERS

BY LEONORA POLKINGHORNE

So far in these columns, though we have reviewed the position of women in relation to the various aspects of our communal life, no mention has been made of them as soldiers. The struggle in Spain has, however, made even this possible, mainly because the Spanish women believe that their lately-acquired equality will be lost if Franco wins, and, in that case, they might as well die anyway. But it is not this aspect of the case that we are to deal with now, but only the broad, general question as to whether women should or should not bear arms in case of war. That such a question should come up at all (shades of our crinolined grandmothers!) shows how tremendously the whole business of war has changed. In short, all pretence of the chivalry of war has been completely abandoned. Let us for a moment picture it as it is represented in Byron's "Night: Before Waterloo." At the great ball in Brussels, where "fair women and brave men" whirled decorously to the strains of the "Blue Danube" waltz; when gallant young officers, at the sound of the cannon, tore themselves from clinging arms to face "the morn, the marshalling of arms, and the day with battle's magnificently stern array." We can imagine tender young maidens resorting to tears, swoons and sal volatile. Can we imagine these delicate young creatures donning khaki or scarlet and learning to work a machine gun? We cannot. They wept and waited, and, when news came of the death of him for whom they waited, they passed into a colourless and dreary spinsterhood. Those were the "None but the brave deserve the fair" days, but now, as someone has put it, "Whereas, once we fought to defend our hearths and homes, now we fight to destroy the hearths and homes of the other fellow." So, since war, from being considered a "gallant adventure," has become a ghastly, mechanised, mass murder, without mercy, humanity or any pretence of decency, is it a fitting time for women to take part in it? True, they might argue that, at the worst, it is better than being left at home to be murdered or violated by the invader. Nevertheless, for women to take up arms and join in the general slaughter is to violate her whole nature and to outrage her truest instincts. For woman is not a destroyer, but a builder. She makes life; she does not take it. Her mission is not to inflict wounds, but to heal them. Her whole objective in these lunatic times should be to prevent war, not to join in it. If she is not able to do that, her task is to mitigate its horrors as well as she may. However puny her efforts may seem in the gigantic holocaust, nevertheless, she must do her part, and that alone. War is savagery. She must civilise.

An article in a recent Bulletin

warmly defended woman's right to go to war as a soldier. The writer (if intended to be taken seriously) urged that only thus could she refute the accusation made by men that they had no right to interfere in the whole question of war, as they were non-combatants. This is false reasoning. Women have the best of all rights to say that war shall *not be*; the right of the creator of life. Who should say how life should be used but she who goes down into the valley of death year after year to give men to the world? Non-combatants is it? That is a fight that goes on eternally, and not only at such intervals as occur when our "national honour" has been affronted, our trade routes or markets threatened.

Too much emphasis cannot be laid on the truth of Tennyson's "Woman is not undeveloped man, but diverse." Woman does not "gain in sweetness nor in moral height" by imitating the vices of man, nor by condoning his stupidities, but only by being herself on all occasions. If it were not so, half the reason for her emancipation would be lost. If she does not introduce a new element into politics, public administration, civics, art and literature, there is little point in her entering into them. She is there to represent a hitherto almost inarticulate half of humanity—its needs, its desires, its idealism. She is there to make these things complete. If she fails to do this, our community life still remains lop-sided and ineffective.

She can do most things that man does without losing any part of her exclusive feminineness, but to engage in war—that is another thing. When she dips her hands in blood, she must lose that which differentiates her from man. Though he fights at her side, though by logic he can prove that she has perfect right to be there, he surely must shrink from her in horror, for she has thus become to him an unknown and strange thing. Woman as a slayer is an impossible thing. Sad and mad as the world is, when it gets to that stage it had better cease altogether.

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(Continued from page 2.)

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

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To Messrs. Ambrose Palmer and Leo Kelly, Boxers.

Dear Sirs,

We were pleased to read of your terrific bout at the Exhibition arena on Tuesday night, and of the wholehearted efforts made by each of you to demolish the other. We have no doubt that you are well educated in the science of the noble art that you practice, and that each of you did his best. In addition, you provided entertainment for the members of the public who attended your bout. There is a vast number of other combatants who engage in battle in a wider arena than yourselves and whose antics are witnessed by a much wider public. We refer, of course, to the members of the State and Federal Legislatures. It has always appeared to us that the blows exchanged between these gentlemen have been delivered, not with a view to the ultimate prevailing of either right or might, but with the idea that there was an election coming.

Could either of you gentlemen find time to deliver a series of lectures to our politicians with a view to convincing them that there are three things that should be borne in mind in all contests of either mind or matter?

The first is that a man should be trained for his job. If you succeeded in convincing them of this we are afraid that ninety-nine per cent. of our legislators would resign forthwith. The second is that a man must do his best in all circumstances, irrespective of the consequences to himself. We doubt if any of our legislators would be prepared to adopt these words of wisdom, but there is no harm in your trying. The last lesson you might be able to give them is that the public, which pays for the entertainment, is entitled to an honest performance. This proposition may be so startling to our politicians that you might, perhaps, consider increasing your life assurance before entering the classroom.

We are sorry to be compelled to call upon you to undertake the onerous task of educating our legislators, but, since intelligent people, and even our economists, have failed dismally so far, we feel that your more direct methods may succeed. Failing educational methods we are sure that any one of those terrific blows that you expended on each other on Tuesday night, if delivered in turn to each of our legislators, would earn the applause and commendation, not merely of the Australian public, but also of

THE NEW TIMES

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### Paying for Defence -and the "Herald's" Deliberate Lie

The Melbourne *Herald*, in its leader of March 29, proclaims the view that Australians "know that they must pay for defence, and are prepared to face the bill." It envisages further taxation, and further borrowings, and solemnly affirms that governmental creation of credit would be unsound. It draws no moral from the fact that distribution of industrial income in Britain was insufficient by almost £7,000,000,000 in the war years to meet the costs of production, and that this deficiency represents the outcome of a chronic insufficiency in the flow of income to the community. The same deficiency operated, and still operates, in Australia, whose public debt is four times what it was in 1912. It gives no consideration to the fact that the very cause of war and the necessity for defence spring from this deficiency. It takes no stock of the fact that Australian energy and skill and Australian materials are used in preparing for defence, and that, physically speaking, we pay for defence as we go. But perhaps we can leave this general outlook of the *Herald* without further criticism for the present. The *Herald* is paid to put forward certain views, it relies for revenue and profits on advertisements from large concerns, and in general its outpourings are like the grunts of a pig—quite automatic and to be expected. But there is no need for the *Herald* to resort to deliberate falsehood when casting round for examples to back up its viewpoint. It states, in its leader under review, that the creation of credit, by printing notes and securities and the meeting of bills at little more than the expense of the ink and paper, was a system of public finance tried by the Social Credit Government in Alberta, Canada, presumably through some institution similar to our Commonwealth Bank, with disastrous results. This is a lie, and those responsible for the production of the *Herald* know it. It is only a week or so ago that the *Herald* was boasting that the whole of Alberta's financial legislation had been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of Canada, and that Alberta had no power to "create credit by

printing notes and other securities," etc., etc.

Neither has Alberta any institution analogous to the Commonwealth Bank.

The *Herald* is right that Australians will have "to pay for defence." They will pay first physically in their energy and resources expended, and then financially, partly through taxation (which has already increased by £20 million over and above the 1928 figure), and partly in perpetuity for interest on new debt—that is, if Australians are such fools as to allow the defence programme to be financed in the *Herald's* way.

Banks and financial institutions are the main beneficiaries of the public debt, in spite of the ingenuous statement that "trading banks take up certain amounts, mainly for their clients."

