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THE NEW TIMES

NO X

October 8

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

Vol. 4. No. 27.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1938.

Every Friday, 3d.

ARCHBISHOP HEAD AND "PATRIOTISM"

Infantile Paralysis and the Mental Paralysis of the Bureaucrat

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Political Autumn of Joe Lyons

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(Continued on page 3.)

Smash And Grab In China

PART II

While Britain was teaching the yellow cads a lesson, France, like an industrious rat, was busy nibbling the Chinese cheese in the South. In 1862 the province of Saigon, in the Burmese Peninsula, was gathered in, and the King of Cambodia acknowledged himself tributary to France, thus giving her control of the whole of Cochin China. In 1883, on the death of the King of Annam, France proceeded to further gentle annexation. Hanoi was captured, without excuse and without warning, and, after some fierce fighting, the bombardment of Fuchow, the destruction of the Chinese fleet and the seizure of the Pescadores Islands, a treaty was signed. Under this treaty France became possessor of the four provinces of Tonkin, Annam, Cambodia and Cochin China, with an area of 315,250 square miles and a population of 18 million people—quite a neat little piece of empire building.

Japan Follows Suit

The next rat at the cheese was Japan. In 1894, suddenly and almost without warning, war broke out between Japan and China over Korea. The Japanese, having trade interests there, championed the independence of the Koreans, who were nominally under the suzerainty of the Emperor of China.

The Chinese, ill-trained and ill-equipped, were no match for the go-ahead Japanese, and were well and truly defeated within a year. The peace treaty, signed in 1895, provided for the independence of Korea, which was ostensibly the cause of the war. It also provided for the cession to Japan of the Liaotung Peninsula, Formosa and the Pescadores Islands, and the payment of an indemnity of £33,500,000. Presumably the Japanese thought they could put the land and the money to better use than the Chinese.

Russia, France and Germany were not in any way concerned in the war, but made a strong protest against the cession of the Liaotung Peninsula. After some argument Japan was given a further £6,000,000 indemnity in its place. What the Chinese thought of this bickering is not known, and would probably be unprintable anyway. They were, however, accustomed by now to being asked to a party and given the bill to pay.

The Hun Takes a Turn

Feeling left out in the cold, Germany waited her opportunity to get something substantial out of the lucky dip. There was not long to wait. In 1897 the Chinese, ever resentful of the foreign missionaries, who, in their experience, had always proved to be the advance guard of the exploiter and the concession hunter, murdered two German missionaries in the province of Shantung. Now, the indiscriminate murdering of missionaries, however unwanted, is not the sort of thing which should be encouraged. On the other hand, some allowance must be made for the Chinese. They had resisted by peaceful means the overrunning of their country by the foreigners. They had even resorted to force in order to expel them or to keep them out. Although their quarrel was just, they were unsuccessful either way. The attempts to foist a new religion upon a people of ancient culture were misguided, not to say insulting, at any rate, from their point of view. One would have thought that a firm protest and the punishment of the murderers would have met the case; and so it would have, if the Huns had not been waiting for an excuse to participate in the land grab.

Fortuitously there was a German naval squadron in Chinese waters at the time of the murder. Why it should have been there, if not from some sinister

motive, is not clear. There were a few German traders resident at Shanghai and Hankow, but certainly insufficient, to warrant the presence of a squadron for their protection.

Within a few hours of the news of the murder of the missionaries, the German squadron landed a party of men at Kiao Chau, on the Shantung coast, expelled the Chinese garrison from the forts, and hoisted the German flag—but not half-mast for the deceased missionaries! A few days later the German Minister at Peking drew up a series of demands. These were the building of a memorial to the missionaries and indemnification of their families, the degradation of the Governor of Shantung, and the payment of the cost of the German occupation of Kiao Chau Harbour.

With the exception of the last demand, the demands were rational. What was preposterous in the extreme was a final demand—that preference should be given to German engineers for the building of any railway that might be constructed in China or the working of any mine, which might be developed along the line of such railway! What connection this had with two slaughtered missionaries is not immediately apparent, unless their families were all engineers out of a job. It was not apparent to the Chinese either, for they refused to accede to the demands, or to discuss them until Kiao Chau had been evacuated.

Without further delay the Germans signified their intention to seize the land around Kiao Chau Harbour, and the Chinese capitulated, compromising on a lease of the land to Germany for fifty years. Thus, in return for the loss of two missionaries, Germany secured control of one of the richest provinces of China, in addition to a large indemnity. Worse than that, an example was set to other hungry Powers, and they were not slow to follow in the Fatherland's Footsteps.

Russia Passes Her Plate for More

Russia had been for some time encroaching upon Chinese territory in the North. Thirty-four days after the seizure of Kiao Chau by Germany, a Russian squadron entered the Harbour of Port Arthur, at the foot of the Liaotung Peninsula. In this case there wasn't even the feeble excuse of murdered missionaries to work on. There was no excuse at all offered—an unusual example of honesty in a thief. A demand was made for the cession of Port Arthur, in compensation for the rights awarded to Germany. Bewildered at the audacity of the demand, and fearful of the power of the new robber, the Chinese leased Port Arthur and the neighbouring harbour of Taliwan to Russia on the same terms and for the same period as the lease of Kiao Chau to Germany. Ironically enough, it was Russia who had, with Germany and France, objected two years earlier to Japan having the Liaotung Peninsula.

Not to be outdone, Britain joined the scramble for territorial largesse, and secured, on similar terms, a lease of Wei Hai Wei Harbour, the Island of Liukung, and a ten-mile-wide strip of land round the bay. This was followed by a general scramble for industrial and constructive privileges in China, while the Chinese looked on helpless to prevent the ravages of the locust horde. Russia, Britain, the United States, Germany, France and even poor little Belgium secured rights to construct railways all over China.

The Boxer Rebellion

It is surprising that in 1900, after sixteen years of aggressive spoliation of their country, the Chinese, or ostensibly a rebellious section of them

made a concerted effort to expel the foreigners from their land? Naturally enough, despite their numerical strength, this "rising" was doomed to failure, and it failed, carrying with it, in 1908, on the death of the Emperor Kuang Hsu, the fall of the Manchu dynasty.

In the thirty years since then, China has made considerable progress in self-government, and showed signs of succeeding in pulling together as a united nation, until the outbreak of hostilities over Manchukuo and the present undeclared war.

The Case for Japan

The Association for Far Eastern Affairs is responsible for the distribution of a series of interesting booklets, well-printed and well-illustrated, dealing with the present dispute from the Japanese standpoint. Although obviously propaganda, they make up a fairly presentable case for Japan, and should be read by those who wish to be properly informed on both sides of the question. The most intriguing argument is set out as follows:

"Does Japan wish to conquer China?"

"Japan does not."

"Japan only seeks her co-operation."

"This co-operation is necessary for Japan's very life."

"Purchasing China's raw materials, selling Japan's manufactured goods to China is a vital necessity."

"If the Chinese market is closed to Japan her goods must flow to America and Europe."

"If these markets are also closed, how can the Japanese nation live?"

Even a cursory examination of this pleading will show that it is based upon principles which, if admitted as valid in all circumstances, would justify any sort of aggressive action, at any time, anywhere. Some such argument was advanced in the "Mignonette" case in England, where three men and a boy escaped in an open boat from the wreck of the yacht, Mignonette. After having passed eight days without food, the men killed the boy, in order to eat his body. Later they were rescued, and, on arrival in England, two of the men were tried for murder. The court declared emphatically that there is no general principle of law entitling a man to take the life of an innocent person in order to preserve his own.

Necessity No Defence

This defence of necessity raised by Japan in the present conflict cannot reasonably be accepted as a valid one. It is true that most other countries have erected tariff walls to restrict or exclude Japanese trade, and that under the present economic system it is necessary to find some outlet for the export of more goods than are imported. It is also true that our present economic system is an artificial one, based on a money scarcity, perpetuated by the financial monopoly which reigns in Japan, as elsewhere. The attack on China under the plea of necessity is justified on the supposition that no alteration to the present economic system is necessary, desirable or possible; and that supposition is without any sort of rational foundation whatever.

How Does Australia Stand?

While some of us in Australia are striving to have the economic system remodelled on a sane basis, we are continually faced with problems such as the Sino-Japanese conflict. These problems are the evil brood of the economic system as it is, and we must decide whether it is wiser to define our attitude towards them strictly upon purist principles or on principles of expediency.

Japan is a powerful neighbour, whose friendship has been of value to us in the past, and the Japanese have shown their desire to continue that friendship. They are one of our best customers for wheat and wool. At this very moment the news has been published that Japan will take 400,000 bales of wool next season—an increase of 200,000 bales over last season's purchases. For these reasons, we should think seriously before siding with the Chinese in the present war.

From the standpoint of the purist, even though we may feel that Japan is in the wrong, we should remember that the arguments of necessity advanced by the Japanese are not merely specious, and are almost identical with those advanced by Britain to justify the forcible establishment of trade relations with China. Japan has already pointed this out as far as both China and India are concerned, and our own unsavoury record in the past makes the purist attitude an uncomfortable one for us to adopt.

