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THE NEW TIMES

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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 22, 1938.

Every Friday, 3d

ANZACS BETRAYED

THE FARCE OF THE ANGLO- ITALIAN AGREEMENT

Democracy (?) in France

Col. Cohen and Beer Barrels

New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

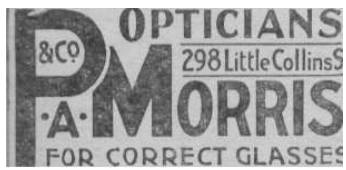
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Democracy (?) in France

It is not three months since we
referred to the political situation
in France, and since then there
have been the following changes in
Government:

Chautemps in.
Chautemps out.
Chautemps in again.
Chautemps out again.
Blum in.
Blum out.
Daladier in.

It is possible even that we have
overlooked one or two changes of
Government in this enumeration.

In the sixty-five years of the
present Republic there have been
over one hundred Cabinets. The
average life of a Cabinet has been
eight months throughout the whole
period. In recent months the
average has been more like eight
days.

Finance Triumphs Over Monarchy

The reason for this disturbed
state of affairs is the same reason
which underlies most of the insane
happenings of modern times—to
wit, High Finance. In the
eighteenth century France was a
monarchy, and whatever may have
been the defects of absolute mon-
archies, there was some sense of
personal responsibility on the
monarch's part to his subjects. He
was no impersonal system with
absolute power, but without respon-
sibility. In their climb to world
hegemony the bankers found the
institution of monarchy an obstacle
in their path. In England they
succeeded, at the end of the
seventeenth century, in getting
William of Orange in the bag.
They successfully filched from him
the brightest gem of his sovereignty
and hung a millstone of debt round
the necks of his subjects and him-
self.

In France, however, the
monarchy obstinately retained its
sovereignty. It had to be dis-
credited, and this was the peculiar
contribution of Banker Necker to
the cause of High Finance. He
was the financial adviser to Louis
XVI. the alleged supporter of the
monarchy. His policy, finally, led
to the outbreak of revolution and
the smashing of the monarchy. But
the people had thrown off one
yoke only to assume the more
onerous one of finance-ridden
pseudo-democracy.

Napoleon was quickly driven to
the conclusion that bankers were
without honour, without patriotism,
and without any god other than
their own system. Their machina-
tions finally had him undone, in
spite of his military genius.

After various experiments with
republican government, and sundry
reversions to monarchical systems,
France finally settled down as a
Republic, ostensibly of democratic
nature.

The Chamber of Deputies was,
more or less, popularly elected, and
the Senate, representing the upper,
or *rentier*, classes, acted as a
Chamber of Review. The Presi-
dent exercised functions somewhat
akin to those of a Governor or
"constitutional" monarch.

The Bank of France

But the Government so consti-
tuted had no financial autonomy.
Absolute power in this respect was
vested by the Code Napoleon in the
Bank of France. Let us look at
the constitution of this institution,
prior to M. Blum's nationalisation
of it late in 1936.

There was a Governor and two
Vice-Governors, nominally ap-
pointed by the Cabinet. But under
the constitution the Governor had
to hold one hundred shares in the
bank, and the Vice-Governors fifty
each.

Shares were valued at ten thousand
francs each. There are not many citizens
sufficiently well endowed financially
that they may sink a cool million or half
million into the purchase of shares, even
if it is francs and not pounds sterling

that they are asked to put up.

The practice was for the Regents
of the bank to LEND the neces-
sary monetary tickets to the Gover-
nors and Vice-Governors to en-
able them to qualify for their posi-
tions. These worthies, having been
bought and paid for, had no option
but to serve Mammon, instead of
Caesar. They were completely
covered by a banker's lien.

The Regency Council

This accounts for three of the
governing body of the bank. The
remaining fifteen were known as
Regents. Three of these Regents
were Treasury officials, who had
to come from the best families, to
have been able to pass a very stiff
examination; and generally, by
heredity and conditioning, to be of
the type which in British countries
would be classed A1 at Thread-
needle Street.

This leaves twelve Regents,
eleven of whom were the *real rulers*
of France.

Six were bankers, each of whom
was an hereditary Regent. Of the
six families represented, five of
them came from Switzerland (now
the home of the Bank of Inter-
national Settlements) to assist
Necker to "preserve" *l'ancien*
regime. Well, the monarchy was
duly embalmed, if not preserved.
The sixth family to be represented
was the House of Rothschild.
Alphonse de Rothschild became a
Regent in 1855.

(It will be remembered during
the Napoleonic Wars that the
House of Rothschild was firmly
established in no less than five
capitals, that it went through the
pockets of all the combatants dur-
ing hostilities, and that the English
representative earned handsome
profits by having news of Waterloo
signalled to him somewhat more
quickly than the rest of the Eng-
lish populace.)

Without Patriotism and Without Honour

In 1936 the six hereditary
Regents were:

Baron Edouard de Rothschild,
of the Rothschild Bank;
Baron Hottinguer, of the
Banque Hottinguer;
Baron Jacques de Neufville, of
the Banque Neufville;
M. Ernest Mallet, of the Banque
Mallet; M. David Weil, of the
Banque Lazard Freres;
M. Pierre Mirabaud, of the
Banque Mirabaud.

Their respective banks were
venerable private institutions,
which, by their assumption of the
divine power of credit issue and
recall by book-entry, had been able
through the years to write their
own tickets to continued existence
and expansion. They represented
family dynasties, owning no re-
sponsibility whatsoever to the
people of France.

The French "I.C.I.- Broken Hill-Vickers Armstrong" Monopoly

Of the remaining Regents, five
were industrialists, representing
almost exclusively those interests,
which hasten our departure from
this world by shell, high explosive
and gas, and keep us mentally con-
ditioned before our departure. They
were as follow:

M. Francois de Wendel (steel),
President of Comite des
Forges;
M. Tinarion (industrialist);
M. Rene Duchemin (chemicals);
M. Camille Poulenc (chemicals);
M. Robert Darbley (paper).

While most of the banking
Regents were of international
family (like the Niemeyers, Kahns
and other "British" bankers, who
hailed from the ghetto of
Frankfurt-on-Maine), one would
not expect to find the same to
apply to the industrialists.

But the Wendels are an
international, or shall we say,
extra-national family. One von
Wendel was of German

nationality. DeWendel, von
Wendel, Mr. Wendel, it's all the
same to these gentlemen. Francois
de Wendel now has a seat in
the French Senate. He owns the
newspaper, *Journal des Debats*. He
is part owner of the semi-official
organ, *Le Temps*, and it is to be
noted also that the English
Times has Montagu Norman on its
advisory committee.

Interlocking Directorates

The eleven banker and big-
business Regents in 1936 had, and
presumably still have, no less than
one hundred and fifty seats on the
boards of ninety-five corporations,
which controlled at least sixty per
cent, of the real wealth and
industrial output of France. They
graced the boards of *thirty-one*
private banks, eight insurance com-
panies, nine railway companies
(four of which are foreign-con-
trolled), eight navigation com-
panies, seven metallurgical cor-
porations, eight electrical com-
panies, eight mining companies, and
twelve chemical companies and
other boards.

The eighteenth Regent, the Mar-
quis de Nogue, represented agri-
culture (but not the small peasant).

The Comite Des Forges

Above all, the Regents were part
and parcel of the arms ramp and
that huge industrial octopus known
as the Comite des Forges. This
organisation is the French trade
association of steel producers. It
makes no steel itself, but allots
quotas and sets prices for the two
hundred and fifty producers. An
equivalent is to be found, on a
much smaller scale, in Victoria in
the brick combine. The Comite con-
trols the whole metal industry in
France, and its president is de
Wendel. The best known of its
members, Schneider et Cie, of Le
Creusot, is run by Eugene
Schneider, who, like the Wendels,
is of Franco-German origin. His
firm was founded by a Saar-
lander in 1836. Schneider-Creusot
does not produce much steel itself.
It buys from other members of the
Comite and turns the purchased
metals into arms. It sells for three
cents bullets, which cost a fraction
of one cent to turn out.

A demand for its products is
kept up by the mere factor of arti-
ficial obsolescence of arms, through
scientific invention of newer and
better instruments of death, by
war scares, and by army orders
whereby soldiers have to ground
their arms with a bang and sub-
ject them to other abuse when
drilling.

One of the Schneider factories
was captured by the Germans early
in the war of 1914-1918, and used
to produce guns, shells and so on
to assist in the slaughter of French
soldiers. The factory was within
the range of French guns. It was
never fired on by order of the
French High Command.