We challenge the *Herald* to produce accurate figures in connection with each of, say, the past half-dozen "public" loans, showing subscriptions from private and from other sources. The Treasury wisely keeps these figures dark. Our own guess is at least 85 per cent, institutional subscriptions as against not more than 15 per cent, private subscription. Private citizens who subscribe are so rare that they are written up in the newspapers and sometimes have their photos taken.

### Intimidation by Bankers

How often are we told that banking is an intricate and delicate matter, capable of being handled by experts only, and wholly outside the province of the layman? One would expect under these circumstances that bank clerks, managers, accountants, etc., should be possessed of a high degree of education, skill, tact, and intelligence, and that their outstanding qualities and abilities should entitle them to a quite outstanding rate of pay.

From the bank-officer's point of view things do not seem to have worked out that way. At the beginning of the depression he had his salary ruthlessly cut. There was no need for economy of this nature except in the case of one or two banks with heavy commitments in the importing business. The others all followed suit, partly to impress citizens with the seriousness of the financial crisis and the smallness of their own profits, and partly to save one of the combine from embarrassment. We are able to testify how irately the procedure was looked upon by those bank clerks whose function it was to keep track of the banks' real profits (not the distorted and hushed-up profits disclosed to the general public). Inflation and deflation seem to leave banks equally powerful and prosperous—they can still write their own ticket to real wealth. The depression witnessed an enormous expansion of building activities by the banks, and fine, massive buildings sprang up on many a street corner. The banks' real estate accounts were not correspondingly written up.

Bank officials are at present approaching the Arbitration Court to secure improved conditions of working and higher rates of pay. They have as their senior counsel Mr. A. G. Ogilvie, K.C. Premier of Tasmania. They can establish their case properly only if bank officers will come forward in sufficient numbers to give evidence

as to salaries and conditions of work. The Bank Officials' Association, as a first step, circularised bank managers, to ask for required information. The banks immediately took the stand that bank managers should not reply to circulars, *unless the circulars had first been submitted to the banks*. They alleged that their managers and officers were under a contract of secrecy, not only as to the affairs of clients and depositors, but as to their relations with their employers, their duties, their instructions from head office, etc.

After the association had sent the circular to bank managers it approached the arbitration officer of the banks for approval, and received a reply to the effect that a decision would be forwarded in due course. And while this decision was being reached, the banks circularised all their officers in the following manner:

"A circular from the general secretary of the Bank Officials' Association, in which managers are requested to disclose certain information in connection with their duties as bank officers, has come under the notice of the bank.

"When this matter came to the knowledge of head office, objection was immediately taken thereto, and the matter was brought to the notice of the court. As a result, the bank has agreed, in this instance, that if proper application is made by the Association for the bank's consent to the disclosures sought, such consent will be given.

"Sanctity of officers' agreements is considered by the bank to be a fundamental principle underlying the relationship existing between the bank and its officers, and no violation of this principle will be permitted. Any similar application to the bank . . . will be dealt with on its merits.

"Managers are to allow each member of their staff to peruse this advice."

Managers and officers perused this iron missive couched in terms of velvet, rushed for their telephones, and withdrew former offers to the association to give evidence. Subsequent attempts to interview them by the association have largely proved fruitless.

It is not merely that bank officers may place before the Court only such information as the banks condescend to allow them to, but, such is the power of economic compulsion, that the association has been effectively prevented from procuring witnesses.

Mr. Ogilvie claims that there has been rank terrorism and intimidation. Mr. Lewis, for the banks, has hotly denied this, and Judge Piper has found that there has been no *intentional* intimidation, although the result may have been to cause witnesses to withdraw their evidence.

When one of two parties to a dispute holds a whip, it is sufficient for him to remind the other side that he has the whip. There is no need for him to crack it. That is the true analogy to the banks' conduct.

It is time that bank officials turned King's evidence on the whole banking ramp. For a small pittance they exercise for their directorates the almost divine power

of credit creation and cancellation by book-entry. They are in a position to see the effects on the community of the exercise of this power, to appreciate the fact that every grant of an overdraft actually creates money, and that every recall of an overdraft cancels money, and that no scientific considerations govern either the issue or the recall of money by the banks. They are in a position to appreciate how hotly the banks oppose any claim that the monopoly of credit issue and recall should be taken away from the hands of banking institutions. Many of them know what the banks' real profits are, how shamefully they are concealed, and what a small portion goes out to shareholders by way of dividends.

What is required of bank officers at the present stage is not that they should dash back to their funkholes, fearful of their positions and promotion. Let them come out boldly and give as much information as they can. If they all do this, they will have nothing to fear. We doubt whether there is one bank director in existence who could do a teller's job. Banks cannot work without officers, and those officers should not accept dictation. They are the victims of the banking swindle equally with outside citizens, and must come in behind the fight to have the swindle ended, once for all.

### Mexico and the Good Oil

Mexico was largely neglected by the large industrial powers until the discovery of oil there. Since that discovery the history of Mexico has been disturbed in the extreme. Rival oil interests, notably the Standard and Shell groups, have fomented revolution after revolution in their fight for the right to exploit the oil fields. Their sole contribution to Mexico's well being has been to disrupt her civil life and to despoil her of real wealth.

President Cardenas has decided to put an end to the ramp. On March 1 the Mexican Supreme Court ordered the Oil Companies (English, American and Dutch) to pay £ A. 2,770,000 in compensation and wages. The companies refused.

On March 19 the President expropriated the foreign oil wells. There were nation-wide demonstrations of joy. Thousands of men, women and children marched in mass demonstrations, shouting, "The gringos (foreigners) are going!" One group of workers carried a coffin placarded, "Here lie the petrol companies." When he appeared on the balcony of the National Palace, President Cardenas was given a tremendous ovation.

American (i.e., Wall Street) "investments" in Mexico are stated to be 1,000,000,000 dollars.

There is a hint that Mexico is intending to throw foreign financial interests out of Latin America, just as Japan intends to throw them out of the Orient. There is evidence that Japan will readily buy Mexico's oil. A tremendous swing against financial exploitation by the United States is taking place throughout Latin America a factor, which probably explains America's rapid rearmament. America, with starving millions at home wants to force her production on external markets.

Mexico has taken a step in the

### A VOICE FROM THE PAST

"I set to work to read the act of Parliament by which the Bank of England was created (in 1694), and all the Acts about loans, and funds, and dividends, and paying off and sinking funds . . . and I soon began to perceive that the fate of the kingdom must finally turn upon what should be done with regard to the accursed thing called the National Debt. I saw the purpose for which it had been founded; I saw how completely it had answered that purpose; I saw how it had been the instrument of putting unbounded power into the hands of the Government; I saw how it had drawn the wealth of the country into masses; how it had destroyed the lower and middle class of farmers; how it had added to the list of paupers; how it had beggared and degraded the country . . .

"The sum at first borrowed was a mere trifle (one and a half million pounds). It deceived by its seeming insignificance. But it was very far from being intended to stop with that trifle. *The inventors knew well what they were about. Their design was to mortgage, by degrees, the whole country, all the lands, all the houses, and all other property, and even all labour, to those who would lend their money to the State . . .*

" . . . The scheme, the crafty, the cunning, the deep scheme, has from its ominous birth been breeding . . . usurers of every description, feeding and fattening on the vitals of the country, till it has produced what the world never saw before—*starvation in the midst of abundance!* Yea, verily, this is the picture we now exhibit to the world; the Law-Church parsons putting up in all the churches thanksgiving for a plenteous harvest, and the main mass of the labouring people fed and clad worse than the felons in the gaols! . . .

"To have plenty of everything that made life easy and pleasant was formerly one of the great characteristics of the English people. Good eating, good drinking, good lodging; without these, people do not really live: it is staying upon the earth . . .