Discretion the Better Part

A final reason why we should remain benignly neutral in this matter is the fact that Japan is close at hand, and a powerful military nation of 98 million people, while we are a vulnerable and almost defenceless people of less than seven millions. It is not advisable for us to incur the active hostility of the Japanese, even for the sake of a principle, especially as there is no certainty that the Japanese cause is, in fact, unjust. If we have appeared to sum up against the Japanese arguments, that is only an opinion, although arrived at as the result of a careful examination of the evidence, such as it is, on both sides.

We admit that to remain neutral is purely practical, and excludes to some extent the ethical aspects of the matter, but there is something to be said for the practical attitude. With the report of the Louis-Schmelling fight still fresh in our memories, we should realise that it might be a beautiful gesture to spit in Joe Louis' eye, but that for most of us it would be suicide.

In any case, as Sir James Elder once reminded us, most of the people in Australia have only an insignificant share in the wealth of the country. We should, therefore, be extremely careful to preserve our miserable little share intact, and not allow it to be jeopardised by blindly supporting the Money Monopoly which seems to be too interested in black-guarding Japan to be really disinterested about it. If they discard ethical considerations in favour of the practical attitude, why should we qualify for second and third places in the Amateur Purity Competition?

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THE VIRTUES OF THE NARK Meditations On Secret Intelligence

By Yaffle in "Reynolds News"

The Secret Intelligence Departments of the various countries have been put on their mettle by the accounts of the new secret French aircraft gun.

One cannot avoid conjecturing whether the secret gun is still secret, and what was the market price of the leakage.

This raises the popular question which has never been satisfactorily answered: "Have we a Secret Service Department, and, if so, who's in it?"

There is a common belief, not to be lightly dismissed, that there is no such thing as a British spy, for spying involves certain underhand practices from which any English gentleman would shrink like a woollen vest.

As an ex-member of the Diplomatic Corps, I am in a position to state that in the old days there were no British spies. It was impossible to find an English gentleman, of sufficient breeding and education to know how to order meals in foreign restaurants, who would commit a deceptive act or take an unfair advantage of a potential enemy.

Whenever any foreign traitor, out to make a bit on the side, or saving up to get married, offered to tell me his Government's intentions at a price, I would say, "Sir, I do not wish to know. Should my country attain ascendancy over yours in a trial of arms, it will not be because we have obtained information which others were loth to impart, but because, our hearts being pure, our strength is as the strength of ten."

And he would slink away abashed, touching his forehead as who should say, "This Englishman is not like other men."

THE DARK AND SINISTER BEAUTY.

In those days most of the plan-pinching was done by women of dark and sinister beauty. As you have gathered from novels and films, every foreign Government kept a team of beauties, including star and understudies, whose business it was to hang round diplomats and attachés and steal the plans, which for some reason were always kept in their pockets. It was an old diplomatic custom.

These vamps did much to compensate young attachés for being sent away from home during the hunting season. If any member of the Diplomatic Corps found himself short of lady friends in a foreign city, all he had to do was let it be known that he was carrying secret plans, and he would have

a dark and sinister beauty following him about like a cat after a fishmonger.

It would be idle to deny that I liked that part of it. I have spent many happy evenings in the company of a d. and s.b. I would fill my pockets with papers and let the lady pinch them one by one until sometimes I simply had to tell her to stop because I was ticklish.

Those were, if I may say so, the days. Now, however, things have changed. Plan-pinching is not what it was. For one thing, since all those memoirs and controversies about the last war have been published, military plans have no market value. Everyone knows that if any Generals ever had plans, they were the wrong ones. Most of the plans were based on the tactics of previous wars.

Indeed, I hear that one foreign spy went to great trouble and risk to steal a dispatch off one British General, only to find that it was signed by Henry the Fifth, and consisted mainly of an order for the archers to advance.

NO ROMANCE WITH CHEMICALS.

With the exception of an occasional gun or aeroplane, which is immediately photographed and duplicated to all the Governments, the only documents worth pinching are chemical formulae for gases and things. So the attention of foreign agents is concentrated on the laboratories, and espionage has lost its romantic possibilities.

The result is that the scientists get all the vamps, and, in my opinion, a dark and sinister beauty is wasted on a bally chemist.

Finally, foreign competition has compelled us to change our methods. Since foreign countries have challenged our position as the greatest nation, it has become necessary for the British Government to adopt towards foreign Powers those slightly less direct methods hitherto only adopted by the C.I.D. towards godless and seditious working-class organisation.

We have been obliged to recognise the value of the liar and the virtues of the nark. We find the need for men who are patriotic enough to do for their country things which, done for oneself, would get one thrown downstairs and black-balled from the darts club.

In short, we find we need men sufficiently patriotic to sacrifice their private virtues and become dirty dogs for the Fatherland.

It is a pity, but Progress, as I have said before, is Progress.

WHAT ONE ISSUE OF A DAILY PAPER REVEALED

The Melbourne Herald of June 14 reported:—

"Cases in which parents cannot afford to visit their children in the Orthopaedic Section of the Children's Hospital at Frankston, and others in which the weekly trip means going without necessities, are known to the Acting Superintendent of the hospital, Dr. Altmann.

"Dr. Altmann said she knew of a number of cases where parents found it a hardship to visit their children, even at long intervals. Families from northern suburbs have to pay 2/5 train fare to Frankston and 1/4 in the 'bus to the hospital, in addition to the fares from their suburb to the city, some of them eight and ten miles out; and some walk the three miles each way to the hospital to save the 'bus fare. Mr. McVilly, secretary of the Charities Board, said that undoubtedly the average family would find it difficult to raise funds to visit the hospital regularly. If the Railway Commissioners could make some concession in fares, he was sure it would be of great benefit to the parents, and perhaps be a factor in making the children happier."

In the same issue of the Herald it was stated that for the past six years beekeepers had made only between £1 and £2 a week. To produce a 60 lb. tin of honey the cost was 12/6, of which one-third went in taxes. If beekeepers did not get a subsidy, like other industries, they could not continue. They must either get Government assistance, go out of the industry, or export honey to other countries to create a shortage here.

The same issue of the Herald said more than 1600 blankets had been distributed among poverty-stricken families, and more money is needed urgently because many sad cases of hardship have been reported. The same issue of the Herald contained an advertisement inserted by the Australian Apple and Pear Council, asking us to "Keep Slim the Natural Way." by eating more apples, of course; and now the Australian Dairy Board is spending a large sum of money on an advertising campaign to induce us to eat more butter. Endeavouring to get people to eat more of something by putting the price of it up is a new method of business, but it is on a par with all the crazy schemes of trying to increase consumption without increasing the money supply. We simply cannot pull ourselves up by our boot-straps.

The Herald of the 14th June also had the following on a leading

page of the paper: "Mannequins Prove Fashionable Possibilities of Wool. Charming mannequins presented striking ultra-modern fashions under the auspices of the International Wool Secretariat, directed by Dr. Clunies Ross." This was held in London, at Australia House, but on the next page of the same Herald there was a letter to the editor, in which the writer asked: "Why has the decision of the Australian Woolgrowers Council to limit the offerings of wool, and extend the selling season been shelved"? And then he goes on to say "that until the Australian wool offerings are evenly extended over at least ten months of every year, we will continue to experience marked slumps during some of our selling seasons." The object of this procedure is, of course, to dribble supplies on to the market to keep the price up, being one more of the before-mentioned crazy schemes—holding expensive mannequin displays to induce people to buy wool, and then holding back the wool so it can't be bought, except at a high figure.

Now the decline in price of our wool and wheat exports has caused our old friend, Prof. Copland, to spill a few more of his precious pearls of economic wisdom, and, as usual, he is concerned with the good old "London Funds"—Herald, 14/6/38.

After enumerating some of the financial gymnastics that could be indulged in to enable Australia to meet her financial obligations in London, he concludes by saying: "It will be interesting to see whether Australia can continue at present, to be comparatively immune from the virus of recession, that has attacked most other countries." (He prefers the word "recession" to the unpleasant-sounding "depression.")

After reading that, the page is turned and this appears in big black type—"A/c Rendered." The account rendered was the usual half-yearly demand from America to England for an instalment of the War Debt, and Mr. Chamberlain replied in the "usual" terms—to the effect that Britain cannot pay now. If it is therefore as easy as that for Britain to get out of paying her commitments to the U.S.A., why should the pinch be applied to compel Australia to meet her obligations to London? But, of course, our Governments and economists would call that "repudiation."

We are frequently being reminded by our leaders—our Prime Minister, for example—that we have a very high standard of living, and nothing must be done likely to lower that standard, but what sort of a standard is it, when:—

(1) Parents cannot afford, with out depriving themselves of the necessities of life, to spend a few shillings a week in order to visit their sick children, the said children having been removed from their homes in the first place because their parents were too poor to have them treated at home?

(2) Apiarists cannot—due to poverty of people generally—sell enough honey to enable them to earn even the basic wage, and honey is supposed to be a very necessary article of diet?

(3) Public appeals have to be made through the press for blankets in large quantities to be given to the poor and needy, while producers of wool are endeavouring to keep the price of wool up because they cannot sell enough of it (due to the poverty of the people generally) to make its production profitable?

(4) When producers of butter, although heavily subsidised, have to resort to expensive advertising in order to induce people to eat more butter, so as to make the industry payable? The people at large, of

(Continued on page 7.)