Truly, it is a noble and beau-
tiful thing to die for one's country!

The Maginot Line

Much of France's economic activi-
ty since the war has been devoted
to fortification, re-armament, and
the conscripted training of soldiers.
The Maginot line has been con-
structed along the Eastern frontier,
from Dunkirk to Switzerland, of
steel and concrete. Whole armies
can be housed underground. In
some sectors the country can be
flooded. The line has provided,
and still provides, a handsome out-
let for the products of the banking
and industrial monopolies. It gives
mechanical perfection, *if the human
element does not fail*.

Governments Tumbled Out of Office

For the past hundred years one
French Government after another
had lived on a bank overdraft.
The Regents of the bank have
held the destiny of each
succeeding Government in the
hollows of their hands.
Just take as an instance what

happened to M. Flandin. (We
quote from Gunther's "Inside
Europe"):

"The Regents of the Banque de
France decisively controlled French
politics, because, by *withholding*
credits from the Treasury, they
could *break* any Prime Minister
they didn't like. The banque,
which, more or less, represents the
'rentier' class, stood for *complete*
deflation. The much-maligned
Chamber of Deputies, representing
the man in the street—and his pocket
book—opposed this. Thus, the
banque could only get its way by
taking the matter out of the hands
of the Chamber. The way to do
this was to obtain "*pleins pouvoirs*"
(full powers) for a Prime
Minister it liked. For instance, the
banque persuaded old Gaston
Doumergue, who headed France's
"National Government," formed after
the Stavisky riots, to demand such
powers. The Chamber promptly
threw the fatuous old gentleman
out. The next Prime Minister was
Pierre-Etienne Flandin, and the
banque squashed him in six months.

"Flandin, six feet four, a man
of the Centre, an honest fellow,
refused to bow unconditionally to
the banque's will. He said: 'we
are given a choice: deflation or de-
valuation of the franc. I refuse
to let myself be tied up in this
dilemma.' He proposed a third
alternative, a policy of easier
money, gradual 'reflation.' The
banque didn't like this and *cooked*
up the panic, which overthrew
Flandin. The Prime Minister re-
taliated by dismissing Clement
Moret, the Governor. The bank
thereupon refused to rediscount
Government short-term loans.
Pressure on the Government from
the banque became enormous. On
June 15 the Government had to
meet a big payment of Government
bonds, but it was penniless. Flandin
was living hand to mouth by
borrowings from the post office
savings. Frenchmen, worried, fearing
inflation, began to buy gold and
ship their 'capital' abroad. Blandly,
the banque let this go on. It could
have stopped the drain of gold, but
it wanted to beat Flandin. In a
panic, Flandin appealed to the
Chamber for the same *pleins pouvoirs*,
which he had previously refused to
request. The Chamber was
naturally incredulous and overthrew
him. The banque, victorious, then
easily plugged the leak of gold.
This was the inner history of the
French financial 'crisis' of June,
1935."

Nationalisation of the Bank

Late in 1936 M. Blum thought
to put an end to this sorry situa-
tion. With the orthodox Socialist
outlook, he thought to cure the
situation by nationalising the bank,
and by dressing up its officials in
Government uniforms. The Cham-
ber of Deputies voted for the aboli-
tion of the Regency Council by 444
votes to 77.

BUT the Government still has
to borrow debt-money from the
bank and there are strict limita-
tions on the amount, which may
be borrowed.

It was recently reported of M.
Daladier that his first hurdle was
finance. He needed £312½ millions
and could only legally borrow
about one-tenth from the bank.

Moreover, even if the Central
Bank has been put in its place, as
a servant of the people (which it
has not), the private banks and
the Senate can still torpedo its
efforts. The Regents still have
their stranglehold over industry
and banking. The trading banks
can mop up credit issued by Cen-
tral Banks, by the simple process

of selling securities and calling in overdrafts.

The American banks have been doing this to Roosevelt throughout his expansion programme, with the inevitable result that debt has increased enormously, but money resources have not.

De Wendel is still in the Senate, so is the aged millionaire "Socialist" Caillaux, and others of the financial oligarchy and the *rentier* class. Caillaux is 74, arrogant, and presiding officer of the Senate Finance Commission. It is not without reason that a section of the people is clamouring to have him shot.

The "Popular Front" has a long way to go yet to achieve its ends, and it will never achieve them along the lines of orthodox socialism. There must be a change of financial policy, not merely nationalisation, which means dressing up the private monopoly with the authority of bureaucracy.

The Real Way Out

The whole of the banking system must be made to administer the control of money issue and recall along scientific lines, so that money flows into citizens' pockets at a sufficient rate, and is not taken out of those pockets except as industry's product passes into consumption. Debt is impossible under such a system, and the French people would be assured that if they could produce things, they would have financial access to them. It is on these lines alone that a nation of individualists can attain a social condition under which the individual can flourish and develop. The basis of true freedom and of true democracy is economic.

The French people are at present unconsciously treading the path, which leads to dictatorship, either of the Left or of the Right. They are reacting against their environment by strikes, riots, refusal to pay taxes and so on.

But they will have to do more than this. They will have to take charge of their own monetary policy.

They are, at present, the victims of the same sort of swindle as we in Australia are. Their democracy, like ours, is a pseudo-democracy. A mere handful of families control the bulk of their real wealth, as a mere handful of families control Australia. They do not know yet how and where to kick, but they are kicking. Australians must not allow themselves to regard France with a superior air of contempt at the present stage, because 90 per cent, of Australian citizens have not yet had the guts to kick against their environment, let alone display intelligent interest in the cause of their bondage. They have gone along in the stupid British way of allowing their heads to be bloody, but keeping them unbowed, and of passing off their troubles with a flippant, false sort of humour.

Colonel H. E. Cohen,
Collins House, Melbourne.

Dear Colonel Cohen, —

The subject of an advertisement inserted by the Carlton and United Breweries in the "Age" of the 19th inst. has caught our fancy. There, pictorially displayed, is the argument that the people who drink beer give employment to the people engaged in the timber industry. Timber, it appears, is used to make beer barrels—more beer, more barrels, more employment. A pretty sequence, we should say. How wonderful if all Australia would only (go on the booze, even for a year!

Now, dear Colonel, apart from being Chairman of Directors of the Beer Combine, you are a very important gentleman in Collins House—that control-panel of so many key industries of Australia—and your colleagues who direct the destinies of Australian Glass Combine might well be annoyed that the case for beer off the wood is so urged, possibly to the detriment of beer ex the bottle. Next week, perhaps, the Carlton Breweries might feature the employment covering the paper industry—there must be millions of labels—then the transport industries, police solicitors, warders statisticians, actuaries and all those others whose employment is influenced by beer.

In the realms of commerce and sport, honoured Colonel, you are reckoned as a man of shrewdness and vision. If there is justification for this assessment of you

KEEP THE NUMBERS DOWN!

Populations Are So Expensive

By "YAFFLE," in "Reynolds News."

In these progressive days, when weapons have far outstripped defence, it is difficult to believe that at one time defence caught up with weapons.

By the 13th century plate armour had become so efficient that it was practically impossible to kill a man inside it. This was known to historians as the period of the Great Deadlock, and to scientists as the Dark Ages.

Educated as we are in the principles of Efficiency, or Getting Things Done, we can see how dreadfully stagnant the Middle Ages were.

Bolted and riveted into his service kit, a knight presented an impenetrable front to the world, and an equally impervious coat and trousers. He was the only sardine in the tin, but he could not be extracted.

An absent-minded knight could walk right through a battle thinking of something else. If you came up behind him and gave him a sock with an axe, as like as not he would put his hand up to his ear and say, "Did anybody knock?"

There were no rubber-spliced handles or other shock absorbers, so the usual result of swotting a man was that you only stung your hand.

Killing being difficult, all knights could do was to push each other about, and tactics were confined mainly to those of a Rugby scrum. The contestants chose a flat field, suitable for straight shoving, and the fight ended by one side being pushed into the nearest ditch, river or swamp.

The only casualties were the lower orders, who couldn't afford tin suits.

DISGRACEFULLY LOW CASUALTIES

The disgracefully low level of casualties was exemplified by the battle of Brenville, as early as the 12th century, between Henry I. and the Duke of Normandy's son. Only 12 were killed.

With the low death rate of battles the glory of war grew dim. If it hadn't been for plagues, bad drains and the rise of the medical profession, the population would have increased beyond control.