" . . . As the working people went on getting poorer and poorer, they became more and more immoral . . . men committed crimes for the purpose of getting into gaol; because the felons in gaol were better fed and better clad than the honest working people . . .

"*Such were the fruits of public debts and funds!* Without them this industrious and moral and brave nation never could have been brought into this degraded state . . .

"Read modern romancers, called historians, every one of whom has written for place or pension; read the statements about the superiority of the present over former times, about our prodigious increase in population, wealth, power, and, above all things, our superior freedom . . . These are all monstrous lies, but they have succeeded for ages. Few men dared to attempt to refute them, and if anyone made the attempt he obtained few hearers, and ruin, in some shape or other, 'was pretty sure to be the reward of his virtuous efforts.'—William Cobbett, 1762-1835 (*History of the Protestant Reformation, and From Ploughboy to a Seat in Parliament.*)

right direction. She will win out in her fight if she takes control of her money system and operates it in such a way that her citizens can buy the whole of their production on terms of self-respect and individual freedom. It is time Australia threw off City of London financial domination and allowed her citizens access to her great and growing store of real wealth on the same terms.

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## THE BLESSING OR THE CURSE?

A sermon by Rev. William Bottomley, delivered at the Unitarian Church, East Melbourne, Sunday morning, March 20, 1938. Broadcast by 3AR, Melbourne.

"I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before thee life and death, the blessing and the curse; therefore choose life that thou mayest live, thou and thy seed: to love the Lord thy God, to obey his voice, and to cleave unto him: for he is thy life and the length of thy days."—Deut. xxx., 19-20.

There are times in human history when it is imperative that a choice should be made—when, to evade an issue is to court disaster of the most terrible kind. The difficult thing is to bring people to a realisation of the choice that must be made, for it is a natural human failing to put off facing the issue, to avoid facing unpleasant facts, as if, thereby, they did not exist. It is so much easier to leave the direction of affairs to others, rather than assume responsibility ourselves. But there always comes the day of reckoning, the day of judgment. Far better to recognise the truth and to accept the moral effort thus involved, for it means the difference between the blessing and the curse, between life and death.

We are faced with such a choice today. From one point of view the choice has already been made. As a nation we have accepted as inevitable the necessity of joining in the race for armaments. The nation's rulers—those whom we have placed in authority over us—have committed this country to a policy in line with that of other great powers, the policy of armed strength; this, it is believed, being the only basis of security in present world conditions. No one, of course, will say that this is in accordance with Christian ethics, but the excuse is that it is a regrettable necessity. The politician might well say to the preacher that it is easy to preach, but not so easy to have the responsibility of the nation's welfare, and that if the positions were reversed the point of view would be considerably altered. Well, let us admit the difference, but let it not be thought that it is easy to preach when one has a due sense of responsibility for one's utterance, or that we are unaware of the difficulties that face our statesmen at the present time.

Nevertheless, it seems to me that once again we have entered on a wrong and dangerous path, but that there is still time to retrace our steps. In the words of our text, "I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before thee life and death, the blessing and the curse; therefore choose life that thou mayest live, thou and thy seed: to love the Lord thy God, to obey his voice, and to cleave unto him: for he is thy life and the length of thy days."

Now I am convinced that neither our statesmen, nor the people, desire war. I believe that they will do nothing intentionally to provoke war; but many, it would seem, are prepared, if the occasion should arise, to accept the arbitrament of war, with all the dread sacrifices that war entails. It is really upon this issue that I wish to speak to you this morning.

I want to ask you what, if war should come—what, if we should accept the challenge of war, we might expect to accomplish by that method? What happened as the result of the last war in which Australia, in common with the other dominions of the Empire, joined? Did it leave behind a blessing or a curse? Was it a

blessing to the victors, and only a curse to the vanquished? Or was it a curse both to the victors and the vanquished? You know that there is only one answer to that question. The war of 1914-1918 settled nothing, as we know, but instead became the breeding ground of future wars; it sowed bitter resentment and hate; it resulted in the unjust partition and annexation of territory; and it left behind it desolation and death. The last Great War left Europe in the ancient bonds; it freed no one, not even those who were among the victors. The moral aspirations which found voice in the late President Wilson's Fourteen Points were crushed beneath the inflamed passions of those who made the Peace Treaty—a treaty based on the ancient code of "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth."

War has only power to destroy; it cannot create. It can never establish the good and the enduring. Not through strife, whether within the nation, or between the nations, shall the Kingdom of God come. "Not through division, but through union; not through conflict, but through conciliation and co-operation; not through more death, but through more life; not down the broad ways of hate, but up through the highways of love, shall we envisage the new heaven and effectuate the new earth."

Surely it should be evident that war has not only failed to establish peace, for the peace that it imposes is never a real and lasting peace, but that it brings with it a curse upon mankind. If this nation is again involved in war, and there is every possibility that it will be if present policies are pursued, it will be taking the way of death. "I have set before thee life and death, the blessing and the curse; therefore choose life that thou mayest live."

Is it not time that we realised the truth written in the heart? "The word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it." The moral law is the law of God, and as regards this law we have no choice. That is to say, no matter what we choose to do, the law remains. We must observe the law of God, or be broken by it. Our choice is strictly limited: it is either obedience and life, or disobedience and death.

But now the cry from all official quarters is "Australia must arm," and the feverish activities of the nation are being directed to the building up of death-dealing instruments of war. We, like others, must have our bombing aeroplanes, and as we do not intend to use them in bombing our own women and children, they are obviously to be used against an enemy. Again, it will be said that they are only to be used in defensive warfare, to protect us against attack and, more speciously still, with a view to making ourselves so strong that no enemy dare attack us. But is anyone so deluded as to suppose that peace has ever been gained, or ever will be gained, in that way? Does not every additional gun, every additional battleship, every additional warplane, every increase in poison gas, make war more possible? Obviously, the nations are preparing the stage for a major conflict—and it is no use refusing to think about it. Soon it may be too late to think.

Let me remind you that the building up of armaments demands some sort of justification. Viscount Cecil spoke nothing but the truth when he said that the piling up of armaments involved propaganda based on international hate. You can only increase your fighting forces in a peace-loving country on the assumption that enemies are round about you, and so the people must be convinced that other nations are out for their

destruction. Thus, by what is often a pernicious selection of news, fear is instilled into the hearts of the people until they cry out to their rulers to protect them. Well, if it is true that other nations hate us—and, mind you, I am not saying that it is true—but if it is true, should we not enquire the reason why? Would it not be far better to make a direct approach to our potential enemies and convince them by our acts that we are not enemies but friends? What country is there in the world that we could not trade peacefully with on equitable terms if we so desired? What country is there that we would not freely negotiate with on terms of equality? If there are such countries and such peoples that we would not acknowledge as friends and equals, then we are called upon to examine our own motives and our own pride. If we fail in this, then we are not free from sin; but if we are free, then we do not need to pile up our armaments. The only sure defence for any people is the good will with which they can surround themselves.

There is an old pagan proverb, which reads: "Those whom the gods wish to destroy, they first make mad," but the God of all the earth would wish to make you sane that you might live. At present it seems as if we are far from sane. According to the *Times*, London, of January 11 of this year, there is one British firm of aeroplane

### MR. S. M. BRUCE AGREES

In the Melbourne "Age" of March 24 it was reported that the Australian High Commissioner, in an address at Glasgow, said it was of vital interest to Australians that Australia should be maintained for themselves. "This," he said, "was equally important to Great Britain because on the day on which a single dominion was wrested from the Crown against the will of that dominion the death-knell of Great Britain would be rung."