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER

Hon. Jos. A. Lyons, P.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Australia, Canberra.

Dear Mr. Lyons, —

You and your Ministry are in a proper mess, retreating in disorder from the positions in which you pretended to be entrenched.

The blow you aimed at Japan, somewhat over two years ago, by placing a limit on Australia's imports from that country, brought forth a reprisal which knocked the bottom out of our wool market. Then the Japanese buyers, watching the effect of your bungling, bought wool in such reduced quantities that prices have not recovered. This act of yours is largely responsible for the shortage of Australian funds in London. You have now been forced to retrace your steps by making an agreement with Japan, whereby she will buy more wool from Australia and sell us more of her products.

A similar trade treaty is under negotiation with Germany, and our woolgrowers are sanguine about the prospects of success.

The next round, of course, will be a howl from Britain when Australia's imports from England become less and your imperialistic qualities will again have an airing.

The handling of the Yampi Sound business, with all the hypocrisy and prevarication, was a disgrace to the Government of Australia. Keen observers of political and financial intrigue expect you to back down also in that problem.

You are shilly-shallying with this Outrageous National Insurance racket, evidently realising that as soon as you bring it into operation the public reaction will sweep you from office.

Your re-armament policy will not save you, although it involves such feverish activity in publicly owned munition factories that are purchasing vast quantities of raw materials from the metal and other combines which you represent in Parliament. Even the munition-manufacturing carrots which you are dangling before the private-enterprise donkeys cannot help you much longer.

Popular opinion is so strongly against you that the financial masters of Australia will probably replace you soon. Perhaps Mr. Menzies or Sir E. Page, who are now jaunting in other parts of the world, giving us a chance to forget their awful contributions to the misgovernment of Australia, will be hoisted into the Prime Minister's saddle.

It would not affect matters much if Mr. Curtin became Prime Minister. He accepts the domination of finance in a "gentlemanly manner," enjoying the reputation you had in your Labor days of being a "moderate."

THE NEW TIMES.

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 2.)

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(Continued on page 7.)

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FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1938.

"Power-Drunk Bankers"

There is an old saying that if you give a thief enough rope he will hang himself. The wisdom of this saying is shown by an advertisement of the National Bank in the current number of *Dun's Gazette*.

The advertisement takes the form of an artistic photograph of industry in action, with the caption, "Power-Men-Markets," and the text below as follows:

"Power is man's servant, and with its aid he has filled the markets of the world with ever-increasing quantities of goods for his own use and pleasure. But neither power nor markets can function properly without capital. That is where the Bank helps. It gathers together the surplus capital or savings of its depositors, and lends them to enterprising people engaged in production and marketing. Thus it assists the progressive movement and invests safely the money entrusted to its care."

We have rather wearily italicised the traditional bankers' lie about banks lending the savings of their depositors, without which no bank propaganda is complete. McKenna, Hawtrey, the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, and almost all orthodox economists admit that a bank is a manufactory of credit, and that the lending of customers' deposits is just a polite fiction masking the true function and activities of the trading banks. A bank cannot even begin to make profits if it lends only its customers' deposits, instead of using those deposits as the basis for a ten-fold credit creation, costless to the bank and therefore, a highly profitable, if conscienceless, activity.

What is psychologically important and interesting is the unintentional disclosure in that advertisement of the perverted outlook of the class whose interests the advertisement is intended to foster.

Notice the sequence of words. "Power" is followed by "Men," and then "Markets." "Power," says the blurb, "is man's servant." Therefore, "power" appears first in the caption. But this is not as illogical as it seems, for "power" is the dominant note in the money discord. Control of the money supply, by a monopoly of credit issue and recall, means to the

banker control of men and materials, and control of all activities of the human race. It is power and the will to power which induce men to plunge into the money swindle. It is not, however, the purchasing power of money that exerts a subtle fascination over the money monopolists, but the power which credit control gives over the life and death of human beings; the heady wine of domination which makes a mere man into a minor deity.

Let us follow a little further the thought processes, which produced the advertisement. First, "Power," then "Men" (the object against which "Power," in its abstract sense, is directed), and then—what? Goods? Consumption of goods? The well-being of mankind after the utilisation of power? Ah, no! You do not understand. These are not the goals! These are realities, the true purposes of production, and the be-all and end-all of economic activity! It is not with these that the money manipulator is concerned. Living in an artificial and arithmetical world where "nothing is but what is not," our power-drunk divinities think along lines far different from the common herd. By a natural association of ideas, "Power" and "Men" evokes the thought image of "Markets." We have used the power; we have used the men to make products, and now we must sell the products. Ultimately, no doubt, the products may be of use to somebody, but that is purely incidental to the primary purpose. We the power mongers, supply the costless thing, money, from our inexhaustible store. Men at our command make the products, and now at our command, they must sell the products and give us back the money from which our power is derived.

To the banker the purpose of production is to have a product to sell—perhaps to someone who wants it, but to sell, even if someone who does not want it, and cannot afford it, has to be cajoled or bludgeoned into buying it by lies, fear, half-truths or any and every reputable or disreputable method which the now-noxious trade of advertisement can devise.

Perhaps some day the realisation will come to those who sponsor, authorise and compose such advertisements as this that there are better uses for human brains and ability than to prostitute them for the service of mankind's lowliest activity—commerce for its own sake.

The Official Mind

It is astonishing how completely divorced from realities the official mind can be. An official estimate of the cost to the State of the infantile paralysis epidemic is £250,000. This is made up principally of the expenditure in aftercare, loss of railway revenue and loss of revenue from entertainments tax.

The official regards "the State" as something quite apart from the people of whom it is made up. Had it been said that the cost of the epidemic to the Victorian Railways was such and such an amount, represented by a decrease in revenue that might have been reasonably correct. But to say that it cost the State (a group of 1,820,000 persons) any part of the £250,000 because the State (as personified by the Commissioner of Taxes) failed to collect the customary amount

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Being a Series of Open Letters Challenging Certain Eminent Persons to Mortal Combat with Realities

Bearing the above title and explanatory sub-title, a booklet by H. Neville Roberts saw the light of day in Dublin, Ireland, in 1934. A re-reading has confirmed our opinion of its excellence—to the extent that, in spite of the lapse of time, we present its contents to our readers. Some minor changes have taken place in Ireland in four years, but—unfortunately for the Irish—most of the criticism (both destructive and constructive), and the facts brought forward are still relevant. The generalisations and the capacity for epigrammatic statement have lost nothing of their force and lustre. Irish-Australians among our readers who have been following "home" affairs will, of course, find additional interest—but, in any event, they and other readers will find it easy to transpose nearly every Open Letter so as to fit like a glove the appropriate "eminent person" in Australia of today.

In our last two issues we reprinted the Foreword (which might well be written under similar circumstances by an intelligent and well-informed Australian to his fellow-citizens of this country) and the first four Open Letters. We now present the fifth and sixth Open Letters.

THE REALITY OF LEISURE

To MR. WILLIAM NORTON, T.D.

It will be unfortunate if your vision should continue to be bounded by work and wages; therefore would I ask you to lift your eyes to a prospect in which leisure with an income is a reality, offering life to all.

The story of the labour

in entertainments tax, is just sheer rubbish.

The drop in receipts from entertainments tax means only that certain people, who were financially able to attend entertainments, did not go because of the paralysis epidemic. Presuming always that they were financially able, then they have either still got the money, which they refrained from spending on amusement, plus tax, or else they have spent it on other things, like cigarettes, beer, books, or other substitutes for the weekly dope at the local talkie house. If they still have the money, it is not lost to the State (as a group of individuals), although the State (in the person of Mr. Chenoweth) has not yet collected it from them, but this is only a matter of time after all.

If on the other hand, they have spent the money on substitutes for the entertainments taxable under the Entertainments Tax Act, then the money is not lost, since other members of the State (regarded as a group of persons) have received it, while the State (regarded as a taxation mechanism) will receive it under another heading, like income tax on the increased profits of the sellers of the substitutes (beer, books, briquettes, etc.).

The paralysis epidemic did cost the State something. It cost us a loss in the productive capacity of the sick; a loss of time, effort and materials in ministering to the sick; a loss of potential productive capacity in the case of those who died. But these are real things, and such losses are really felt. It did not cost the State £250,000 or any other figure in loss of revenues from sources of taxation. To look at matters that way is to attribute to figures an importance far in excess of their simple function of measurement—to mistake the shadow for the substance.

Unfortunately, such an attitude is nearly universal in all matters where officialdom is concerned. It is, therefore, small wonder that the average citizen spends his whole lifetime thinking haphazardly and with no proper appreciation of realities.

movement during the years within living memory will surely have made it obvious to you that collective bargaining in the labour market is dead, and that the strike is a weapon long since rusted by the damp of surplus labour. It is not without significance that bodies of workers with a grievance show a tendency to organise one-day strikes—mere rattlings of the rusted weapon in its scabbard.

Yet this is of minor importance. More vital is the fact that collective bargaining at its best, armed with the strike weapon at its sharpest, never secured to Labor the benefits of the bargain. Every increase in wages obtained by these methods was absorbed by an increase in prices; an increase at least as great, and more often than the wage advance of which it was sequence.