It is true that if your enemy fell down his armour was so heavy that he could not get up again. In that case you had to find a horse and cart and take him to the nearest blacksmith before you could get the meat out of the can. But by the time the means of transport was ready, his esquire had erected a

crane and set him back on his feet, and the fight had to begin all over again.

The only advantage was commercial. As a knight couldn't kill his opponent, he took him prisoner and sold him to his family for cash. Enterprising merchants sometimes effected the transaction on a commission basis.

The fortunes of the great Gresham family, whose trade mark, the grasshopper, now surmounts the Royal Exchange, are said to have been founded by a man who got the idea of buying up captured knights wholesale and selling them retail to their families.

One notable attempt to end the deadlock was the invention of the halberd. This was evolved in sheer desperation by a knight who had broken ten new swords on the head of an opponent. As each trusty blade snapped, the prostrate foe raised his visor and gave the smiter what was subsequently known as the raspberry.

So at the next battle, the knight, who was of an inventive turn of mind, turned up with the new gadget. The halberd, as you see by its shape, was, in fact, a large tin opener. Instead of wasting cutlery by swiping vainly at an unyielding surface, the holder applied the point under one of the plates of his opponent's armour and began to cut round. The other, feeling a draught, realised that an entrance was being made to his domain, and yielded.

But the success of the halberd was short-lived. Knights took to carrying handsaws, with which they would begin to saw through the handle of the halberd as soon as the point was applied. So once again defence caught up with attack and the deadlock continued.

This might have gone on indefinitely but for three things: Imperialism, National Greatness and Progress.

THE FAR-FLUNG EMPIRE

About that time, England began to get great and start an Empire. Empire-making means getting about and covering a lot of ground and generally being far-flung. You cannot far-flung yourself in heavy armour.

So in order to become great we began discarding our armour piece by piece to allow for what history calls "the extended military operations of the period." Casualty lists appeared again, and once more weapons got ahead of defence. This was as it should be, as an Empire is something anybody is glad to die for. Ask any corpse.

then we may expect that you will do what you can to see that the liquor interests will employ propaganda of a higher intellectual appeal. Every thinking man knows that, if the timber (of which there is an assured super-abundance at hand) were diverted from the beer-barrel to the home-building industry, employment would not be reduced, and the community would be a great deal better off. The real problem before us, however, is not one of finding employment for people, but of providing incomes with which the people may buy a decent livelihood, the essentials of which are available in abundance, awaiting distribution. Surely you are aware of this, Colonel, and also of the fact that the agent through which distribution is effected is money, and that ninety per cent, of the people are chronically short of it.

You should also know that the outrageous excise tax on beer, which doubles the price to the consumer of this precious commodity, is part of the racket to pay interest to bondholders, because Governments have allowed certain private interests to usurp control of the people's credit. And you should certainly know that the Government of Australia, by exercising its proper function, could and should restore to the nation the control of its own credit, thus abolishing these weapons of oppression such as excise tax, sales tax, income tax, unemployment tax, and even the tax on bookmaker's tickets, with which we are informed, you are not unfamiliar. Yours, etc.,

THE NEW TIMES

Fortunately, the population began to increase rapidly, so there was a never-failing supply of weapon-stoppers. Then, as Science developed, and inventive genius began to flower with the starward lift of human thought, we entered upon the great period of the Mass Production of Corpses.

Thus does the aspiring soul of man struggle ever upwards to the Light, impelled from beneath by TNTS4N3PhX.

Looking back from our lofty pinnacle of Enlightenment, it is hard to believe that only a few centuries back a man not only had to see his enemy before he could hit him, but couldn't kill him even when he did.

THE LANGUAGE OF THE PAST

With the achievement of aerial warfare, man finally abandoned all ideas of defence. Politicians still talk of defence, of course, but politicians always do talk in the language of a previous period. When swords are obsolete they talk of not sheathing the sword, in the same way, now that science has announced the futility of gas masks, they order everyone to have gas-mask drill.

This is all as it should be. How else could we keep down a growing number of unemployed?

I did submit a design for covering England with a bombproof roof, in the form of a huge tank filled with water to catch all falling missiles. I pointed out that with the invention of artificial sunlight and air-conditioning, we don't really need a sky. But the idea was turned down, doubtless because it

THE "INDEPENDENT" PRESS

Finance controls the Press today in one or many ways. First through advertising revenues. Department stores buy up acres of space in our great dailies in the course of a year and this source of revenue can hardly be risked by unwise editorial comment. One never sees a frank criticism of the banking system or an editorial uppercut at the way in which big business is carried on in the editorial columns of a daily which is depending for its profits on these self-same institutions. You would hardly expect it. Why kill the goose that lays the golden eggs? Not that any agreement is ever signed. That is not necessary. The bribe is indirect, but it is nevertheless an understood thing that nothing should occur in the editorial sanctum, which would be reflected in the dividends declared at the end of the year. Money talks, and nowhere does it speak more convincingly than in the precincts of the press.

—"Today and To-morrow."

threatened us with the preservation of the proletariat and increased taxation. I see my mistake now.

The last and most deadly weapon is the motorcar. This happy invention was most opportune, as it enables us in peacetime to maintain a casualty list far exceeding that of war.

By the straightening of roads and the improvement of surfaces, every effort is made to increase the efficiency of this lethal weapon.

I once presented a plan for anti-motor defence, by making all roads zig-zagged, with sharp bends every fifty yards, so that cars could not get up speed. But it was pointed out to me that if that was done, someone would invent cars with highly sprung legs so that they could jump over the hedges and land on pedestrians from above.

Besides, as a friend observed, in a pitying tone, if cars were not to go as fast as they could, there would be no casualties.

"Do you want to go back to the Middle Ages?" he said.

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 2.)

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The Anglo-Italian Agreement

Early in the Great War Italy joined the Allied cause after some hesitation. She was promised a share in the spoils after Germany and Austria had been crushed. In 1919 her claims were ignored and contemptuously flung aside by Britain and France.

Italy was a debtor nation, exhausted by the war, disorganised economically, and generally ripe for the dictatorship, which was shortly established. The Italians were without bread, and surrendered their freedom to starve at their pleasure in return for work and bread.

For many years Mussolini was able to provide "work" by cleaning up the marshes, building new roads, and so on. It is a tenet of the Fascist State that it is the duty of citizens to work, and the duty of the State to provide employment.

Fascism demands a "war" of some description to keep it going. After the war on the marshes, roads, etc., Mussolini looked further afield and conducted a war against Abyssinia. Britain's immediate response to this imitation of her own past conduct was to raise a shout of "brigandage," and, through the League, to apply economic sanctions against Italy. The League States were in no mood to lose a good export market, and sanctions proved a hopeless failure.

The upshot of the whole farce was to make Italy hostile to Britain and the pretence called the League of Nations. Mussolini and Hitler found that they could throw their weight about without provoking a major war. It has been the task of Threadneedle-street to smash up the Rome - Berlin alliance. Threats have failed too—the champion of the League, Eden, was unceremoniously stood down. Chamberlain hastened to offer friendship to Italy—in short, to buy her off.

The terms of the agreement announced are, briefly: That neither country will tread on the other's tail in the Mediterranean, that each country will recognise what the other has grabbed in the past from third parties, and that each country will cease to call the other names. In short,

the Italians will henceforth be known as our gallant friends, and not as those - - dagoes. Albion will no longer be called perfidious, but will be able to continue her oil ramps in Irak, nevertheless.

However, this may be, a rose by any other name would have as many prickles on it. There is no reason for the boast that this agreement solves Anglo-Italian difficulties. There is bound to be immediate friction on the subject of Spain, and further friction in the economic sphere.

Italy and Britain are trade rivals. They are each scrambling for employment, markets, colonies and raw materials. Friction between them must continue until they mend their economic ways, and institute money systems capable of distributing to their own subjects the plenty of leisure and plenty of real wealth now so clearly available.

An agreement merely to recognise each other's depredations will lead nowhere. The Chamberlain way is no better than the Eden way. For both are the Montagu Norman way. And if Mussolini listens too hard to Chamberlain, and his friend, Van Zeeland, who is to be resurrected, he will find himself right inside the Basle bag again.

Britain Buys American Bombers

With the outbreak of the World War in August 1914, the American, Colonel House, duly reported to his President "the British Empire is now delivered into our hands."

And so the Empire was delivered—into the hands of Wall Street.