As we said last week, the British Empire is definitely doomed unless we change the financial arrangements under which it is now being controlled largely at the dictation and in the interests of foreigners, and it is refreshing to see that even Mr. Bruce is becoming apprehensive in this regard. This is particularly interesting in view of the part Mr. Bruce has himself played in handing over an important British dominion to the international financial gang.

manufacturers that has machines built under licence in seven different countries. Aeroplanes are supplied in large quantities to the Royal Air Force, but they are also sold to other Governments. In fact, training types of this particular aircraft are in use in nineteen air forces. So it would appear that Britain is not only arming herself, but helping to arm her future enemies, and British workers are making engines of war that may one day be used in killing their own wives and children.

There is a story going the rounds, which appeared in a magazine last October. It is about an inventor who called at the War Office of "a country of which the name is neither here nor there," offering to sell plans for a new type of air cruiser capable of remaining in the air for a week, of carrying a battalion of soldiers, and of defying the most unfavourable weather conditions. The General in charge buys the invention for a million pounds and thanks the inventor, asking him to come again when he has anything else to offer. The inventor says he can offer some-

thing else "right now." He has constructed a gun that will destroy the air cruiser in a couple of seconds. The General is annoyed. He says he could understand the situation if another inventor had offered such a gun. But the caller asks what difference that can make. If the General likes he will go out of the room, shave off his moustache, change into another suit, and come back and introduce himself as if he had never been before. The General sees the logic of this, and admits that he must buy the gun to prevent the inventor selling it to another country. So he hands over a second cheque for a million . . .

But the stranger is in no hurry to leave. For he has invented some armour-plating to protect the airship against the gun! And another gun to pierce the armour plating! And some stronger armour plating that even the second gun cannot pierce! And . . .

By now the General is furious. "May the devil take you, you robber, you bloodsucker," he cries. "Tell me your name, that we may curse you at every street-corner."

And the inventor, smiling mockingly, says, "I am Logic in person, just sound Commonsense . . . You lack that quality, and that is why you cannot understand that it is immaterial whether your country ruins itself in ten years or ten minutes."

So the stranger left the War Office of "a country of which the name is neither here nor there."

Now that story sounds funny, doesn't it? It makes the General in the story ridiculous; but isn't it true of most countries today? Isn't this armament business ridiculous? Yes, but it is something more, for there is a side which is not funny at all—it is that it is preparing the blood-bath of the nations. It means the mangled and writhing bodies of young men lured out and conscripted for war. It means the slaughter of innocent women and children; it means the crashing of churches, where men and women worship, and the destruction of buildings where men and women peacefully earn their daily bread. It means the utter ruin of our fairest hopes; it means the welter of Hell upon earth. Think upon it. Think while there is yet time. "I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before thee life and death, the blessing and the curse; therefore choose life that thou mayest live."

But now the question comes: "What shall we do?" "What shall we do to be saved?" And the answer is: Forsake the ways of death and pursue the ways of life. Love the Lord thy God, obey His voice and cleave unto Him. It is the voice not only of the Old Testament prophets, but that of Jesus, too. Our God is a God of love and of righteousness, Who desireth not the death of any man. Not only individually, but as a nation, we must repent of our ways and turn into the paths of righteousness. What is the measure of our faith? Dare we commit our ways unto the Lord and trust in Him Who is our shield and our buckler? Dare we, as a people, renounce the way of material force and become a sacrificial nation unto the Lord? Remember, you are making your choice. Either you are supporting a policy, which will destroy the nation's soul, leading to the destruction of all that makes human life divine, or you are choosing the way of life, and the realisation of life's fairest hopes and possibilities. You are choosing either the blessing or the curse. There is no middle way.

What, then, is to happen to us? Did Jesus ask that question when He went to Jerusalem? Perhaps He did, and in His heart knew what the answer would be. He knew, as few other men have known, that unless one greatly dared for truth and righteousness' sake, this world would never be saved from evil. Better to die for the truth that saves than to live with a lie in one's heart; better to dare all that men can do to you than be

false to the divine spirit within. I would that this nation would make the great act of faith and renounce the ways of old world tortuous diplomacy, its spying and deceit, its grab all where you can, and keep all how you can. Let us stop this warlike activity and turn our industries into the way of peace. "But shall we not be taking great risks?" Of course we shall; but it will be a risk that is worthwhile. We are taking risks now; in fact, we are not only taking great risks, but making certain of the way of death. Let us risk something for life's sake, for the sake of human happiness and well being.

If this world is to be saved from its folly, some nation must take the lead and reveal the way of life. Why not Australia? Why not beat our swords into ploughshares and our spears into pruning hooks? Why not say to all other nations: "We have no quarrel with you; we renounce our armaments; our word is Peace? Let us establish justice and peace within our borders, and set an example to the nations of the earth."

I know that some will say that these are counsels of perfection, not to be taken seriously; to be held, perhaps, as an ideal, but that, in the meantime, we must be prepared. To which I would answer that if they are not taken seriously, then we are not taking our religion seriously. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, saith the Lord." If our appeal falls upon deaf ears among those who have cynically committed their ways to the might of the sword, shall it not avail among those who profess to follow the teaching of the Prince of Peace? Will the Christian Churches take the lead and declare their attitude now, before it is too late? We know only too well, and remember with bitter sorrow, what happened during the Great War: how many religious leaders reverted to the tribal gods and became recruiting agents in the cause of death. Let us pray that such base treachery will not happen again.

My appeal, however, is to men and women of good will, whether of the professedly Christian persuasion or not. We must make our decision, and make that decision known in those quarters where our legislators meet. We must let them know in no uncertain terms that they cannot rely upon us any longer to go the bad old ways. We must let them know that, as far as we are concerned, this nation shall follow Christ's way of life—the way of love and understanding. We believe that a gesture of renunciation, divine in its quality, is a gesture that will lead the world to saner and better ways of living. We believe it to be our duty to endeavour to liberate the common impulse of good will, now too often suppressed, and only needing release in order to save the world. As for us, we will choose the blessing rather than the curse; we will cleave unto the Lord Who is our life and the length of our days. We will hold that

Earth shall be fair and all her people one,  
Nor till that hour shall God's whole will be done,  
Now, even now, once more from earth to sky  
Peals forth in joy man's old undaunted cry:  
"Earth shall be fair, and all her folk be one!"

#### THE AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S MOVEMENT FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH.

##### MEETING,

to be held at the Business and Professional Women's Club Room Thursday April 7 at 2.45 p.m.

##### SUBJECT: SOCIALISM

## OBSTACLES TO THE ABOLITION OF POVERTY

### "Wanting" Is Not "Getting"

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir—Several requests have been sent to me for the publication of the notes used at the Heckle Hour debate with Dr. John Dale on March 12, and it affords me the greatest possible pleasure to do so. Those who listened to the debate will recall that, with great eloquence and impressive sincerity, Dr. Dale established beyond all doubt that we live in a world of actual and potential abundance of all the physical things necessary to release the whole population from poverty, and, consequently, I was obliged at once to admit the truth of his statements and to agree that if what he advocated *could* be brought about then we would have far less crime and a much happier community.

#### Eleven Obstacles

But *wanting* and *getting* are two different things, and it is true to say that not even a substantial *reduction* of poverty, let alone its abolition, is possible under existing conditions. For that assertion I offered eleven reasons, as follow:

1. Our community activities are based on the volume of *money*, not on the volume of *wealth*.
2. An increase of money has in variably meant higher prices.
3. Industrialists have accepted the principle that the workers do not hope to be any better off.
4. Despite all the humanitarian efforts of the past, poverty is increasing.
5. Experts say that our progress depends on the amount of bankruptcy we can stand.
6. All main channels of publicity are controlled by persons who benefit from the present conditions.
7. Governments are merely in office; they are *not* in power.
8. The community is seriously divided.
9. Better physical conditions are not wanted by some of the church leaders.