An investigation of the money system shows this to be an inevitable sequence. It will remain so while the present banker "laws" hold sway. All wage payments go into costs, and costs must be recovered in prices, plus profit. Every wage increase becomes a cost that must be recovered in prices, and, if the percentage of profit is to be preserved, the wage increase will appear in prices, plus a profit upon the amount of the increase. Earned wages, increase them as you may, can never overtake the price level under a money system that creates prices in greater volume, and at a greater rate, than it distributes purchasing power to liquidate them. That condition can be changed only by a radical change in the monetary system.

Your bogey is unemployment.

You speak of it as a curse and you think of it as a disease. Unemployment is not a disease, nor a symptom of disease. It is a sign of industrial health, a manifestation of productive vigour. When you have cleared your mind of the misconception that the purpose of industry is to create work, you will begin, perhaps, to perceive that the purpose of industry is to create goods. Wages will then begin to occupy a secondary place in your thoughts; work will no longer appear as the be all and the end all of human life; your mind will be opened to the vision of plenty, so distributed that the "curse of unemployment" will have become the blessing of leisure.

Our people are opening their eyes to this vision. They are beginning to think of the industrial machine, not as the enemy that has deprived them of work, but as the friend that is offering them goods. They are demanding that the "wages of the machine" be distributed in the form of a national dividend, drawn from the national productivity, and payable to all citizens as their share of the national goods income. They are awakening to the fact that the right to work must give place to the right to live. They are becoming aware that these things are immediately possible under a just and national money system.

They await a leader who knows how that monetary reform can be instituted.

It must surely be obvious to you that every improvement in mechanical efficiency provides goods, while it denies work. One cannot think that you want to lead the diminishing body of workers into the wilderness of increasing unemployment, leaving the workless to the blind leadership of Lenin's ghost. You have the opportunity of leading both those who work and those whom the machine releases from work to a realisation of the plenty that is the gift of the machine, the collective inheritance of our people, accruing from bygone labour of hand and brain; the accumulated legacy of invention, organisation and co-operation that have endowed our age with its vast productive power, and with leisure.

THE REALITY OF TIME

To THE PRESIDENT OF SINN FEIN.

I have no intention of offence in putting to you the question: Where are you in 1934? Again without offence, may I say that it seems to me you are still in 1916.

Without contesting the theory of the relativity of time, it is surely unwise to deny that time has a certain reality. Since 1916 we have lived through a sequence of events. Dislike them as we may, disapprove of them as we will, we cannot erase them from the record of time. Nor can we deal with their issues without first recognising their existence.

You dislike a partitioned Ireland. You are not alone in your dislike. Is there an Irishman or woman worthy of the name who does not heartily detest partition? Incidentally, it is no harm to remember that there is not one partition, but two. There are good Irishmen in the North who resent the fact that Ulster has been robbed of three counties, and there are a few in the South who, while resenting the major partition, are able to find a bond of sympathy in the Ulsterman's view.

You may make history, but you cannot change it once it is made. You may construct the future, but you cannot reconstruct the past. If I have had four fields stolen from me and have regained possession of three of them. I do not forego my claim upon the other by tilling the three I have regained.

It may seem to you that we have not regained possession of the three fields. The answer is yes, and no. Yes, because we have full legislative power to assume complete economic possession. No, merely because we have not yet exercised this power. I invite your attention to the economic issue because it is at once supreme and fundamental, and the exercise of that power by the people of the twenty-six counties may yet lead to the Ireland of your dreams.

The people of the Irish Free State, though they be but three-fourths of the Irish nation, have full powers of legislation. They can till the three fields as and how they may choose. They—with the exception of those among them who have abstained from using those legislative powers—have been trying to till without money, at least without money of their own. They have not been told by their chosen leaders that economic power resides in money control. You will lose nothing, you will sacrifice none of your dreams, by telling them that this freedom is theirs for the taking.

A republic, though it be an all-Ireland Republic, will not achieve nationhood unless it establishes and exercises national control of national finance. If Ireland is to remain, as the Free State is now, financially a province of England, the exercise of political power will be as complete a delusion as it is today in the Free State. We shall be tilling our four fields for the economic benefit of an alien money power, as we are now tilling the three. I would urge upon you that it is but commonsense to begin to till the three fields we possess for the

(Continued on next page.)

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ARCHBISHOP HEAD, "PATRIOTISM" AND "THE AUSTRALIAN CHURCHMAN"

In its May issue, "The Australian Churchman" (monthly organ in Australia of the Church of England Men's Society), published a sub-leader under the heading, "Steady, Boys, Steady," which read as follows: "Day by day our secular press is being flooded with reports of speeches delivered by all sorts of people in all sorts of places, which would lead one to think that there must be war within a very short time, and that it is Australia which is especially being threatened. That old devil, Patriotism, is being stirred up slowly in the same way as it was in 1914, and we are led to believe that there is a potential enemy awaiting the opportunity to pounce upon us behind every bush. All sorts of drivel is being uttered about the inadequacy of our defences and the need for speeding up armaments, storing millions of gallons of petrol, building cruisers and other naval craft, and the creating of an adequate Air Force. Conscription is being freely spoken about, and is being delayed apparently until the arrival of the Military Adviser who is to come to us from overseas. What he will know about the necessity or otherwise of it, after a few months in this vast continent, more than we know already is beyond our comprehension. But, of course, it has become the custom over the years in Australia from time to time to import these gentry, if we want to know or be advised about depressions and how to face them, about naval bases and where to place them, about the army and how to train it. Truly ours is expensive tourist traffic.

"It would appear that new millions will have to be raised somehow, either by taxation or loans, to finance all this. Already we have noticed metal shares rising, and primary product prices falling. We notice meat soaring, and other necessary commodity prices of the common herd almost beyond its capacity to purchase.

"There are several questions that one is inclined to ask. The first one would be: Is it possible to adequately defend Australia by force of arms? The second would be: With about 100 'planes—not of the most modern type, either—what hope have we against any nation with thousands? The third might be asked about the Navy, but we will not show our ignorance. There are many others. In the meanwhile, I wonder has anyone noticed

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(Continued from page 4.) benefit of our people. This we can do by the exercise of our right to control our own national credit and currency, a right fully recognised and conceded by the Treaty of 1921, whatever its defects may otherwise have been. The legislative power, which we possess in respect of this fundamental attribute of freedom, is indisputable, and is recognised as indisputable in the Treaty you despise—if you do not, indeed, deny its existence. I suggest to you that the exercise of this power will lay the foundation stone of national freedom, and that there is no ultimate limit to the national edifice we may build upon the foundation of economic power laid upon the bedrock of financial control. Not even the unnatural restriction of borders and boundaries within our land can ultimately impede the scope of our building upon that sure foundation.

To neglect the opportunity of the present merely to affirm the past is a sterile policy. To take time by the forelock is saner than to sulk.

that there are still thousands of boys and young men in Australia who have never yet been absorbed in industry of any kind, either on the land or in the cities, since the depression. In one State at least even the forestry camps have been closed to them, and many of them are wandering about neglected and almost starving.

"Again, what has happened to the solution of the slum question, which was to be tackled so drastically but a few months ago? Millions can apparently be raised over-night for defence purposes, but no money is available for the housing of the people and the feeding of the hungry. Have we noticed lately almost a wave of suicides and crime? And have we also noticed that it is the younger generation that is involved in them? What is the devil behind it all? There is something very wrong somewhere. Is it big money or what? The best defence that Australia could have would be a contented people, and the first step towards the achievement of that would be to give social justice to all sections of the community. There can be no true democracy in the midst of an oligarchy.

"Our last word is this. In the midst of all these feverish attempts to stir up national patriotism, let the men of the Church stand firm and have none of it. Steady, Boys, Steady. Let the Church remember her calling, and not be sidetracked. Our job is to stir up the conscience of the powers that be to give to our suffering brethren economic justice, good housing, and the chance to live full lives. Let us have a country of which all its people can be proud. We do not believe that Australia has any enemies outside, so let us be

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careful not to make any. But we are not so sure about her enemies within. Let us not be swept off our feet."

The foregoing produced the following letter from Archbishop Head (published in the Correspondence Page of the June issue):

"I am extremely sorry that in 'The Australian Churchman' for May, 1938, you should have allowed the article, 'Steady, Boys, Steady,' to appear as part of your editorial. I entirely disagree with everything that is said in it, and I think that most of the Bishops to whom I have shown it feel the same as I do.

"You say: — 'That old devil, Patriotism, is being stirred up slowly in the same way as it was in 1914, and we are led to believe that there is a potential enemy awaiting the opportunity to pounce upon us behind every bush. All sorts of drivel is being uttered about the inadequacy of our defences and the need for speeding up armaments, storing millions of gallons of petrol, building cruisers and other naval craft, and the creating of an adequate Air Force . . . Our last word is this. In the midst of all these feverish attempts to stir up national patriotism, let the men of the Church stand firm and have none of it.'

"I regard these remarks as wholly unworthy of a newspaper which pretends to speak in the name of the Church. I believe in patriotism as part of my Christian duty, and I should always encourage Christian men be prepared to defend their country. You may be a pacifist as a private individual, but have no right to claim that the Church of England Men's Society is pacifist, or that what you say in any way speaks the mind of the Church as a whole.