The Schiff-Warburg, Kuhn-Loeb interests in Wall Street wanted to assist Germany, but the Morgan interests professed sympathy for Britain, and made credits available for Britain (i.e., put Britain heavily into debt).

War materials were produced in America. American money was paid out to American citizens, America's capital equipment and productive capacity was increased, and munitions marked at grossly inflated prices were delivered to Britain and her Allies. Britain footed most of the bill to America, and took the I.O.U. of her Allies for much of their indebtedness to America, which Britain had assumed.

In the closing year of the war the farcical position arose that America herself was a combatant, and that an American shell fired at the common enemy through a British gun increased British debt to America, whereas if the Americans had had to go to the trouble of firing the shell through one of their own guns, there would have been no increase in debt.

After the war, Britain was "in hock" to Wall street to the extent of over one thousand million pounds sterling. She did not possess that amount in gold, and could only pay by exporting goods to America in excess of current imports from America.

America refused to take the goods, and there ensued a decade of dollar diplomacy, during which period the whole of British financial policy was dictated from Wall-street, which

THE FINE SENTIMENTS OF HELL

By DYNAMICS

Those who enjoy reading the critical summaries of the lives and books of well-known people should make a point of getting hold of "Poets and Prophets," by Andre Maurois, who manages to be both clear and cute in his descriptions and comments.

Shaw and Sentimentalism

In dealing with G. Bernard Shaw, after outlining the life of the man generally, the next and, in many respects, the most interesting subsection is headed "The Anti-Sentimental," and it begins: "Sentimentalism, there is the enemy—that might be Shaw's motto." Several of the plays are quoted and dissected to show how widely the real lives and attitudes of "the middle people" and others

are cloaked and masked behind a flimsy facade of assumed morality, respectability, or amorous hypocrisy.

"When Shaw, in the course of the play ('Man and Superman'), transports us to the devil's realm, he shows us a hell paved not so much with good intentions as with fine sentiments . . . Shaw seems to be saying to mankind: . . . Heaven is simply the place where men know what they are doing, and where the result of their activities depends only on those activities"; and, later: "Not to be oneself, to consent to live for one's mask and not for one's face; to renounce the body in order to make oneself the willing slave of one's own verbalism—that is hell."

Cue for Pulpiters and Reformers

Methinks pulpiters should be heeding such passages as they are preparing their signs-of-the-times messages.

Is there by any chance a message to be gleaned for those who mean to move earth and hell to inaugurate a new regime of political and economic democracy? Among the mistakes of the past has been a tendency to foist upon the uninitiated a vision of the full flower and fruit of a true democracy, when very often the soil of the mind was such that the seeds of a democratic idea could not germinate, and, again, the sponsors of the campaign may not have disciplined themselves to the democratic methods sufficiently. Now, in preparing the new seed-bed soil there should be an understanding of the influence which existing institutions have had in arraying the healthy sentiments of the mind behind faulty catch-cries, or in using falsely-centred comprehension of the problems of community life.

Social Justice Should Come Before Charity

Church leaders have preached fine sentiments galore, but have failed to trace out the reasons why the whole basis of our attempts at community co-operation is unsatisfactory.

Regarding philanthropic effort: Picture a piece of board on which are impaled by pins a number of live insects, and conjure up a few scientists ministering to these creatures to minimise their troubles, without once asking who it was that made the orderly array or why the deed was done. An exaggerated picture of the Good-Samaritan efforts of the day, some readers may think. It is doubtful whether it is.

Political Parties and the "Brotherhoods"

The essential unity of the political "Parties" as aiders and abettors of the financiers in their attempt to gain mastery over all our lives has been well worked out by other writers, in exposing the fact that the "Parties" are all agreed that the main problem is to find work and more work—that is, they exalt work as an end instead of a means, and nothing could be more pagan or more provocative of strife. But we must remember that these same Parties have still a false, sentimental carry-over effect from past days over the lives of thousands of people.

Then one must not forget the select circles, the clubs and the lodges, where, in secret conclave, so much is done to shape the turn of events. Circumstantial evidence is here our main guide, but who can doubt that the brotherhood sentiment is being grossly misdirected in the course of helping pals to jobs and furthering their advancement? For one thing, nearly all advancement today carries with it in some degree an implicit understanding that no eyelash shall be winked outside the sure walls of "sound" finance. And even if this were not true, the scramble for jobs is an

inherent part of the universal warfare of our lives, like the scramble for money in the markets.

Work Complex and Jungle Law

As with the Parties, so with the "brotherhoods." While they pursue a policy of making the finding of a job more important than increasing, comfortable and free leisure, they are acting (unwittingly, perhaps) in a grossly wicked way.

While the present financial policies are tolerated, the success of one man or firm in a profession or business registers with certainty the fact that somewhere, at some time, some other man or firm will go bankrupt. The successful aspirants for a job will find, if he searches realistically, that, as he climbs his salary scale (apart from war or other colossal sabotage effect), some other poor scapegoat is going down to despair for want of income.

Arousing Individuals

Unfortunately, few people can be appealed to on any other plane than that of inductive reasoning, which almost amounts to this: that not till the "every-one-is-doing-it" feeling comes to them will they wake up to the need for fighting for their simple democratic rights. This process of arousing individuals is not an easy one, but there are a few signs that people are looking for some way of stopping the Fascistic trends. Let every reader do something to encourage a neighbour to feel his feet in some initiative, democratic action. Maurois closes his chapter about Shaw thus: "It would be salutary for most men to re-read Shaw's plays every year and so strip themselves of clotting hypocrisies. After that bath of cynicism their cleansed minds would be more worthy to receive sentiments that are genuine."

FINANCING OF THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILWAY

A pamphlet, entitled *Queer Mistake. Building the Transcontinental Railway. How It Was Paid For*, has recently been brought to our notice.

It states that the Transcontinental Railway was financed in the same way as other Australian public works, with interest-bearing loan money, and cites, in proof of this assertion, entries in the Commonwealth Year Books showing the amounts spent on the construction of the line classified under the heading of "Commonwealth Loan Expenditure."

The explanation of this fact is as follows:—

The Australian Government "borrowed" the money in question from one of its own departments (The Australian Notes Account), and gave it to another of its departments (The Transcontinental Railway), giving to the Australian Notes Account inscribed stock or Treasury bills in exchange for it. For bookkeeping purposes the transaction was treated as a loan from one Government department to another, although in actual fact it was merely a transfer of cash.

The money taken from the *Australian Notes Account* had not been borrowed by that department, but was obtained by the Australian notes it had issued for that purpose.

The interest on the inscribed stock was simply paid by one department and received by another, and so was actually paid by the Government to itself.

Later on, however, some of this stock was disposed of for ready money, which was then also debited to the railway as a loan.

The whole business was explained on 14th May 1931, by the then Treasurer, Mr Theodore, in reply to a question put by Mr. Yates. (Parliamentary Debates. Vol. 129, page 1930.)

Bookkeeping entries do not always reflect physical facts.

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Bruce H. Brown and Dr. Dale Appeal to You

Dear Reader,

Next month "The New Times" will complete three years of splendid effort in the fight for the liberation of the Australian people from the fraudulent chains of finance.

With the exception of two weeks last Christmas, the paper has appeared regularly each week, and the general consensus of opinion is that its value has increased with each issue. This has been accomplished only by the self-sacrificing work of "The New Times" staff, under the brilliant leadership and guidance of the late lamented Tom Moore. Even when we had Tom Moore's great ability and remarkable energies at our disposal, the running of the paper was more than a full-time job for everyone concerned, and although they had the encouraging satisfaction of seeing the gap between income and expenditure gradually getting smaller, continuous attention to detail was essential. This was capably given by Mr. Hal Allsop, who devoted his full time to the financial and circulation aspects.

Last December, however, we had the terrible misfortune to see Tom Moore laid aside with an illness from which he was destined not to recover, and in February he died. Since the commencement of his illness, a terrific burden has been placed on the small office staff, and particularly on Mr. Allsop, who has undertaken a great deal of the work previously done by Mr. Moore.

These emergency arrangements have been altogether too severe, both personally and financially, and the time has come to face the situation squarely. During recent months it has been possible to maintain the high standard and to publish the paper on time only through the Herculean efforts of Mr. Allsop and his assistants, the splendid co-operation of the printers, and the spontaneous additional help from literary contributors.

If the paper is to continue, however, it is essential

that provision be made immediately for the financial and circulation aspects to receive continuous and undivided attention, and for the organisation generally to be placed on a permanent basis. Unless we can do this, publication must cease.