10. Legislative actions have been designed to fasten the existing financial arrangements more firmly on us and to render effective challenge more difficult.

11. When the people do make an effort to get access to their own resources the controllers of finance will move heaven and earth to prevent them.

Few will dispute that those obstacles are formidable.

#### Wealth Waits on "Funds"

At the 1934 Federal elections we were promised that if we returned the Lyons Government the railway gauges would be made uniform, but the promise has not been honoured, not because there is any shortage of rails, sleepers, ballast, men, or of any other physical thing actually required for the job, but entirely because there is a shortage of *funds*. Wealth is around us in abundance, but there is always a chronic shortage of *money* without which we are not permitted to use the wealth. It is, therefore, an unanswerable fact that our activities are governed by money, and not by wealth, and that whoever governs money governs us.

#### Workers Robbed by Higher Prices

The goods we can get depends on the money we receive and the prices we have to pay, and, as a general rule, any increase in wages is quickly swallowed up by higher prices. Higher wages have been the regular objective of Labor organisations, but the worker never gets any greater share of production. The general standard of living today is no higher than it was thirty years ago. Indeed, in many cases, it is lower. That is

because every increase in wages has meant an increase in the employer's costs, and, in most instances, he has had to increase his prices or go bankrupt. Additional money is, therefore, not much good if it merely leads to higher prices, and poverty cannot be eliminated that way.

#### Workers' Share Never Increases

When the union leaders accepted the principle of cost of living adjustments they accepted the principle that the worker need never expect to be any better off. The idea was that the purchasing value of his money would remain the same, and no matter how production might be increased he would never get a share of the *increase*. Every workingman should think that over, for it is a further reason why we cannot look to wages as a means of removing poverty.

#### Humanitarian Efforts Fail

Twenty-five years ago slum conditions were described as shocking. Today they are more shocking. Nothing practical has been done to improve matters, even though every decent citizen wants something done, which goes to show that wanting a thing done is not sufficient to get it done. In England they did make an effort, but with terrible results.

Besides increasing the people's debt without relieving them of the slums, the former slum dwellers began to die off half as fast again in the new houses as had been the case in the slums. Rent in the slums was 4/8 a week, but in the new houses it was 9/6, which meant there was 4/4 less each week to spend on food. At this very moment we have a local Housing Board fiddling with the problem in the same way. The slums will, therefore, continue, and slums are synonymous with poverty. Apparently, the public is content to have it so, for they accept almost without a murmur the private financial manipulations, which keep incomes low and thus produce the slums. That is why our humanitarian efforts have failed, *and must continue to fail*.

#### Bankruptcy a Virtue

Leading professors at the Melbourne University have declared that bankruptcy is essential to progress. One of them said this: "The cost of progress could be measured by the volume of insolvency, and the amount of progress of which a country was capable could be gauged by the amount of bankruptcy it could stand." No bankruptcy, no progress! And bankruptcy means poverty. The experts may be wrong, but, if our progress depends on bankruptcy, as they say, then we needn't worry about the sensible distribution of goods at all. We must have bankruptcy and so there's nothing wrong in allowing good food to rot while millions of people starve. The advice of these "experts" is still accepted in official circles and is still put forward by the press as something good. Who, then, can we get in their place, and how are we to get them "accepted" or "recognised"?

#### Publicity and Ignorance

All the main channels of publicity are under the control of persons whose financial position grows stronger and stronger at the expense of society, and whose very interests are served by keeping the people ignorant of the important question of money. In the face of this, how is it possible to educate the community on the subject, more particularly when we realise that the leaders of the political

parties are themselves equally uninformed. Some of these leaders have the idea that there is only a limited quantity of money in existence, and that this quantity cannot be increased. One of them actually said this: "No matter what proposal for the solution of the housing problems is adopted, the community will have to put its hand in its pocket. It is no use talking of reduced taxation. If necessary, taxation will have to be increased." According to this brilliant man's idea, the more you put your hand in your pocket the more money you will find there, but you all know from experience just how true that is.

#### "Depression" or Mesmerism

And the newspapers can get the people to believe almost anything. In 1930, when production was increasing, they persuaded us that less money would be good for us, and we obligingly took less. In 1931, the Arbitration Court, egged on by the press and the "experts," cut the basic wage, not because there was any shortage of food and clothes, but because there was supposed to be a shortage of money. The Federal Government, which had been elected in 1929 with a record majority, sought through legislation to lessen the money shortage, but the Senate, on the advice of the bankers, rejected the proposals and were actually applauded for it. The people were thoroughly mesmerised and the newspapers maintained the mesmerism.

#### How Honours Were Earned

While that was going on, a committee consisting of University, Treasury and Banking "experts" was devising a scheme to bring about a still further reduction in the people's money, and this subsequently became known as the Premiers' Plan, although the Premiers had nothing to do with its preparation. Despite the alarming effects of this on the community, the men responsible for it had their names included in the "Honours" List, and the electors voted as an ignorant mob for the cutting of their own financial throats. This showed the great influence of the press and the real mentality of the adult section of the people. The position is still much the same.

#### Parliament to Have No Control

Then we had the Monetary and Banking Commission, which, as expected, professed to find little wrong with the system. It did recommend a few adjustments, however, and we were led to believe that these adjustments would be adopted if the Government were returned last October. We are now coolly informed that the most important feature will not be accepted, and that it is not intended that Parliament shall have control of money policy. The newspapers have raised no objection to this, and there is little opportunity to get the significance of it to the people at large: We, therefore, have the position that the community is still ignorant, the newspapers still powerful, and the private money monopoly still in control. This means that poverty will continue.

#### Governments Without Power

If Governments were in power they could get things done, and their inability to get things done is the clearest proof that they are *not* in power. You need only be a member of a deputation asking for some community necessity, such as a hospital, to get first-hand proof of that. A recent editorial in the Melbourne *Argus* put it nicely in these words: "Nothing should be done to encourage the delusion that a change of Ministry has changed the financial situation." That's the point. Whoever controls finance controls the Government, and a change of Government does

does not mean a change in the control of finance. Apparently that will go on, and so long as Governments are merely in office and the real power is exercised elsewhere, so long will dire poverty continue.

#### Divide and Rule

Almost every movement is divided within its own ranks, and our minds are continually directed to anything except a sensible consideration of *money* and the part it plays in our everyday lives. It is a well-known fact that when the community is divided it is much easier to rule. The open fight in the Labor movement is a splendid example of this. The return of the Stevens Government in New South Wales was essential to the interests of the money controllers, because, otherwise, their control of the Loan Council would have been jeopardised. (Mr. Lyons was quite sincere when he said he was delighted with the results of that election, and that "the co-operation of the New South Wales Government means a great deal to me and my Government." It does!)

#### BARBAROUS (?) INVADERS

"The Times" correspondent at Shanghai says that when the Japanese occupied Tsung-ming, on an island at the mouth of the Yangtsekiang, they found 14 nurses had deserted 59 Chinese babies in a nursery.

The Japanese Major, himself a father, ordered the fathers of the units to feed the babies. Bachelor soldiers scoured the deserted town to find milk.

One of the missing nurses was found after a few days and saw the babies all-feeding happily.

But she screamed with dismay on finding that the well-intentioned foster-parents had mixed up the infants beyond hope of sorting out.

"Herald," 24/3/38.

We think that this is the first report in favour of Japanese interests and behaviour, which has yet appeared in the Melbourne "Herald."

Is Sir Keith Murdoch quite sure that the normal drink of Japanese warriors is not the blood of Chinese babies, served up in the skulls of their fathers and/or nurses?

That is why the Labor movement was split into Lang and anti-Lang factions. Any effort to bring the people together is immediately attacked by the financiers and their sycophantic press, and it is certain they will not assist any movement seeking to weaken their control.