"I hope that you will insert this letter in the next number of 'The Australian Churchman.' I propose to speak about this serious matter in my next letter to the Diocesan 'Messenger.'

"I am, your very truly,
W. MELBOURNE.
Bishopscourt, Melbourne."

It appears that many readers of "The Australian Churchman" differed with his Grace, as is indicated by the published letters

congratulating the Hon. Editor on the sub-leader in question (some such were not published for want of space). We take the liberty of reproducing two of them in full and a third in part: "The Editor, 'Australian Churchman.'

"Dear Sir and Brother, — The remarks by his Grace the Archbishop in the current number of 'The Messenger' as regards the article, 'Steady, Boys, Steady' ('A.C.' May), have astounded me, and I think 'The Australian Churchman' is to be commended on its articles on this and other subjects, i.e., Finance, etc. Too long 'wool has been pulled' over the eyes of somewhat trusting and always loyal Britishers in the way of propaganda. Also to say the use of 'force' is in itself wrong puzzles me, as it is not in accordance with the principles of Christianity—that is, if I know anything of Christianity—to say it is essential to government—what sort of government? — because I remember Jesus, said: 'Blessed are the peacemakers,' not 'Blessed are the warmongers.' Nothing written or said by man can alter that, and, whilst I do not desire to stir up any controversy on your article, 'fair is fair' and condemnation from high quarters does not alter the fact that the article, in my opinion, is to be commended.

"Yours faithfully,
G. J. ALLEN.

"Balwyn."

"The Hon. Editor.

"Sir, — I read your sub-editorial headed 'Steady, Boys, Steady,' and am in total agreement with it. You ask that the Church remember her calling and not be sidetracked. She was sidetracked in the last war. She permitted her pulpits to become the rostrum for recruiting. Many men went at her call—they came back, some of them, but could not stomach a Church that put country before God, difficult as it was to decide whether in this case they were synonymous or not. They asked, 'Is God the Father Almighty?' Their children now ask, and ex-soldiers are hard put to answer, and that is why the present generation is neglecting the Church. She was true to the best that was in her. Pray God, she will not fail a second time,

for if she does the lights of heaven will go out and this world be plunged in darkness. It may yet be plunged into darkness in spite of her, but if she is true to the Light, we will not be helpless. Yours, etc.,

"C.E.M.S."

"Dear Sir, — Allow me to express my appreciation of your courageous sub-leader under the heading 'Steady, Boys' Steady' which appeared in the May issue of the 'Australian Churchman.' It brings the white light of truth to bear upon the unholy mess we are in because we have allowed our Christianity to become a mere name — almost synonymous with respectability.

"I am glad the article was published while there is yet time, for if zero hour comes there will be a sudden end to truth. The 'A.C.' will be censored or even suppressed, the very clergy will be forbidden to preach the gospel of Christ from their pulpits, and the air will be full of inspired propaganda.

"The article in question is logical, restrained, and, above all, true in every detail—and the truth hurts at times. It certainly hurt me, for I find that I am unable to exempt myself from the sins of my generation. I cannot evade my responsibility towards my brethren who have found no place in the scheme of things, but who are wandering about neglected, starved physically and mentally. Nor can I dodge my responsibility for tolerating a financial system which creates millions for war and next to nothing for feeding and sheltering its own victims.

"Yours faithfully,
H. J. MILLARD

The leader in the June issue bore the heading "Steady, Boy Steady," and read as follows:

"We publish, at his request the letter of the Archbishop of Melbourne with reference to our sub-leader in the May issue 'The Australian Churchman' under the above heading. His Grace, further, has thought it necessary to quote portion of our article as grounds for additional strictures in his regular letter to his Diocese in 'The Church of England Messenger.'

(Continued on page 8.)

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

If you wish to assist the "New Times" in its fight for justice, security, and freedom for all our people; if you desire to help it in exposing those who are the enemies of the people, you can best do so by providing the financial ammunition which will enable the paper to build up the greatest possible circulation in the shortest possible time.

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

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REV. C. IRVING BENSON AND MONEY Ignorance No Longer an Excuse

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H. BROWN.

Sir, —On the facts already published in these columns, very few honest people would any longer doubt the statement that the Wesley Church in Melbourne has been consistently used in recent years to further the interests of the bankers at the expense of the general community. This was particularly the case in the year 1931, when every speaker, save one, was an advocate of, or a believer in, sacrifices and economies dictated by the private banks. Those in charge of the church may plead that it was not done deliberately, but I am in the position to prove that it was.

Connections with the Melbourne "Herald"

In the year 1931 Samuel Mauger spoke three times; Sir Stanley Argyle, twice; Messrs Gullett, Latham, Lee Neil, S. M. Bruce, J. P. Jones, Frank Russell (Melbourne *Herald*), Professor Copland, Pastor Thomas and Professor Woodruff, twice each; and Archbishop Head, Messrs. Herbert Brookes, A. C. C. Holtz (Melbourne *Argus*), R. G. Menzies, R. D. Elliott, Dr. Ellis, Harold Luxton, Professor Albiston, Rev. J. C. Martin, Sir James Barrett, Dr. John Mackenzie and Theodore Fink (Melbourne *Herald*), once each. Theodore Fink is the father-in-law of R. D. Elliott, and one of a small group who attended a select dinner given by one of the Baillies at the time of the visit of Sir Otto Niemeyer and Guggenheim Gregory, the two Jews who had been sent here by the Bank of England to put us in our place. The conversation with Niemeyer and "Gregory" on that occasion was most interesting, and Sir Keith Murdoch, also of the Melbourne *Herald*, was in attendance. It may be the merest coincidence that Mr. Benson is a regular contributor to the Melbourne *Herald*.

A Personal Call and a Refusal

It was because of the gross impropriety revealed above that one my friends called personally upon the Rev. J. H. Cain, who was then in charge of the mission, and pointed out that there was no necessity at all for the sacrifices and economies that were being called for from the pulpit. This friend asked that equal opportunities be afforded for speakers to give the truth in regard to the financial system and the manner in which it was being used to defraud the people. Mr. Cain refused. His refusal was on the ground that he had conversed with Lloyd George and Ramsay MacDonald, and that these outstanding men had confirmed that sacrifice, economy, hard work, starvation, and the destruction of good food was the only way out! In other words, he was guided by the advice of place-seekers who had betrayed their country and whose advice was obviously contrary to common sense, to say nothing of the teachings of the Master whom Mr. Cain was supposed to be representing.

Prejudice, Old Age, or Personal Interest?

My friend was a very able man and a keen student of world affairs. No person in Melbourne at that time was better qualified to discuss the subject, but either from prejudice or because of old age Mr. Cain did not wish to hear, and continued to fill his pulpit with bankers, bankers' agents, or "safe" men from the bankers' point of view. In the year 1932 Mr. R. G. Casey was there four times; Dr. Ellis, three times; R. G. Menzies, J. P. Jones, J. A. Boyd, and Rev. J. C. Martin, twice each; and Sir James Barrett, Judge Beeby, Dr. Mackenzie, Dr. Mauldon, Dr. Douglas Thomas, Brother Bill,

and Messrs. Hughes, Fenton, Guy, Mauger, Luxton, Emery, Phillips, Lee Neil, Judkins, Gullett, Herbert Brookes, Copland, R. D. Elliott, Albiston, Latham, Parkhill, Fairbairn, and M. B. Duffy, once each. From this it is clear that Mr. Cain, the then superintendent of the mission, did not himself want to hear anything against the obvious absurdity and criminality of sacrifices and economies in a world actually overflowing with the bounty of God, and would not allow anything to be said against them from the pulpit, either. His name duly appeared in the "Honours" List!

Others Also Dissatisfied

Mr. Cain's successor, the Rev. C. Irving Benson, adopted a similar attitude, and you have already seen his reactions to personal protests from me. Others besides myself were also dissatisfied, and, in view of the findings of the Select Committee of the Tasmanian Parliament, they had every reason to be dissatisfied. The report of that committee, presented to Parliament in October 1935, contained the following:

"On the evidence placed before it the Committee finds that the people are being prevented from possessing, consuming, and/or utilising . . . the increase of wealth and . . . the increase of production over the last thirty years; that the cause of this is shortage of purchasing power in the hands of the community as a whole; and that this can be effectively remedied only by—

"(1) Restoration to the sovereign community of effective control over money in all its forms; and

"(2) The establishment by the Commonwealth Parliament of machinery which would secure regular equation between the community's production and the community's purchasing power."

Sheer Prevention

Here was the clearest declaration that the people are being prevented from enjoying God's bounty, and that they are being prevented by the small section of society controlling the money supplies, but not a word was permitted to be said from the Wesley pulpit against that small section. Indeed, only those who spoke for it were welcome! And now, only last Sunday, Mr. Benson is again endeavouring to divert our minds from the identity of the culprits to the alleged need for "new" men. According to the *Argus*, he actually said this: "It is not a question of new method, but of new men. If civilisation is to be saved, we must change a sufficient number of people in a sufficient number of countries soon enough to hold off that collapse." So you see, the electric light will only come on when the switch is operated by new men! Method, or system has nothing to do with it; it is the nature of the men that control the electricity!