The amount required is £500, and we understand that if this is not forthcoming within the next three weeks the Directors will have no alternative to considering the discontinuance of the paper.

It is because we realise the increasing value of "The New Times," in the campaign for monetary reform and true democracy, and the calamity it would be if publication ceased, that we make this joint appeal to you as readers of the paper. It is for you to decide the issue, and the decision must be expressed in terms of finance. Like the Government of the Commonwealth, we have the men and the materials, but not sufficient money to make proper use of them.

If you feel satisfied that "The New Times" is performing a useful service, and that its continuance is necessary in the interests of the liberation of the community from financial tyranny, then please fill in IMMEDIATELY the form at the bottom of this appeal. The Directors will come to a definite decision after the issue of May 6, and their decision will be based entirely on the support received by that date in response to this appeal. Remittances for this purpose should be forwarded to Dr. John Dale, care of "The New Times" Office, Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne.

Please do the best you can and do it as quickly as you can. The subscription of £500 will mean that publication will be assured and that the paper will go from strength to strength.

Yours sincerely,

BRUCE H. BROWN
JOHN DALE

To The Secretary, New Times Ltd., Elizabeth House, Elizabeth and Little Collins Sts. MELBOURNE, C.1.

Sir, —

I hereby make application for ordinary shares of £1 each in New Times Limited and I agree to be bound by its Articles and Memorandum of Association.

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IDLE TALK ON ANZAC DAY

World's Best Soldiers Beaten by Bookkeepers

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H. BROWN.

Sir—As another Anzac Day is approaching, I took the opportunity to look at the records of what has happened on similar occasions in the past, and was saddened by the amount of meaningless drivel uttered by those who were supposed to be leaders. It has been the invariable practice of the newspapers to say that "The Fervent Addresses Stirred the People" and that "The Memories Must Be Hallowed." On each occasion prominence has been given to "messages" from a number of celebrities, and plentiful space has always been made available for reports of the Church services. All this will be repeated in connection with Anzac Day for 1938, but the very men in whose honour the whole thing is organised have needlessly suffered, and still needlessly suffer, without so much as a hand being raised by any of the speakers to expose or remove the cause.

It is extremely difficult to believe in the sincerity of some of the men whose views have been given such publicity. The facts rather suggest that the Australian soldier has been traded on in the pursuit of notoriety; for, while his valour was rightly praised, the utter futility of it all, in the light of subsequent developments and present-day conditions, was almost wholly ignored.

Messages and Speeches

As I write this I have before me the reports of the Anzac celebrations for the year 1935, and all the men who took part are still prominent in the life of the community. Messages were published from his Excellency the Governor-General (Sir Isaac Isaacs), the Acting Prime Minister (Dr. Earle Page), and the Federal President of the Returned Soldiers' League (Sir Gilbert Dyett) while public addresses were specially reported from the following:—

Rev. R. J. Howie, Scots Church (Presbyterian);
Rev. A. Penry Evans, Independent Church (Congregational);
Rt. Rev. J. J. Booth, St. Paul's Cathedral (Anglican);
Sir David Rivett, the University;
Monsignor Lonergan, St. Patrick's Cathedral (Catholic);
Rabbi Danglow, St. Kilda Synagogue (Jewish).

Wartime Promises

All who are old enough to remember what was said during the

war by Ministers of the Crown, by Church dignitaries, and from the recruiting platforms, know quite well that the promises of that time have not been fully honoured; that most of the talk was simply hot air, and much of it actually untrue; that conditions are rapidly tending towards another terrible slaughter; that the troubles of the world and the distresses of returned men are due to financial conditions, brought about by the private controllers of the money system; and that most of the people quoted by the press as our "leaders" are indulging in meaningless talk and failing Australia and her gallant sons just when they should be courageously pointing the only real way out.

Sir Isaac Isaacs

The Governor-General's message referred to the open danger that sent the Australians forth "as the free and dauntless champions of our most cherished ideals of liberty, of national honour, of human rights, of God's own justice, and of a noble patriotism that looked beyond the limits of country and all mean and selfish ends." If his Excellency expressed the position correctly, then it would seem that all the free and dauntless champions died in the war, for we do not see the men of the A.I.F. going forth to attack the system of finance which alone prevents the soldiers and their dependants from enjoying what is their absolute right. Instead of this, they have annual conferences and pass innocuous resolutions, and when the Government tells them their "requests" cannot be granted, because there is a shortage of funds, they never inquire what these funds really are or why the sovereign Government should be short of them, but slavishly make obeisance to the Government for condescending to hear them and then proceed to have the same subjects set down for "discussion" again the following year! Slaves would not be more subservient to their masters, yet in this case the masters have become the slaves of the servants. Think of the conditions round about us and the complete helplessness of Governments where finance is concerned, and then consider how they line up with Sir Isaac's ideas of liberty, national honour, human rights, God's own justice, and a noble patriotism. The whole thing is a farce, for the enjoyment and expression of liberty human rights and justice is a matter of income, and income

is a matter of finance. All is controlled by finance, but finance is not controlled by us or by our Governments. And Sir Isaac Isaacs knows it.

Sir Earle Page

Dr. Page, as Acting Prime Minister, referred to "Loyalty, courage, resource, faith, idealism, determination and cheerfulness, in the face of great tribulation." Our men did display these virtues and we salute them for it. But look at the treatment, which has since been meted out to the survivors and the dependants of the fallen! A returned soldier was recently found in the streets of Melbourne in a state of collapse because he had been unable to obtain food. There was plenty of food, but he had no money! Hundreds of returned soldiers have been trying for years to eke out an existence on soldier settlements, but have been sent under because they could not secure sufficient money to meet their obligations. And, strangely enough, their obligations were due to the very people who control the quantity of money! The gun has always been loaded against them. Not only so, but the self-same Dr. Page, who speaks so easily of loyalty, resource faith and the like, took a leading part in handing over control of our money supplies to the private monopoly, which deliberately keeps the supply short. The treatment of our returned men has been shocking, and the fact that some other soldiers in some other countries might have been treated worse does not excuse it a bit. Soldiers are suffering because the Governments, through lack of finance, have not fulfilled their solemn obligations. Instead of putting that aspect right, however, members of the Federal Government ask us to read sentimental messages about the past. Dr. Page finished his contribution with the words, "Let us not fail the dead," but we still look in vain for action on his part to liberate the living.

Sir Gilbert Dyett

Sir Gilbert Dyett said, "The prowess, resourcefulness and fortitude displayed on that occasion . . . won the admiration of the civilised world and merited the lasting gratitude of the people of Australia." I feel sure we all agree, but is Sir Gilbert satisfied with the way in which that "gratitude" is actually being shown to thousands of returned men in this country today? And how does he reconcile his further statement that, "by their patriotism, tenacity and self-sacrifice, the glorious traditions of the British Empire and the best interests of mankind were preserved," with the actual conditions of the world at this very moment? Has he given any time to the study of the nature and origin of money, and to the real reason why so many of his apparent efforts on behalf of returned men have been abortive? Where is the sense in saying that the best interests of mankind have been preserved when the very fundamental for the expression of those interests, money, is allowed to remain in the control of a private monopoly, having no responsibility to the Government or to the people? Has Sir Gilbert Dyett the courage to attack and expose this financial system which is thwarting the best interests of mankind and defrauding returned soldiers, or does he fly the white flag to a gang of swindling bookkeepers?

Rev. R. J. Howie

Rev. R. J. Howie was the only one who gave a clear indication that he had got the real hang of the business. He questioned whether the glorification of the ideals of Anzac does not savour of pious humbug. After all, what is the use of ideals without an effort to achieve them? Twenty years had passed since Gallipoli, but no responsible Australian statesman had made a genuine effort to release us from the bondage of a financial tyranny and none of the official representatives of the men of Anzac had shown any initiative

or courage in attacking this foe, far greater and more insidious than those met face to face on the battlefields between 1915 and 1918. On the contrary, they tolerate needless misery and suffering in all parts of the land, suffering which extends to the very men whose virtues they hypocritically praise once a year. Mr. Howie reminded us that war is only a phase of the ever-present economic struggle, and we are constantly pointing out that that phase will continue to be ever-present so long as our finances are under private control.