#### Attitude of Certain Ecclesiastics

One of the greatest surprises to those seeking better conditions is the straight out opposition of some of the leading ecclesiastics. For example, Archbishop Head told the Rationalist Association "the Church stands for overcoming the evils of the world by love, and that this is achieved by working through men's characters—not by improving their physical and mental conditions." If an important section of organised religion is against the abolition of needless physical misery, then Dr. Dale's task is doubly hard.

#### Parliament Used to Defeat the People

And what has Parliament been doing all these years? Every Statute is designed to strengthen the fetters of finance. The latest of these is National Insurance, which is being put forward as a means of providing better incomes, but which in reality is only one more move to entrench

the existing money system more deeply. Unfortunately, a majority of the people are falling for it. They have had it in England for 25 years, but one person in every four is on the breadline. Seventy per cent of the population is undernourished. There are more than two million unemployed. Nearly five million have only 4/- a week to spend on food, and millions more have only 6/- a week for that very necessary purpose. Yet here in Australia we have millions of gullible folk looking, in simple faith, to National Insurance as their hope for an assured future and as a means to alleviate poverty. The gallant knight from England who is advising the Government on the subject, and whose second name is Samuel, never touches upon the fact that the scheme cannot possibly help to distribute the plenty, but will inevitably perpetuate the poverty. But it will suit the money controllers, and, apparently, that is all that matters.

#### The Powers of the Devil

When efforts are made to remove these serious disabilities under which the people struggle, the powers of the devil are brought into action to prevent it. There is a place called Alberta, where the people are demanding access to the wealth of their own province, and in response to this demand the Parliament of Alberta passed legislation to give effect to their will. True democracy was put into practice for the first time. The legislation aimed at securing accurate reports in the press, the registration of the banks in the province, and financial credit equal to the needs of the Albertan people. These measures have been misrepresented throughout the world, and pressure brought to bear by international financiers to have the laws "disallowed." They have since been declared unconstitutional.

#### Would Australia be Different?

If the people of one Australian State joined together and made a similar demand, the Federal Government, which takes its instructions from the financiers, would probably act against the interests of the people in the same way. How, then, will it be possible to capture that essential power (control of the community's credit) from the private monopoly which now operates it to its own advantage and to the detriment of the nation? As I have shown, the press is against the community on this issue, nearly all the recognised "experts" are in the service of the monopoly, and our laws have been so framed that any effort to restore the sovereignty of Parliament would probably be declared illegal. It is, therefore, not surprising that we have a combination of forces working to maintain confusion in the public mind. And these forces are still in command.

#### Everything Depends on the People

When the people do awake and resolutely demand the *results* they want instead of arguing about methods they do not understand, democracy will begin to operate in Australia for the first time in its history. But will the Australians ever awake? The worker has been sold so many times that he is justifiably suspicious, and he will be encouraged to remain suspicious. Strangely enough, however, he has not yet become suspicious of the type of leader (Maurice Blackburn, for instance) who believes it is necessary to hold the threat of starvation over the worker in order to force him to work!

Mr. Editor, Ladies and Gentlemen, whether we like to think so or not, there is no escaping the fact that so long as the nation's financial policy is dictated by private interests, poverty can neither be abolished nor even substantially reduced. Social reformers who do not realise this are wasting their time.

Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H BROWN

THE BIG SNAKE IS ANGRY (He Is Eating His Own Tail!)

By S.R., in "The New Age" (Abridged).

There are native races who can count 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, by finger-counting, but after reaching 5 they are lost. Their stock of words is also limited to a few sounds and meanings, and the words used deal mainly with things: earth, water, tree, man, boat, and so on. Such low-grade primitives have no ideographic and/or phonetic hieroglyphic system, and no alphabetic writing of any kind. But they have, as a rule, some crude forms of picture writing or pictographs, to do with some central ritual-cult. Such signs may be found on the face of rocks, or drawn upon the ground by making ridges and mounds (sometimes covered with coloured earths) and used during the ritual. The ritual is almost always to do with a tapu-system, and the pictographs used are simple shapes depicting such things as a snake with circles and wavy lines round about it. The words of the ritual-chant (s) will be just as simple, direct, and absolute:—

"The Big Snake is angry The Big Snake wants food Bring food for the Big Snake quickly! If not, He will swallow us before sunrise, The Big Snake is angry, Be quick! Bring food!"

Printed in our advanced alphabetical system, as above, such a primitive chant loses nothing of its assertive, commanding and warning simplicity. We find that it—

- 1. Asserts the danger. 2. Explains why the danger has arisen. 3. Gives the command (tells you what to do). 4. Warns you what will happen if you don't obey. 5. Reasserts the danger. 6 (and 7). Sharpens the words of command.

The whole sequence brings to mind three vivid pictures of (1) a Big Snake angry; (2) you being swallowed by the Big Snake; and (3) you rushing off and bringing back Food. If you do what you are told everything will be all right: you will not be swallowed up, you will be allowed to live (until the danger "comes round again" at the next ritual recurrence); and so, after the final words, no further pictures are needed.

Now imagine what would happen if a medicine man arose and gave out the following revised version of that chant. You can, in fact, register the effect upon yourself by first repeating aloud the orthodox Big Snake Chant, and then trying this:—

"There is no Big Snake Therefore He is not angry He does not want food There is no need to bring food As He does not exist, He cannot swallow us Go home and play. . . And don't be so silly."

We all know what would happen to that medicine man. He has tried to wipe out the pictures from our mental blackboard. He has left it blank. There is no danger, and nothing, therefore, for us to do but trot off home and play (and try not to be so silly as to imagine Angry Snakes wanting to come and swallow us up).

But that seems very dull to most people . . . just pottering about, playing around. All Purpose (the Danger and the Escape from Danger) has been taken out of life. And I don't much like being told not to be "so silly." . . . It's not as though I were a child, I'm a grown man. And, anyhow, it's dull just playing about. I don't know what to do with myself. All very well for R.L.S. to write:

"The world is so full of a number of things, I'm sure we should all be happy as kings,"

but, in any case, he was writing verses for children. That makes all the difference. Grown men need a Real Purpose in Life (and the Big Angry Snake did give us something to Fear and to Feed). You can't say that playing about at whatever you choose to do is a Worthwhile Purpose? \* \* \*

If we translate the original chant so that it gives us vivid pictures to do with the present fight for individual economic freedom and security, we shall see more clearly what our propaganda problems' are:

"The Big Bankers are angry The Big Bankers demand Debt-payment Bring money for the Big Bankers quickly! If not, They will bankrupt us one by one The Big Bankers are angry Be quick! Pay up!"

It is useless, and also extremely dangerous, to revise the chant in these words:—

"The Big Bankers are not the Danger The Danger is only 'The System' The Big Bankers do not want to do harm They do not want Poverty and War They would be glad if we could find a Solution So let us form another Committee And call another Conference.. ."

The mental picture, here, is a blur. The Big Bankers have been dematerialised into something (which is nothing) called "The System." The Nice Big Kind Bankers are only working The System, and would be only too delighted if we could find a Solution that would work; and, of course, we must demonstrate that it would work—but not on this earth, because, suppose it didn't work? Why, then you would have gone and "upset" the System of Sound Finance, which is "working fairly well, after all" (towards another Big Slump and another World War). So the best thing we can do is to get together and talk about the various Solutions that have been found. And one fine day, about eighty years from now, the Nice Big Kind Bankers will say to us: "Splendid! Several of these Solutions, including Social Credit (with the Dividend and the Price Adjustment left out) might work. Go ahead, you're doing very valuable WORK. How would two or three of you like to have jobs at the Bank of England? I think we might fit you in somewhere."