Wrongful Appropriation

Another significant paragraph in the Tasmanian Committee's Report was as follows:

"The inquiries of the Committee have shown that, since the basic wage was 'first fixed in 1907, the benefits of the great advance in scientific and mechanical aids to production have not been passed on to the general community, but instead have been appropriated by a small section of society, while the great bulk of the people have actually suffered a lowering of their living standards."

Note particularly the section I have written in italic letters, and the word "appropriated," which, in this case, is synonymous with "stolen," but not a word against it from the Wesley pulpit. We want "new men"

in enough countries, not the prevention of the wrongful appropriation of the people's birthright!

Substantial Facts

In addition to all this, the Committee's report states that the following facts had been fully substantiated:

1. There has been a great increase in actual production.

2. This increased production has been effected with the use of the services of a relatively small number of workers in industry, and the trend is towards greater production with fewer workers.

3. The workers dispensed with have been left absolutely without incomes, while the basic wage of those retained in industry has a lower purchasing power than in 1907.

4. The smaller producers, manufacturers, distributors and retailers have been, and are being, overwhelmed with debt and driven out of business.

5. The place of the smaller producers, manufacturers, distributors, and retailers is being taken by organisations of a monopolistic tendency, and

6. These monopolistic organisations can be closely identified with the monopoly of finance, as represented by the private banks and their subsidiaries.

I have specially emphasised the last part of item 6 to focus attention on the seat of the trouble indicated in items 3 and 4.

Untrue Statements

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Mr. Benson subsequently made the Wesley pulpit available for Mr. R. G. Casey to tell the people that "Australia's banking and monetary systems have been running smoothly for many years," and that "about 85 per cent. of Australians live reasonably comfortable lives." Both statements were quite untrue, but that did not matter to Mr. Benson and he proceeded to thank God for the man who made the untrue statements.

Usury and Interest

In November 1936, during his "Questions and Answers" series from 3AR, Mr. Benson touched upon the subject of usury or interest. His effort on that occasion was so poor that one of his listeners immediately got in touch with him on the subject and called his attention to the following:

1. That the national debt at that time was £1,256,000,000;

2. That our Governments are required to pay nearly a million pounds a week in interest and exchange;

3. That the revenue of many municipal undertakings is barely sufficient to pay their interest bill;

4. That it is quite impossible to locate the present whereabouts of most of the money borrowed and spent by Governments and municipalities;

5. That we are actually being robbed through taxation to pay a heavy toll of usury on money which no longer exists;

6. That it is quite impossible to pay interest on past debts without further "borrowing"; and

7. That when we borrow we pawn more and more of our country to usurers and counterfeits.

More Debt Inevitable

These facts were supported by an illustration showing the impossibility of meeting our national interest commitments without going further and further into debt. The Sydney Bridge was quoted. It was explained that this splendid job cost £10 millions, and that the great bulk of it was borrowed from the financial institutions; that, even if this money were in existence before it was borrowed (as a fact it was not), the quantity of money in the community after the completion of the work would be the same as before it was commenced. That is to say, £10 millions had been borrowed from the people and £10 millions handed back to the people in wages, purchase of materials, and so on; so that the community

would be in the position to repay the amount borrowed. But when a further sum of, say, £500,000 is tacked on as interest, how can the people pay back £10 millions when they had received only £10 millions? They can only do so by leaving other commitments unmet or by going further into the clutches of the lenders.

Blessing Wickedness

Mr. Benson was asked to apply that to the national debt and to realise the impossibility of ever getting out of the hands of the usurers under the existing fraudulent system. The fact of the matter is that most of the £10 millions was not in existence at all, and was created by the financial institutions at the time it was borrowed. The community had £10 millions more after the transaction than it had before, but it also had an immediate increase in its debt of £10 millions, plus interest! It was also pointed out to him that every great country in the world is hopelessly in debt; that none of them are paying their way; and that the greater number of us (including the clergy) are broadcasting their blessing on the wickedness.

Money and Motor Cars

On the particular afternoon in question, Mr. Benson said he saw no difference between a man lending money and lending any material article, such as a motor car. If you borrowed a motor car for the week-end you would expect to be charged a fee to cover the wear and tear to which the car would be subjected, but in the case of money there is *NO wear and tear*. It is the only thing that does not deteriorate, and yet the lender expects to get additional money when you return the original quantity intact. It is the same as borrowing a motor car and returning two first-class cars at the end of the period! Any form of wealth is steadily worn away by the passage of time, but money, which is only a symbol, not only acquires perpetual life as an entry in a book, but grows and grows and grows!

No Thought

All this was clearly explained to Mr. Benson and the letter included the following:

"I realise, of course, that you have never given much thought to this matter, and that you do not appreciate the ridiculousness of having to beg Sunday after Sunday for the silver and copper of congregations to enable you to carry on the wonderful work you are trying to do for the unfortunate victims of our insane and vicious financial system. I know also that you have not thought of the criminal folly of our so-called leaders who allow people to want, and institutions, such as hospitals, welfare homes, etc., to go short in a land just bursting with all forms of material and physical wealth, but lacking only the money symbols or tickets to distribute that wealth. Yet so few of our churchmen are raising their voice against this iniquity, mainly through ignorance. But even ignorance is culpable when no attempt is made to learn the truth."

He Knows!

This was acknowledged by Mr. Benson more than a month later, with an apology for the delay and an explanation that his days are crowded. He added: "It was very gracious of you to trouble to send me such a useful comment on my answer and also the pamphlets, which I read with interest and appreciation." As he has read the letter and the pamphlets he can no longer legitimately plead ignorance.

The same gentleman followed up the subject by asking Mr. Benson if he would care to comment on Beverley Nichols's book, "The Fool Hath Said," with particular reference to the chapters on "War" and "money." The reply he received was as follows:

"I am afraid the chapters you mention in Beverley Nichol's book cover too wide an area, and would occupy the whole of a question

session. If you care to ask any specific question arising from your consideration of the book I shall be glad to help in any way possible."

About a fortnight later he did answer a question from another listener regarding the same book. The answer he gave was quite innocuous, and contained no risk of offending the bankers who support the Wesley Mission. If he read the book referred to, or even only the two chapters specially mentioned, then this affords further evidence that he is not uninformed on the question of money and cannot escape culpability as a conscious party to the deception of the people.

Continued Support of Swindle

Although he had thus had his attention so pointedly called to the swindling nature of the financial system, he continued to fill his pulpit with men who supported and excused the swindle, and closed the pulpit against men who sought to expose the facts. In the year 1937 there was not a single appearance of an advocate of monetary reform, but opponents of reform were as frequent as usual, and included Dr. Ellis (twice), Mrs. Claude Couchman, R. G. Casey (twice), Rev. J. H. Cain (twice), Sir Geoffrey Whiskard, R. G. Menzies, J. McEwen, J. C. Dillon, Professor Copland, Colin Clark (a visiting economist of the Copland type), Archbishop Head, and F. W. Eggleston.

Refusal to Face Truth

In the light of these facts, we are not being unjust to Mr. Benson when we charge him with refusal to face the truth regarding finance and its mismanagement; with an unbecoming readiness to pander to the very people responsible for perpetuating the mismanagement; and with the betraying of Christianity by making his pulpit available to men who support the conditions which prevent the practise of Christianity. It is no excuse to say he is not a monetary expert, and that, like so many others, he was not taught much about money at school. He is reported to have been born an aristocrat (neither blame nor credit attaches to himself for this), and might have been misled earlier, just as the Archbishop of York was misled; but when his attention was called to the facts of the case it was his duty to examine the position thoroughly and then either disprove what had been said or come out straightforwardly and denounce a crime. He did neither. The Archbishop of York admitted this:

"I was taught some political economy at Oxford, including certain propositions about money. What is perfectly plain is that money is not what they told me it was."

Professor Walter Murdoch, a celebrated Australian, has also been honest in the matter. He has written this:

"I look back with dismay and some shame at the absurdity of my own delusions about money a few years ago. . . . I simply took for granted those propositions about money which everybody around me seemed to be taking for granted. I now know that those propositions were none of them true; that money is not at all what I thought it was; that the banks don't act in the way I imagined they acted, but very far otherwise."

Is it too much to hope that the Rev. C. Irving Benson will be equally honest?

But Get on with the Demand

But, whether Mr. Benson is honest or not the rest of us should press on in the work of uniting the members of the community in a demand that Parliament shall take steps to have poverty abolished by giving the people access to their own production. —Yours faithfully

BRUCE H. BROWN.

IMMIGRATION

By LEONORA POLKINGHORNE.

If there is one thing above another that our "leaders" are lacking in, it is a sense of humour. The least glimmer of it would save them from many fantastic absurdities. To give a casual glance at some of the subjects on which they make the most fatuous pronouncements, and most consistently ignore the obvious (the main job of politicians seems to be ignoring the obvious), we may instance population, defence, insurance and unemployment. The two first we may link together, as there is little concealment of what population is wanted for. Anyway, immigration as one way to population is a hardy annual, which leaders of Governments find very useful when it is necessary to take the people's attention away from more vital matters. They still mouth the exploded absurdity that we want—not better—but *more* people. Why? If women are going to take heed of Mrs. Roosevelt's warning as to the stupidity of having babies to provide *cannon-fodder*, what other reason is there for increasing population?