Rev. A. Penry Evans

Rev. A. Penry Evans said that "lax talk is a breeder of war," and the whole tenor of his remarks suggested an aggressive election speech, rather than a tribute to the memory of the fallen or an inspiration to Christian effort. While soldiers suffer and many others starve he is content to hear himself talk flowery emptiness. "Communists must remember," he said, "that, had there been no war and a multitude slain, there would never have been a Russian revolution, and, therefore, no Communism." Fancy that! Had Penry Evans not been born there would have been no Penry Evans! And, had Christ not been crucified, there would have been no Christian religion. Apart from the fact that Communism is a product of the race, which crucified Jesus, and would not solve the problems of the world, is it not patent that people do not revolt against fair treatment? Un-Christian treatment by the Government of the day is the cause of revolutions, and, in disregarding the distress of the community and its cause, this particular clergyman is betraying the religion in whose service he is engaged, and is helping to maintain the mesmerism of money, under which all sections of society are being so fraudulently imposed upon.

Right Rev. J. J. Booth

Right Rev. J. J. Booth was piously platitudinous. He rightly identifies those whom we are bound to remember with pride and thanksgiving, and says, "Peace can come only when men learn obligations and duties of brotherhood." Why did he omit reference to the influences, which determine that the heroic services of our gallant soldiers shall be in vain? It would have been more correct, and certainly much more arresting, had he declared the truth that peace can come only when men are better informed on the subject of money and have secured the reversion of its control from a private monopoly to the sovereign Parliament. Until that receives attention all talk of brotherhood is useless. There is not much wrong with men, as men. It is the system that is wrong.

Sir David Rivett

Sir David Rivett said: "The factors leading to war had still to be sought and studied, and our knowledge of ourselves, as individuals and as collective units, was not yet enough to give us the control which ultimately must lead to world peace." There is a familiar ring about that. If we change the word "war" to "depression," and the term "world peace" to "economic stability," we have the financiers' explanation of the existing economic situation. In effect, he says we cannot expect to understand the intricacies of the war business, and that the only part we can play, as our forebears have already so well shown, is to follow our leaders blindly, to suffer, and, of course, if needs be, to die. Once a year afterwards we will be spoken of kindly by the press and from the pulpit and platform. Information available to me suggests that Sir David is well aware that High Finance is the cause of wars, and that only when finance is put in its proper place, as the nation's servant instead of its master, will it be possible for our people to live without fear of war. Why is

it that he does not tell the people the truth in this respect?

Monsignor Lonergan

Monsignor Lonergan's main theme was a prayer for peace, "not only peace from wars, but economic harmony." He was right as far as he went, but judged from the newspaper reports he stopped just when he should have become more vigorous. He knows that God has been showing us clearly what is wrong with the world's management, and I believe he also knows that there are men in controlling positions with minds and souls so warped that only a miracle or a catastrophe could straighten them. Apart from these two contingencies, peace will come only when the machinations of those responsible for the making of wars are fully exposed to the public gaze, and when people cease from allowing their minds to be befuddled by the flapping of flags, the banging of drums, and, above all, by sentimental slosh. Advantage should be taken of every public opportunity to press this truth home, but even some of those who know seem afraid to touch upon the subject in public.

Rabbi Danglow

Rabbi Danglow paid a fitting tribute to the late Sir John Monash, who was one of their number, but, like all the other speakers referred to, left the present state of the world and the real cause of that condition severely alone. His sentiment was very much of this type: It's a fine thing to talk about peace, but it's better to prepare for war. If we are only to talk about peace, then, perhaps, he is right, but not even Rabbi Danglow would deny that finance is the key to peace as well as to war, and that members of his own race have the biggest say in the control and use of that key. What are the rabbis of the world doing to enlighten the people on this important fact, and to warn them that *Warburg* and his Central Bank system are getting the world at large more and more enslaved to the financier?

Where Is the Spirit of Anzac?

Mr. Editor, I would ask the men of the A.I.F. what they think about it. John Masefield wrote that: "No army in history has made such a heroic attack; no army in history has been set such a task. No other body of men in any modern war has been called upon to land over mined and wired waters, under the crossfire of machine guns. Our men achieved a feat without parallel in war." Mr. Ernest Turnbull, a former president of the Returned Soldiers' League, has also referred to the superlative courage of the midshipmen who were in charge of the pinnaces, which towed the boatloads of troops to the shore. "It was tragic," he said, "to see these grand young men, most of them aged only 15 or 16 years, mown down like corn before the harvester." And it was all for the purpose of making the world safe for finance and those who control it. In other words for a set of bogus bookkeepers. Only a fraction of the courage required at Gallipoli, plus some intelligence and common sense, is necessary to defeat these enemies of mankind and to remove for all time the cause of war. The question is: Are the men of the A.I.F. out for the best interests of humanity or for the continued enslavement of humanity? If the former, then they will immediately take their place in the ranks of the growing army now attacking the financial system; but, if the latter, then they need merely continue as they have been going. —Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H BROWN

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VALE, THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH

By THE WALRUS, in the "New World."

We are apt to grow lyrical about types. Even when we know we are being silly in our praise, something within us, to use the modern, frivolous idiom, is tickled to bits. Englishmen, for us, have hearts of oak. Germans have to be content with sauerkraut; Italians with spaghetti, and so on. To us, who, after long sojourn in foreign lands, see the first Union Jack flaunting at the mast-head, comes an emotion, rich and deep and inarticulate, like that evoked by Noyes. "Song of England that wanders on the wind, So sad it is, and glad it is, The men who hear it madden, And their eyes are wet and blind." How incredible those foreigners should extract that poignant pleasure from their bits of bunting. Much too good for them! On looking over what I have written, I find that all except the first sentence is a digression from the thought I began with. I was thinking that, although "all the nice girls love a sailor," yet "there is something about a soldier." But was ever a policeman glorified in song? He wears a uniform. Or, perhaps, that has nothing to do with it after all. Now I come to think of it, "Caller Herrin" dignifies the fisher folk, and the "Diver" gets a slice of popular approbation. Even the miner, if he is a daddy, is recommended not to go down the mine. Perhaps it is the policeman's own fault. But it doesn't matter. For there is one who transcends them all in the dignity of portrayal. He is the village blacksmith. Everybody knows him, though very few have seen him. So strong, simple and devout, and (but the poem does not say this) dirty. Could not the poet have immortalised a strong, simple and devout surgeon or schoolmaster? Or, if these are too specialised, what about an ostler? Somehow we see that he couldn't. It just had to be the village blacksmith. And, since it had to be, there must have been a reason. The indications point unerringly to hero-worship. Nothing wrong with hero-worship. It takes a good man to worship a hero. The better the man, the more exalted his hero. But Kipling reminds us—if we needed reminding -- that "man's heart is small," and we don't, as a rule, like our heroes to be too exalted. I still remember that in my childish attempts to admit some fragments of theology, nothing, not even the atonement touched me so nearly as to learn that Christ was a carpenter. The poet gave us the blacksmith. The poet was wise. He knew there were times when soldiers and sailors were unheroic, as when they grumbled at their rations, stole pipeclay or rum, or otherwise exhibited their feet of clay. But the smith was always very much a man. He was of the open air, and rooted in his native soil. He knew everyone; was consulted on everything. The grand folk knew him and respected him for his handiwork. He had to be patient without being "pussy." He was tough and enduring. He was real, and now he is no more. The internal combustion engine has driven him forth, planted a bowser at the smithy door, fused the very villages into one continuous suburb. We have lost something. Soldiers and sailors are all very well to sing about, but they can't get dirty and stay dignified. There are lines in the poem, which reveal to us the completeness of our loss. "He looks the whole world in the face. For he owes not any man." His forge was not installed on the time payment plan. He didn't get his groceries from the next village, because he was afraid of being dunned in his own. He could say what he liked to the local bigwigs, for he owed not any man. His is gone forever.

Even if today he consented to become a motor mechanic, how could he return? Even if he consented to go a bit easy on the "rejoicing," how could he ever return? He who owed not any man would owe £190, as the condition of his birth. (Progressive tariff for later arrivals.) No "A" class certificate, steam, petrol, Diesel, would get him out of that. Nor could an I.C.S. course in bookkeeping ensure to him his night's repose. His brow would be wet with the sweat of apprehension, and if ever he reared a family (which is what seems to happen to simple souls), his interest in their singing would be tinged with the wish that they would sing in an angelic choir before they could inherit his worry. Our contemporary hero is contemporary no more. He is gone from us. Or, perhaps, it would be more fitting to say that we are gone from him. We can hardly expect him to condescend. So we shall have to find another contemporary hero. Not a soldier, or a sailor; not after the village blacksmith. It is going to be difficult. Stone crackers, sitting by the roadside, whacking 'em and cracking 'em for nine pence a day, leave a frightful gap. So do Jolly Millers and even Highwaymen. I must confess myself baffled. The very attempt reminds me of a military funeral, and how difficult it is to get the sound of the "Last Post" out of one's ears, and enable the mind to descend again to the sickening banality of "The Girl I Left Behind Me." Perhaps the popular hero of the future won't fit a song. He may have to deal with things that can't be sung about. Banking and High Finance, for example. There's room for a hero there anyway.