The proper counter-chant for breaking the spell of the Money Power is;—

"The Big Bankers can go to hell! If They want Debts paid They must give us the Money (Give—not lend) If not, we shall make and use our own Money The Big Bankers must do what they're told Debt-free Money—Or out they go!"

The action-impulse arising from that set of words is very different from that which allows the mind to fog itself with the abstract notion that we have to fight "The System," and not the flesh-and-blood people who keep it going; and also allows the mind to jump across action (other than talk) and to dwell (by talking about it) in a vague dream of the Leisure State. If it were a sharp vision of the Leisure State it would actually generate political action; but the mere saying over and over of the words, "If only we could bring about the Leisure State," brings about nothing but hopeless idealistic longing; in fact, the enjoyment of frustration.

AN OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH CABINET

From the National Money League of Australia

Dear Sirs, —In the near future representatives of the British and Australian Governments will meet in England to discuss matters relating to trade between our two countries. In view of conditions prevailing in both countries, and in the world at large, you will no doubt agree that it is vital that these representatives should meet in a spirit of realism. It is because a substantial section of Australian opinion is unconvinced that our representatives will so meet yours that I am instructed by my League to write to you as I am doing, the intention being to make known to you what is believed to be the true voice of Australia on the subject under consideration.

The regard that we of Australia feel for you of Britain is based on common blood, common speech, common traditions and common aspirations. It is imperishable and, we believe, mutual. Provided that realities are not disregarded, this sentiment and the trade between us should be a source of strength each to the other.

Trade between our two countries is governed by the fact that our country owes yours something like £500,000,000. As the result of this we are in honour bound to send you each year sufficient goods to realise in your markets an amount that will pay interest on this debt in addition to paying for any goods we buy from you in the same year. As for your need of these extra goods, in return for which you send us only receipts, there can be little doubt. Distinguished visitors from your country assure us that your standard of living is lower than ours, and ours we know to be a good deal lower than is good for us, either individually or as a nation. So it is clear that your need is for still more of the goods we are able to send you.

We of Australia are not only able to send you these still more goods; we are willing and anxious to do so. This is not because of our regard for you, but because it would be dishonourable for us to continue owing a debt we are able to pay. Our earnest desire is that the flow of goods from our country to yours should be increased until it will pay not only due interest but the £500,000,000 principal as well in a single decade.

Make no mistake about, our ability to so increase the flow of our goods to you. Nature has blessed us exceedingly, and we have a whole army of citizens who would gladly be employed producing goods of kinds you require.

But before our debt to you can be paid, and before your standard of living can be correspondingly raised, we must possess ourselves of the money to make possible the production of the necessary goods, and you must possess yourselves of the money to enable you to buy those goods when they arrive. In this way money and money supply come into the picture.

In both England and Australia money is created and its supply is

controlled by trading banks. These trading banks are ordinary private trading institutions. By their nature as such they are compelled to follow a policy of self-interest, and they are under no obligation to provide our two peoples with one penny more than suits themselves. The past and present failure of these trading banks to maintain money supply at levels in keeping with your needs and ours should, therefore, occasion us no surprise.

We see, then, that the money necessary to make possible the payment of our debt and the raising of your standard of living remains unprovided for the simple reason that the provision of such money is nobody's business. We of Australia suggest that it should be made somebody's business immediately.

Allegiance to realities demands that Britain and Australia shall each of them immediately set up a system under which money will be created and its supply controlled not in the interests of private trading institutions but in the interests of citizens generally.

When this is done, we will proceed to pay our debt, and you will benefit by the increased inflow of our goods. When our debt has been paid, we will still be glad to effect with you all the exchanges that are mutually desired.

A comparison of vital and economic statistics in both countries will show that as between one period and another the trading institutions that fix the extent of money supply determine thereby the relative rates of suicide, bankruptcy, unemployment, marriages, births and so on. We ask you to think about that, too.

There is another aspect to this matter. The low standard of living imposed on the peoples of the world by a monetary system that disregards their needs gives rise to a constant and worldwide commercial war that periodically becomes a military war. At the moment our very civilisation is threatened from this direction.

Kinsmen of Great Britain, we and you seek security and freedom to live our lives as we choose. We of Australia submit that neither will be ours until money ceases to be our master and becomes our servant.

Something like this is what my League believes to be the true voice of Australia. We ask that you give the matters raised your urgent and earnest consideration.

Yours faithfully, (Signed) E. C. ELLIS, Hon. Secretary National Money League of Australia

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## ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

## VICTORIA

Federal Cabinet Ministers became so interested in State politics as to take the field during the South Australian and New South Wales elections to warn the electors of the disastrous and awful things that would happen if they elected candidates other than those endorsed by the major parties.

Let it be admitted that there will be disaster when a sufficient number of Independents are elected so as to be able to control Parliament. But disaster hardly in the nature of their propounding. It will mean death to the octopus whose tentacles hold the community firmly in their grip, and which are sucking the lifeblood out of the nation. (Party politicians, taken generally, form one or more of these tentacles.)

How did the Party System of Government originate?

Read the following authentic letter. Every elector should have the opportunity of reading it. Get some copies of the *New Times*, mark a mourning edge on the four sides of the letter, and post to your friends, with a covering letter asking whether they intend to allow the mourning to be for themselves or the octopus. It is for them, and their fellow-electors, to decide. The Elector's Demand and Undertaking form is available so that all electors can give their personal instructions to their respective Members.

Apply for forms, free of charge, to United Electors of Australia, McEwan House, 343 Little Collins-street, Melbourne.

This is the letter:  
Quotation from *The U.S.A. Bankers' Magazine* for Aug. 26, 1924:

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

"This truth is well known among our principal men now engaged in forming an imperialism of capital to govern the world.

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

BENALLA reports that at last melting a plan of action was mapped out, and feels sure that the next report, in three or four weeks' time, will disclose good results from the execution of the plan. It is encouraging

to Head Office to hear that Benalla is settling down to earnest systematic work. Head Office has experienced many disappointments in that good initial work has been undertaken in various centres, but owing to lack of local leadership the work has sometimes languished. It must be realised that this is a people's movement, and the work is being done by the people. Each centre, no matter how small, can educate the electors of the locality. Head Office is merely a coordinating factor. As Groups establish themselves they can assist Head Office to become a stronger propaganda force by contributing to the funds for buying broadcasting sessions, leaflets, posters, etc., and to pay organisers. All work at Head Office, so far, is being carried out by voluntary workers. Benalla forwarded a contribution to Head Office funds, which is more than gratefully received.

CROYDON reports that meetings are carrying on regularly, and that, although the Group is small generally, outsiders are attracted to the meetings, and in this way the idea of the Campaign is being spread. The Group's contribution to funds is thankfully acknowledged.

DINNER INVITATION was extended to one of the principals of the Heckle Hour, in consequence of the debate, by an interested person, to meet two other interested persons, and to discuss the Campaign. Needless to say, the inquirers were thoroughly satisfied with the explanations, and agreed to join in and do their bit. How many simple and interesting ways there are of getting in the good work!

YOUTH MEETING next Monday, April 4, in the Rooms, McEwan House, 343 Little Collins-street. No excuse for young people saying that they do not know in what way to help. Come along to the meeting and many ways of helping will open up to fit in with any situation of time and opportunity. You can still call yourself a youth even if you are looking back on 30. And, of course, young ladies never reach 30. It is good to see so many young ladies coming in to the meeting.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

WOMEN'S DIVISION. —On Wednesday next, April 6, at 1 p.m., the Women's Easter Luncheon takes place. The Women's Division, United Democrats, hope to see as many women as possible present at this, their first luncheon gathering. Lunch will be provided by members. Miss Tomkinson will lead discussion. Please come with your friends and make this luncheon a success.