Why More Population?

In order to produce more? But we already produce so much in excess of our *purchasing* power that we have to destroy some of it. More consumers, then, without increasing the purchasing power? Do these protagonists of more population ever for one moment suggest any sort of scheme whereby the purchasing power per unit of the population shall be increased? Never, by any chance—once more ignoring the obvious. When we ask for improved conditions for that population we already possess, what sort of answer do we get? Invariably, "There is no money!"

Previous Folly

Now, when we consider the lamentable failure of previous schemes of immigration, we can only stare astounded at the daily paper that tells us that the idea is once more in those empty spaces that politicians call their heads. What was the actual result of our last experiment in this direction? Specious and untruthful propaganda in the "old country" and bitter disillusionment to both sides when the scheme began to operate. Australian employers soon realised that we were once more used as a dumping-ground. Girls were sent out for domestic service who were far less efficient than the worst of the native product. No blame to them. They were the slaves of factories and had not the remotest idea of what was required of them. All they knew was that they would get very high wages, far better than they had any hope of by re-

maining in their own country. For instance, a girl who would receive six or seven shillings per week in a domestic position in Glasgow or Birmingham expected to receive 20/- to 25/- here, however little she knew. Most of us are familiar with the story of the girl whose exasperated mistress asked her what she had been doing in the "old country" anyway, as she obviously knew nothing of domestic economy, and the reply was: "Making seeds in a jam factory for the raspberry jam." Then, of course, mistress and maid had to learn each other's language, as most domestic articles were called by entirely different names, causing endless confusion. The upshot was that hundreds of embittered immigrants hated the country that had been painted in such rosy colours for them before they signed up. They had been told, also, wonderful fairy tales of the marvellous hospitality of the Australians, and this accounted for many surprised housewives having optimistic immigrants planting themselves on them at all sorts of inconvenient times, on the very slightest acquaintance.

Victims of False Propaganda

Altogether, it didn't tend to cement the bonds of Empire. We were wrong to call them "Pommies" and laugh at their accent, and tell them absurd taradiddles about the snakes and the blacks, but both sides were suffering from the effects of a false propaganda. I recall the case of a man, his wife and family of six. The man had cancer in the head when he left England, and was quite unable to work, therefore he and his entire family were thrown on relief as soon as they arrived, none of the children having arrived at earning age. In short, the whole thing was a tremendous ramp, and, under existing conditions, we have no guarantee that the next attempt will be much better. True, some of these people remained in the country, liked it, and made good, but they were the exceptions. The others wrote to their friends in the old country giving a most unflattering picture of Australia. In the present instance it is amusing to notice that, in spite of all this, many people of substance are applying for a chance to emigrate. Surely it is because they realise that the heart of Central Australia is tending to become the safest place in the world as things are! Better the dingoes and the solitude than cannons and poison gas!

Ill-Conceived Clamour

It is well to notice that this clamour for "more people" does not come from those who have

given serious study to the question. Professor Portus has assured us on many occasions that we have at present as many people in this country as it is desirable to have. Havelock Ellis gives statistics to prove that limited populations, such as Holland, Switzerland and Denmark, are healthier, happier and more prosperous than those countries in which population is increasing. They also have a lower death rate. I cannot say whether, all things being equal, a large or a small population is the better, though I certainly would be more prepared to take the word of the experts on the subject than that of the politicians, but it is quite certain that the moving of large numbers of people from one country and transplanting them to another without improving the basic conditions by which they live is merely lunacy, and well worthy of those who are advocating it

A Sane Attitude

The Labor people are right in opposing further immigration while we still have an unemployment "problem," but they are opposing it on obsolete, orthodox lines, to wit: "that there is only a certain amount of work available, and work is the only claim to goods, therefore, the fewer workers the better." They should join with those who declare that the only bar to population is a country's failure to produce enough goods and services. As there is not the slightest indication in this country of such failure, there should be a united *demand* that these goods and services be made fully available to the population. When that is done, there will be no need for any sort of propaganda to lure people from overseas to these shores. They will come gladly enough of their own accord.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THIS PROSPERITY!

Sir,—Last Sunday, I heard the Rev. C. Irving Benson say from the Wesley Church pulpit, "We love the poor," and he went on to describe the crowd of miserable and shivering men who would be encountered by the congregation when leaving the church. One of those men has just called on me. He asked for work of any kind, and when I looked into his soft, brown eyes, I thought of a faithful, old cocker spaniel which once graced my domestic hearth. My caller had walked from Adelaide. The "jaunt" had occupied five weeks, during which time half his swag was stolen by folks in even worse case than himself. Drivers were afraid to give lifts since the Melbourne truck murder. Things were bad in Adelaide, but I will spare you the harrowing details. However, he had, he said, been to the Central Mission for shoes, but was told the calls for such things were *so incessant* that there was nothing suitable in stock, so a secondhand dealer obliged for 2/6, and I leave the state of the "bargain" to your own imagination. Suffice it to say, that the wearer's feet were quite wet, and a pair of shoes I had intended to burn were received with joy. My caller was righteously indignant about the "charity" work of religious bodies, and asked *why* he should be separated from his wife and kiddie, and be forced to drift aimlessly about the continent in search of the ever-elusive *work*. His comments made me wonder whether it would not be better to display *absolute hatred* towards the poor, a hatred which would ensure their being banished from our midst forever. Love, apparently, likes them so much that it would hold them to us for ever in patronage and charity, while deploring the bits of tin and mutilated coins which find their way into the collection-box. When all money is symbolic of our innate usefulness to society, a person like my caller will not have to ask, "Would you advise me to walk on to Sydney and see if things are better there?" but will abide at home, and, I hope, go to church to count his blessings, instead of standing without its portals as one of the "cold and miserable," described from the pulpit.

Kew, Victoria.

WESLEY CHURCH, MELBOURNE

Sir,—Mr. Bruce Brown has given particulars of the number of times prominent members of the U.A.P. Party had the opportunity to speak from the Wesley Church pulpit at the Pleasant Sunday Afternoons.

It seems to me, Mr. Editor, that the correct thing to do is for the people to let the Broadcasting Commission realise in no uncertain way that numerous people object to this "political propaganda." And,

anyhow it's time we had a change, as this kind of propaganda put over as a "Pleasant Sunday Afternoon's Entertainment" is an insult to the intelligence of the people who are able to think for themselves.

I have often wondered why we have had to be content with this entertainment every Sunday, a little variety would help.

"DEMOCRAT."

Sunshine, Vic.

THE OXFORD GROUP

Sir,—As an infrequent reader of your very excellent journal, I have noted with interest that quite a number of letters and articles deal with a movement which, over the last three years, has been *the* driving force in my life—The Oxford Group.

The manner in which this movement has been dealt with has, I am sure, given many of your subscribers the idea that the Oxford Group is some sort of organisation which aims at obtaining political power, or, at any rate, mixes religion with politics. This is definitely not so. A large number of men and women in over fifty countries of the world have rediscovered, and are rediscovering, that God is a vital factor in their personal lives. This has caused them drastically to face up to and deal with sin in themselves, and the results have been so astoundingly effective that they have caught a vision of what the world would be like if *every* man were to put his life under God's control. This includes, of course, the high financiers and politicians, etc., who get such a rough time in your columns.

The Oxford Group, sir, is a movement which answers a resounding *yes* to the question, "Has God any place in the personal life of a man or woman today?" and can prove it by the large number (myself included) ready to give detailed witness to the fact. But I do agree that for those in high places who misuse their power and refuse this challenge, other means must be found to deal with them.

IAN MARKS.

Elwood, Vic.

(Continued from page 3.)

course, perversely refusing to eat as much as they should, and not because of their poverty!

(5) When growers of apples endeavour to persuade people that eating apples improves their figures, while any decent apple, costing one penny each, is far too costly an article of diet for the average family?

(6) And last, but not least, when even England cannot pay her debts, is it not time for us as a nation to get rid of this debt complex and control our own credit issues, so that we can really have a decently high standard of living, making items of news such as are here detailed impossible?

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 8.)

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DEBATE

"Should Australia Boycott Japanese Goods?"

Affirmative:

YOUNG COMMUNIST CLUB.

Negative:

U.E.A. YOUTH SECTION.

TEMPERANCE HALL.

Sunday, July 24, 8. p.m.

This important debate will be open to the public. All supporters and friends are asked to attend.

ARCHBISHOP HEAD, "PATRIOTISM" AND "THE AUSTRALIAN CHURCHMAN"

(Continued from page 5.)

"We sincerely regret that the purport of our comments on current affairs has been so misunderstood as to have brought on us the censure of one so highly respected and esteemed as his Grace.

"We thought it would have been obvious from the context that the words, 'That old devil, Patriotism,' referred to the kind of Patriotism in the year referred to (1914), which taught us to hate our enemies, to put our trust in 'reeking tube and iron shard,' and to fear and distrust any good outside the boundaries of our own nation, Empire and allies. Of such 'national patriotism,' one of its greatest martyrs confessed with her dying breath - 'Patriotism is not enough.' What nationalism of that kind leads to, the history of Japan, Germany and Italy afford abundant illustration.