PRELUDE TO THE BLOOD BATH

The Vienna newspaper, *Die Stunde*, directs attention to a German school publication, in which a mathematical problem is set in a form calculated to quicken the interest of German schoolboys. The task they are required to solve is this: A squadron of 46 bombers drops incendiary bombs on an enemy city. Each aeroplane carries 500 bombs, weighing 1½ kilogram each. Calculate the total weight of their bomb loads. How many fires will be caused if 30 per cent, of the bombs are hits, and only 20 per cent, of the hits cause fires? Day bombers fly up to 280 kilometres an hour; night bombers up to 240. Calculate the flying time from Breslau to Prague. This problem, with its macabre interest for the inhabitants of adjoining Czechoslovakia, is taken, according to the *Stunde*, from a German booklet for the use of teachers, "Examples of Commercial Arithmetical Problems in the Field of National Socialist Reconstruction." The *Stunde*, though it appears in Vienna, has Czechoslovak connections; hence the publicity it gives to this example of the new arithmetic. Compulsory military training is to be given in all Soviet middle schools (for children aged from 12 to 18). This step was announced in a Government decree, which affects 12,500,000 pupils. Lessons will be given in naval operations, cavalry battles and other aspects of war (states the *Daily Herald*). The aim is to train this year 200,000-child marksmen, 700,000 young anti-aircraft experts, and 150,000 youthful aeroplane construction specialists. The children will undergo examinations and be recorded as proficient. It is proposed that all pioneers- Soviet Boy Scouts- shall pass a minimum of three tests in these subjects before November. Games played by children must be directed towards the learning of military lessons.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SIMPLIFYING AND SOFTENING THE DEMAND

Re simplifying and softening the demand in Electoral Campaign, vide letter by R. E. de Nevatt in *New Times* of February 11.

I had been much discouraged by the smallness of the impression I had appeared to make upon people I had approached before I started in on the campaign, when I simply "surprised myself by my success. I received only three refusals to sign!

I place the credit for this success on my approach, which I made always that of the question of *the consumer*.

The average person has not exercised his intellect since he was about 14 years of age, and economics of the modern type, the New Economics, is a science requiring the same prolonged and concentrated mental effort to master its details as does any other science.

As to "softening" our attitude towards our politicians, whose contempt for their constituents is veiled only most thinly, I can only rejoin that if my domestic servant treated her duties as our politicians

treat theirs, I should feel constrained to hint to her that her sort of service was in danger of being terminated.

"SPINSTER."

Bondi Beach, Sydney.

LOCAL OBJECTIVES

Warragul Water Trust

An example of the successful attainment of an important local objective has been the main subject of discussion in this part of Gippsland for some time past.

The local Water Trust has, until recently, been a self-elected body, picked from the members of the local Shire Council, but not specifically elected as Water Trust commissioners by the ratepayers concerned.

A local democrat—a J.P. and Coroner, prominent business man, and one of Warragul's oldest citizens—one Joseph Cromie, took up the matter of the democratisation of this body, and, gathering around him a small body of loyal citizens, he had the district canvassed for signatures to a petition to the Governor-in-Council requesting the substitution of an elective body, instead of the then existing non-elected trust.

This petition was signed by approximately two-thirds of the ratepayers, and was submitted to the Governor-in-Council. Although the wishes of the majority of the ratepayers should have been the last word on the matter, a section of the local council initiated and forwarded an appeal to the Government not to make the change requested by the ratepayers. The Governor-in-Council, however, properly decided that the change to democratic control should be made, and the first election for six members of the elective Water Trust was held on April 7. The results were surprising, for the people showed their resentment of the attempts made to deprive them of their democratic rights by voting out all six of the retiring commissioners and electing a completely new body, comprised of members of the shire who had fought for and supported the principles of an elective trust.

The local branch of the Electoral Campaigners, naturally, strongly supported the move for an elective trust, and now have the satisfaction of knowing that three of the six members of the Warragul Water Trust are supporters of the new economic democracy ideas.

Another triumph for the pressure of united public opinion and the "demand results" campaign technique.

C. W. WARLOW.

Warragul, Victoria.

THE ONLY FREEDOM THAT MATTERS

We in England are a "self-governing" community; but how many of us enjoy even a small proportion of the advantages, which we should like? The only freedom of any value in the material world is economic freedom, the ability to choose what one wants and to pay it. Without it all other forms of freedom are useless . . .

A beggar is no less a beggar because he has been granted the franchise. A man is free when he can choose between alternatives—say, that of working in an office or going abroad, without its having any effect upon his economic position.

Those who are not blessed with private incomes are forced today to sell themselves into slavery, in order to keep themselves and their dependants alive. . . No stretch of the imagination can call this freedom. A man who is forced to spend the best hours of the best years of his life in a coal mine, a factory or an office is certainly not free.

It matters little, from the point of view of freedom, whether he is forced by the economic necessity of earning money, or by the Communistic State; he is still a slave.

The choice, then, lies between economic slavery and freedom: conformity to a preconceived system or complete liberty of choice for the individual.

Public opinion is not likely to tolerate the present anomaly of compromise, whereby the economic system works so badly, that two million men cannot even find opportunities to sell themselves into slavery, and have, therefore, to be grudgingly granted their means of livelihood out of the public purse.

Some see in this a belated admission that employment will never again be reinstated as the sole condition of livelihood, and, also, as an admission that the wealth which civilised man is capable of producing is now more than sufficient to support a leisured community.

It has been argued that leisure is likely to be abused by the uneducated. *The obvious answer is that leisure itself is the only condition in which enough education can be acquired to prevent its abuse.*

—Ronald Ogden in *The Fig Tree*.

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(Continued from page 3.)

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ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

VICTORIA

Richard Jefferies, naturalist, states that the Earth produces in one year enough to feed all living creatures for thirty years. Mechanical energy is speeding up production till there is virtually no limit to production.

Why, then, should there be poverty? The fact that it exists, and persists, is absurd. The Nation must demand that such an anomalous and criminal condition shall end... and the unit of the Nation is the individual: YOU.

Paste the following (from Melbourne Sun, 19/4/38) in your Reference Book:—

Doctor's Jottings

LACK OF FREEDOM BLAMED.

Psychiatrist's Cure For World's Ills

By a Medical Correspondent

"It is absurd to talk of the nation being prosperous when the vast majority of our breadwinners earn less than £3 a week and when unemployment still exists for many thousands," states a Melbourne psychiatry specialist in the "Medical Journal of Australia."

"Disease is a complex problem," he adds, "but there can be no doubt that the totality of the positive and negative factors of poverty is one of the major factors in creating disease and perpetuating types that are born only to eke out an existence attending various hospitals."

"It is plain that we cannot continue indefinitely as at present. Somewhere, some time, the floodgates will break and our present society, which has cost so much to build, will be broken perhaps irreparably."

"The solution is really quite simple. It is not to be found in the hysterical waving of flags, the trumpeting forth of speeches of hate, five-year plans, organisation of the masses for production and all such psycho-neurotic manifestations, but in a little clear thinking; a return to man's condition of freedom, freedom from taxes on his industry, freedom from government interference, freedom from privileges, freedom of access to his common birthright, the earth."

ERIC BUTLER had several meetings last week, and although not as large as those in other parts of the State, they will have their effect. As Eric says, persistency and tenacity are the two things, which we have got to cultivate.

Hume Vale meeting, of Tuesday, 12th inst., was a small gathering of the country people, who came to hear the campaign explained by Dr. Dale and Eric. The idea of political democracy is slowly permeating the community.

The following night Eric visited Wallan, and although the numbers were disappointing, he was far from being discouraged, and will make arrangements for those present to organise a bigger meeting in the near future.