ADDRESS OF H.Q. is, United Democrats, First Floor, 17 Waymouth Street, Adelaide.

## WEST AUSTRALIA

BROADCASTING FUND. —Mr. Law, of Merredin, one of W.A.'s most valuable and hard-working supporters, is on the job again. This time Mr. Law is devoting his energies to raising funds for the Broadcasting Fund. To do this he is forming a Group at Merredin, and in this, his latest service to the E.C. Movement in W.A., we trust he will have ample support from other campaigners in the district, and that his efforts will meet with the success they deserve.

## ENGLAND AND JAPAN

Translation from the *Kobe Shimibun* (newspaper), Japan, 30/12/1937: —

"Four young students from England have been sent to Tokyo to study the Japanese language. A new topic (in England) at present is the necessity of being able to speak the Japanese language; especially is this evident at the present time owing to the happenings in the East.

"The Japano-Chinese Emergency has brought the time and the opportunity to a head despite some strain in the relations between England and Japan. With a foresight of the immediate future, the British Government has sent its first batch of students to Japan to study the language. At 8 a.m. on 29/12/1937 the S.S. Niffe (?) arrived at Kobe carrying those students, Messrs. Lloyd, R. J. George, S. Leward, R. Matson.

"These are the young students, aged about 22 years, and are graduates of the Japanese language at the University of Cambridge. They mentioned in the course of conversation that the Japanese language has been a popular subject during recent years. Especially now in the recent Emergency in China do we feel the necessity and importance of knowing the language.

"We four students have been sent to Japan, attached to the British Embassy, for the furthering of our studies of the Japanese language. Our great object will be to be able to make a practical use of the language in conversation and the use of the phrases skilfully. In England our study was mostly theoretical, namely, grammar and philogenesis. We are all keen on making a successful study here in Japan."

(Sent by Mr. M. Inagaki, Lecturer in Japanese at Melbourne University, at present visiting Japan.)

COUNTRY BRANCHES. —It is desirable in order to consolidate our position by having a complete record of the strength of the Movement in all country districts, that country Group secretaries forward to H.Q. reports of the activities of their respective Groups.

STATE COUNCIL MEETING. —A meeting of the State Council was held at H.Q. on Friday evening, March 18. The main business of the meeting was to deal with the resignation of the State President, Mr. R. Rushton. Mr. Rushton's resignation was accepted with great regret, and a letter was sent to him expressing the appreciation of the Movement in W.A. for his past valuable and faithful service.

It was decided to call nominations for a new President, and an advertisement to this effect will be found elsewhere in this issue.

A report of other business discussed at the meeting and decisions reached will be given at a later date.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## MR. E. J. HOLLOWAY AND FINANCING DEFENCE

Mr. E. J. Holloway is reported by a speech in the Sun to be in favour of the credit necessary to finance the defence preparations being issued by the Commonwealth Bank. We should take this opportunity of thanking him for his outspoken address and assuring him that he has the support of thousands of Australians in his fight to restore the Commonwealth Bank to its rightful position as a people's bank.

R. DANNOCK.

Box Hill.

## STAGNANT POLITICIANS

Sir, —In a letter over the name of Andy Whyte (*New Times*, 11/3/38), in criticism of Mr. Frank Brennan, M.H.R., Mr. Whyte has credited Mr. Brennan with making use of the following statement: "A national dividend was impossible, and could not be introduced." This, sir, is an inaccuracy. The substance of the words used by Mr. Brennan was: "A national dividend was an absurdity, for people would not produce wealth for an American hand-out. It left capitalism entrenched, and was a poor substitute for the Labour Party's radical policy." This statement was made at a meeting of the Thornbury branch of the Australian Labour Party at which a lecture was given on Social Credit, and was merely incidental to a question put by Mr. Brennan.

In regard to Mr. Brennan's reputed lack of knowledge of Tom Johnston, even a politician could hardly be expected to have the personnel of the Scottish Labour Party at his fingertips.

Mr. Whyte, on the other hand, might reasonably be expected to know the difference between the Legislative Assembly and the Federal Parliament, but, apparently, he does not.

—Thos. A. Mercovich, Hon. Secretary A.L.P., Thornbury.

## COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES SPEAKS

May we remind you that two and a half years ago the *New Times* was sufficiently impressed with the undemocratic provisions of the Commonwealth Crimes Act —provisions that constitute a menace to every progressive organisation—to publish a very full exposition of them, written by Mr. J. V. Barry (a Vice-President and member of the Legal Panel and Executive Committee of the Council for Civil Liberties)?

The Orlando case is important to Australian believers in democracy for several reasons. The admitted and unprovoked assault was an example of Fascist methods that deserved wide publicity. It was desirable that a democracy should show its adherence to its own basic principles by protecting the rights of a resident of 12 years' standing. It will be deplorable if the pressure of interests sympathetic to Fascism should cause the Commonwealth to abandon what two of its Ministers have publicly admitted to be a just cause.

The executive committee of this Council, consisting of 17 members, representing various schools of political thought, united in a determination to defend the liberty of all, is prepared always to give full consideration to any cases of infringement or suspected infringement of liberty brought to its notice.

The Council would draw the at-

tention of your readers to recent occurrences in Melbourne which show that the present international situation provides the excuse for new threats to the freedom of speech and organisation of all bodies critical of Government policy. The Council suggests that now, of all times, those whose activities depend on the preservation of those rights should unite in their defence.

HERBERT BURTON,  
President, Council for Civil Liberties.

[Yes, but what about that "liberty of the community to control its own credit"? That is the most important liberty and the most encroached upon. We still await some indication of a stand being taken by the Council for Civil Liberties on that infringement of vital liberty. —Ed.]

## EFFECTS OR CAUSES

EDITORIAL: *Ouyen and N.W. Express.*

There is a lengthy agenda to be considered at the forthcoming U.C.P. conference at Ballarat, but it must be confessed that the great majority of the resolutions deal with effects, and not causes. That applies to both men's and women's sections. Earnest consideration will doubtless be given by well-meaning men and women to the various subjects. But even if all are carried to a successful conclusion and given effect to ultimately, when the next conference gathers there will probably be a fresh crop of "palliatives" to be disposed of. It is time that delegates began to ask themselves some pertinent questions and to seek to find an answer before they set forth lightheartedly to vote "aye" or "nay" in regard to the respective resolutions. They owe it to their organisation, which can be made a powerful agent for progress, and they owe it to their country. As was recently pointed out by Senator McLachlan, in South Australia, for the five years of the depression ending June 1937, Australia's production had in every respect been greater than in any previous five years of her history. Yet during that period there had been more poverty, unemployment, bankruptcy and suicides than in any previous five years on record. Why? It seems criminal stupidity to allow food to rot and people to starve in the midst of plenty, but that was what happened yesterday, so to speak, and that is what may happen tomorrow, if the people do not endeavour to find the answer, and determine to put an end forever to penury in a land of plenty. If once people grasp the fact that what is physically possible can be made financially possible, a great step will be taken towards a "brave new world" of peace and prosperity.

## THE SINISTER POWER

"Basil Zaharoff was behind the offer of the Throne of Portugal which was made to me in 1912. He was very anxious for me to accept it, and promised unlimited financial support.

"I answered that the proposition did not tempt me. In the first place, the deposed King Manoel was one of my closest friends, and I wondered what part Zaharoff had played in the events preceding his abdication; it was rumoured to be an active one."

—*Memoirs of H.R.H. Prince Christopher of Greece*, published by Hurst and Blackett (12/6).

The  
**DOUGLAS SOCIAL CREDIT**  
Movement of WEST  
AUSTRALIA  
invites Nominations for the  
position of  
PRESIDENT.  
Nominations Close on  
April 30, 1938.  
All Nominations to have the  
consent of the Nominee