"We sincerely regret that we did not use greater care in de-

THIS WEEK'S GEM

Getting Away With It

SYDNEY, Sunday. — "Join the U.A.P. and see the world." So said the Prime Minister (Mr. Lyons) at a commercial travellers' dinner last night.

"Since January I have travelled 20,000 miles, and when I visit Queensland soon I will add to it another 5000 miles," he said. "I have travelled 300,000 miles since I became Prime Minister without overseas trips.

"We politicians go out on the roads and it's marvellous how we get away with it. Some of us come back after a bit of a campaign with the order book filled, and then the problem arises how to deliver the goods."

—Melbourne "Sun," July 4.

fining what kind of Patriotism deserves the strictures in the article referred to. For Patriotism as pure and sincere love of one's country, we have nothing but praise, so long as we view our country, not as an end, but a means whereby we and all the nations of the earth may be blessed. That wider love does not exclude these deep loyalties to Church and nation, and also it is by the same motive of love that all within the nation will receive the justice and mercy for which we feel bound to contend." Under the heading "Facts," there also appeared a statement of policy by the Board of Man-

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

VICTORIA

ERIC BUTLER addressed the North Richmond Church of Christ Fellowship on Sunday evening last, and a very attentive audience, comprised mostly of young people, listened with visible appreciation to the idea of pressure politics as opposed to party politics. Several of the audience intimated that they would like a further public meeting at which Dr. Dale and Eric would be asked to speak.

KOOYONG CAMPAIGN.—The executive met on Tuesday night, and arrangements for the Kew meeting are progressing very satisfactorily. Will all supporters in Kew, who can, and will, give a hand with this meeting, immediately get in touch with Headquarters.

YOUTH SECTION. — The last meeting of the Youth Section resulted in a detailed programme being drawn up in order to interest young people in the movement. Various executives were appointed, and we understand that big results will be forthcoming in the immediate future.

The Brighton youth are doing some very excellent work, and, at a group meeting on Tuesday night, obtained several new recruits. All young people at Brighton are asked to be present at a youth meeting in the Nepean Hall on Tuesday, July 26. This is very important.

A discussion was held on the Kooyong Campaign, and it was decided to help in all possible ways to make the next meeting at Kew a success. It was also decided that the U.E.A. Youth Section have a representative on the platform to make a special appeal to the youth in the audience. This task was delegated to Miss J. Robinson.

ESSAY COMPETITION.—This competition was won by Mr. P. T. Toomey, of Kingaroy, Queensland. Prize money will be forwarded during the next seven days. Owing to pressure on space it was impossible to publish the essay.

DEBATES.—The next meeting of the Youth Section of the U.E.A. will take the form of a

agement (printed at their request). It concluded as follows: "On the receipt of the Archbishop's letter, the Hon. Editor forwarded his resignation to the Board. This resignation has not been accepted, as the Board entirely endorses his policy, that of putting first things first, the removal of unsocial injustice in the community, which was the subject, matter of the article in question, 'Steady, Boys, Steady.'"

"F. H. GAUNSON, Hon. Chairman, For the Board of Management, "Australian Churchman."

debate at the Central Hall on Monday, July 11. All the young people of the movement are urged to be present. General public will also be admitted. Title of debate is: "Is the U.E.A. demand form a suitable basis for an Australian Campaign for Abolition of Poverty?" Eric Butler will represent the U.E.A. Youth Section, while a representative from the National Money League will take the negative.

Attention is also drawn to the very important team debate between the Youth Section of the U.E.A. and the Young Communist Club, on Sunday evening, July 24. Title of debate: "Should Australia Boycott Japan?" The negative case will be taken by the U.E.A. All are urged to be present in order to hear this very important question debated. The debate will be held at the Temperance Hall.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

WOMEN'S DIVISION.—On Wednesday, July 13, the Women's Study Group will meet and again delve into "Dividends for all."

At the fortnightly luncheon on Wednesday last Mr. Curnow gave an interesting talk on the newly formed "Society Working for a Christian Social Order,"

In a recent issue of *The Week* it was stated that there is a growing anxiety regarding the plans made by a great Continental nation for bacteriological warfare:

"The third type of bacteriological war, that is to say, the production of diseases in cattle with the object of endangering the enemy food situation and of decimating horses available for the army, has . . . in view of the swiftness with which foot-and-mouth disease spreads, the biggest possibilities, especially as in this method, the direct dissemination of bacteria cultures by means of aeroplanes might well prove successful.

"In this case, too, only a carefully prepared veterinary organisation, equipped to deal with all conceivable emergencies, is suitable—and it must be one which does not wait for the actual outbreak of war to provide itself with the necessary means of defence."

which was much appreciated by those present.

The Division will be glad to hear from members who care to contribute to, or help at, the Convention tea on July 16.

VICTORIA AWAKE!

ACTION WANTED

The U.E.A. has now been in existence for eighteen months, and although the message of democracy has been permeating the public, the present trend of events points to the inevitable fact that unless greater action, with a capital "A," is undertaken on an organised basis within the immediate future we will be too late to avoid the depression which is developing. Without co-operative organisation we can do nothing—but, with it, we can achieve **RESULTS**.

WHAT WE HAVE TO DO

- (1) **Take the message of democracy into every corner of the State.**
- (2) **Make a continuous drive for an increased circulation of the "New Times."**
- (3) **Form a permanent group of the U.E.A. at every centre.**

Over the past eighteen months the work of ERIC BUTLER has undoubtedly been one of the outstanding factors in pioneering the Electoral Campaign in Victoria. As an individual, he has made personal sacrifices for the movement—and, for a mere boy, has shown a tenacity of purpose which should serve as an inspiration to those people who have been inclined to sit back and merely pay lip service. He has travelled thousands of miles per push-bike and motor-bike under all weather conditions, and has put forward the case for Economic Democracy at over 100 meetings. He is a master of his subject, and those who have heard him in recent months will agree that for his age he has developed into one of the most impressive orators heard for some time. In the past he had had to go out and see supporters himself, in many cases with a resultant waste of valuable time. In order to utilise his services to the utmost we urge all supporters who are prepared to assist in conducting an organised attack upon Victoria to IMMEDIATELY get in touch with Headquarters. We now feel that the time for organised action has arisen. What can YOU do?

You can send in your name and address and state whether you can arrange a meeting at any centre, make arrangements for Eric to interview leading citizens, address organisations, etc., There is plenty to do, and it is desirable to make arrangements well in advance. You have a speaker who is prepared to speak anywhere and at any time.

Are You Going to Use Him?

IF SO, ACT IMMEDIATELY

BACTERIOLOGICAL WARFARE

PROHIBITIONIST EVASIONS

The Issue Clarified

By a Special Correspondent.

Since some success has attended efforts made in certain quarters to obscure the true nature of the decision to be made at the Prohibition Poll on October 8, it seems desirable that all misunderstanding should be cleared up before discussion of the merits of the question.

Despite admissions by the "Left Wing" of the dry movement that the issue is, in fact, Prohibition, the "Right Wingers" are still repeating their declaration that what is sought is no more than "Wise Restriction." One may admire the skill with which these campaign tactics are being exploited to make a simultaneous appeal to the fanatical zeal of a minority and the easy-going tolerance of a larger more important group. Nevertheless, public opinion is more safely founded upon facts than upon evasions.

Study of the Licensing Act shows that the passage of "No-Licence" would be a mandatory decree by the electors for the cancellation of all licences at present held by manufacturers, importers, distributors and retailers for the lawful sale, under public control, of alcoholic liquors in whatsoever form and for whatsoever purposes throughout the entire State of Victoria. Abolition of facilities for legal sale must automatically involve cessation of manufacture. Not even the most vehement of "Dry" agitators has yet had the effrontery to suggest that the many thousands of reputable citizens of this State who have invested their capital, their brains, and their labour in its breweries, distilleries and wineries, would even for one moment consider continuation of production for distribution through channels outside the law. Such a sweeping measure of restriction can only be regarded as nothing less than Prohibition in its most extreme and most restrictive form.

It is possible to concede that Prohibition, under test, has never succeeded in prohibiting anything except legitimate trade—that, for the moment, is beside the point. But, even if, in the face of all reason, we were to agree that what we are asked to accept is no more than "wise restriction," the elector might well ask why the State should be plunged into the turmoil of a referendum poll. Why, indeed, should he be called to record, under compulsion, his opinion on a matter which, according to current Prohibitionist reasoning, is of such little moment? Why, again he may wonder, should this one industry, which already submits to restrictions infinitely more severe than does any other, be the subject (at its own expense, be it noted) of special reference to the electorate. The explanation is simple in the extreme. In view of the tragic and dismal failure of Prohibition overseas, and in view of the host of evil associations which cling to its name, the candid admission by its sponsors that what they are out to achieve is the counterpart of the discredited American "Dry" regime would in itself be sufficient to invite ignominious defeat.

The case for the retention of the present system of public control will be examined later. For the present it must suffice to point out that a vote for "NO" on October 8 means a vote against Prohibition, No amount of Prohibitionist logic-chopping can alter the fact that this is the sole issue. — [Adv't.]

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