After several days in the city, spent on organising work, etc., he left for Gippsland, and the first report to hand shows that he is pleased with the prospects of his Gippsland tour. "I have been overwhelmed with hospitality," appears in the first paragraph of his letter. On Sunday afternoon Eric addressed the Methodist Brotherhood at Yallourn, and considers that he gave a good impression and that good will come from the address. A report appears in the local paper. After arranging for a return to Yallourn. Eric moves on to Moe, to make arrangements for a meeting there, and then on to Thorpdale, to give an address on the 20th.

KOOYONG ELECTORATE.

—The autumn months of the year are the most suitable for public activity, so it has been decided to open an attack on the Kooyong electorate. In order to make a thoroughly organised attack, steps have been taken to procure a room in Camberwell as a rallying point where organisers and supporters can meet to discuss plans. It is thought that the attack will be launched by a monster meeting, to be held in the Camberwell Town Hall. However, plans will be discussed at a meeting of workers and supporters, the time and place of which meeting will be announced in the next issue of the *New Times*. Watch for the announcement and attend. Come from all suburbs. This is to be a general attack on Kooyong.

WEST AUSTRALIA

HARNESS THE POWER OF PUBLIC OPINION.

The greatest power existing today that is capable of serving the ends of humanity to the best possible advantage is the power of public opinion, but like all the great powers of nature at present serving the ends of man, it must be harnessed. The mighty waters of Niagara were little more than a sight to be wondered at until engineers harnessed their enormous power and directed their enormous power and directed it on huge turbines that converted it into electrical energy. The same applies to all other forces in the service of man today—steam, oil, electricity, etc. If man had not realised their enormous benefits to him and harnessed them so that they would serve his ends, then their value, as compared to their present worth, would have been practically nil. Man would probably still be living under conditions similar to those in existence during the Middle Ages.

Man, however, in his ingenuity as a reasoning being, with the aid of science, did harness these forces of nature. Our present wondrous age is the result of his achievement. He has now conquered nature and unlocked the doors of her treasure house so that she yields to him in abundance, with the expenditure of little energy on his part, almost all the physical requirements that he demands of her.

Having advanced thus far, one would consider that man could now rest on his laurels and enjoy, in

comfort and leisure, the fruits of his labours. So he could, but for one fact. While he was busy fighting the forces of nature, he was not aware that another force was developing—a human force, which, as well as reaping the benefits of his achievements, also usurped them, and, through the eventual control of them, became so powerful as to be able to deny them to the rightful owners—all humanity. This force still exists today, and is withholding from you your rightful heritage, a heritage of economic security and happiness in life, and will continue to do so until the only force capable of defeating it, *public opinion*, is harnessed, in the form of public demands, and set to work to do the job.

Just as the steam engine was designed to harness the power of steam, so the Electoral Campaign has been designed to harness the power of public opinion, and to do this it requires your assistance and your voice. Remember that you are a part of the public opinion that is to be harnessed, so, if you would have that which is rightly yours, economic security and leisure for cultural and spiritual development, join the campaign and give your assistance now.

BROADCASTING. — Arrangements are well in hand for the commencement of broadcasting, and supporters are requested to keep a watch out for the announcement of the first broadcast, and make reports to headquarters. Funds are still required.

UTOPIAS GALORE

By JACQUES DUBOIN, in "La Grande Releve Des Hommes" par la Science, January 1.

Jacques Duboin, editor, "La Grande Releve," one-time member of the French Treasury. "Duboin had more influence than Karl Marx on the 1936 Front Populaire elections . . ."—M. A. de Monzie, Ancien Ministre.

Translated from the French by T. V. Holmes.

We are called *Utopians*, as though that put an end to all discussion. Utopian! . . . a slight shrug of the shoulder, a faint smile.

Yet it is they themselves who are the Utopians, clinging desperately to a past, which has disappeared for good. What should we think of a man who wished to take us back to the time of Louis XII?

We are really living in the midst of Utopians; we are governed by Utopians; every day we have to read the writings of Utopians. But their number is so great that we will content ourselves with making a collection of a few of their Utopias.

Utopia! the idea that the budget can be balanced. Yes, it can be balanced by placing everything, which might unbalance it somewhere else. That is cheating to conceal the Utopia. There is not a modern State of any size, which has a balanced budget, neither the U.S.A. nor England nor any of those other countries, which are held up to us for their wise methods. The State's budget cannot be balanced when the taxpayer cannot balance his own.

Utopia! the idea that our famous sinking fund is reducing our debt. Is it not an Utopia to seek to reduce a debt, whilst every day borrowing more and more? Imagine a man who could only live by borrowing a few shillings every day. If he stops borrowing for a single day he is done for. What would you think of that man if he told you that his position was excellent and that his finances were sound . . . because he had bought a money box and was putting in a copper or two every night?

Yet that is what we are doing and that is what we are asked to admire.

Utopia! The innocent idea that it is only necessary to increase tariffs and taxes, to augment the railway charges by 25 percent and to add 25 percent to the

price of this or of that. It is equally Utopia to get excited later on when the revenue returns show a slight improvement. They would show a still more marked improvement if everything the taxpayer possessed was taken away from him.

Utopia! the idea that unemployment can be cured. People have been saying this for the last five years, without in the least disturbing those Utopians who deny its possibility. Unemployment is increasing in every scientifically equipped country: the U.S.A., Belgium, England, Poland, Czechoslovakia, etc. . . . in spite of public works, *in spite of armaments and rearmaments*.

Yes; the world is spending some seven million pounds sterling every day on armaments, and still the number of unemployed increases. It is increasing in England, where every week seven million pounds sterling are being thrown into the rearmament abyss.

It is increasing in Belgium, in France. I do not mention Germany or Italy, where the unemployed are known under a different name. There they are given a shirt, a spade, and placed in work camps; and are no longer unemployed! Such are the stupidities that those who treat others as Utopians are reduced to.

Utopia! the idea that our money is sound. It has become "floating" just because it is no longer sound, and today gives the impression of going to be sick at the slightest disturbance. Dollar, pound, Swiss franc, florin, etc., are no sounder than the franc. Every money, *formerly sound*, follows the fate of the economic life of the country in which it has currency.

Utopia! the idea that the forty hour week is going to put everything right. It is only just that the workman's day should be shortened, but it is stupid that the machine's day should be equally shortened. In other words, your machines do not want to go winter sporting;

your electric current does not ask to go for a holiday in the youth hostels. Work your plant and machines to their utmost, with teams of workers working for as short a time as possible. Impossible? Why? Because of the cost price. We agree. Then it is an Utopia to hope to sell a production which you would like to increase. Utopia! the idea that a general conflagration can be avoided without settling the problem of raw materials.

Utopia! the idea that great sacrifices are needed. Do you not think that the unemployed and the old have made sacrifices enough without having done anything to deserve them? And if the whole world does tighten its belt tomorrow, to whom would you sell that production which you already consider too small?

Contradiction! Contradiction of contradictions! All is contradiction.

So let us stay, "Utopians," since the practical folk no longer seem to know what they are talking about.

THE TRUTH THAT IS NOT TOLD

By monopolising the issue and withdrawal of money, a handful of unknown individuals have forced the entire world into slavery.

For their success they have relied upon the ignorance of people. They have imposed their will so subtly, so silently, that it is only now that we are beginning to wake up to our danger.

The press, the radio, the cinema—all have been pressed into the service of the money power.

Millions of pounds are spent every week on the provision of news. Thousands of highly proficient men and women spend their lives digging out facts and reporting events of every conceivable kind.

For a few pence you can read about, listen to or look at almost anything under the sun.

But the vital truth—the truth without which we cannot be free—this is never whispered.

Poverty need not be.

War need not be.

Taxation need not be.

Universal toil need not be.

These dreadful, unnecessary things we are made to suffer so that a handful of bankers, working behind the scenes, may maintain their power over our lives.

Without the acceptance of fundamental truths, all other information becomes tainted. The very backbone of reality has been extracted.

Open up any newspaper and check this up for yourself. Notice how the most innocent reports assume that poverty, war, taxation and work are as much a part of the natural scheme of things, as, say, fresh air and sunshine.

That is the great lie you have to challenge before you can hope to be free. It is the devil that every one of us must face.

Christ said, "The truth will make you free." Also, "Ask and it will be given unto you"

The elector's demand on this page is the key to freedom because it contains the truth.

ELECTOR'S DEMAND AND UNDERTAKING

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

SIGNED

(Block Letters)

ADDRESS

ELECTORATE

[Post to UNITED ELECTORS OF AUSTRALIA (NON-PARTY), Elizabeth House, Lt. Collins Street, Melbourne. (Dr. John Dale, President.)]