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THE NEW TIMES

NO X
October 8
—Adv.

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. 30.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, JULY 29, 1938,

Every Friday, 3d.

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(Continued on page 3.)

White-Anting Our Liberty

The rights of property owners, ratepayers and citizens of the City of Melbourne are to be guarded by a newly-formed body called the Melbourne Citizens' Rights Defence League. Evidently the Melbourne and Geelong Corporations Bill, at present before Parliament, has been the reason for the formation of this league, as pamphlets dealing with the iniquities of this Bill have been issued under its auspices.

While there are possible objections to all new or proposed laws, it is not always that the personal interests of a sufficient number of people are affected to such an extent that the formation of a protective league results. In this case, the Melbourne and Geelong Corporations Bill will tread on the corns of 8700 property owners, who will be disfranchised if the Bill becomes law. They appear unwilling to undergo this painful operation without resisting, and, therefore, the league came into being.

It would not be difficult to find fault with certain of the leaflets issued by the league, in particular with the "Fourteen Points for Property Owners, Ratepayers and Citizens." For example, Point No. 8, which stresses in black type that any person paying only 11/- a week will be qualified for election as a councillor, if the Bill is passed, seems to be a reasonably vulnerable spot. Ordinarily, the property qualification is an annual rating of £50 or the ownership of real and/or personal property to the value of £1000, either in one's own name or (ironically, no doubt) in the name of the wife. The ownership of material things should not qualify a person for election to an office of service of the people. At best it should not be a disqualification, but that view will not prevail until we have acquired a true sense of the relativity of values.

The Principle of Association

The foregoing criticism is simply by the way, for we are inclined to approve of the league, not for its objectives, but for its existence and the spirit of association for the furtherance of an end, which gave rise to its formation. The principle is a good one; and if we, as citizens, could form the habit of ready association for the defence of rights or privileges when they are in danger of attack, we would probably acquire a degree of immunity from attack in the future.

This is, after all, the most elementary form of self-protective device, and can be seen in wild life of almost all kinds. It is one aspect of the herd instinct, where all members of the herd huddle together under the impression—and a perfectly justified one—that in union there is strength and protection for all.

Widen the Scope

Important as property rights may be in the eyes of those who possess property of an appreciable amount, there are personal rights which need to be jealously guarded if we are to retain the degree of freedom of thought and action which we once had, but are in the course of gradually losing. For that reason we would suggest to the Melbourne Citizens' Rights Defence League that they should not disband if and when they have finished dealing with the particular purpose for which they came into association.

There is a definite need for the existence of some body to undertake the task of scrutinising all legislation as it is proposed, and of making a concerted and vigorous objection to words or clauses which may mean arbitrary or unjustified curtailment of existing rights or privileges of the people.

The New Despotism

That such a body is necessary is not merely our own opinion, but is the opinion held by so eminent a person as Lord Hewart of Bury, Chief Justice of

England. In his admirable book, "The New Despotism," published in 1929, he struck a note of warning in regard to the tendency to give legislative powers to administrative officers, and to confer upon such officers powers of adjudication, without any appeal therefrom to our courts of law. In this tendency he sees the hand of a powerful and organised minority—the public service—applied to the production of "a despotic power which, at one and the same time, places Government departments above the sovereignty of Parliament and beyond the jurisdiction of the courts."

Self-Government Undermined

To many people it may seem that the importance of this tendency is rather over-rated; but this is what Lord Hewart says:—"It is not merely that in this instance Parliament is being out-manoeuvred, or that in that instance the Courts have been defied. It is that the whole scheme of self-government is being undermined, and that, too, in a way which no self-respecting people, if they were aware of the facts, would for a moment tolerate. . . . Much toil, and not a little blood, have been spent in bringing slowly into being a polity wherein the people make their laws, and independent judges administer them. If that edifice is to be overthrown, let the overthrow be accomplished openly. Never let it be said that liberty and justice, having with difficulty been won, were suffered to be abstracted or impaired in a fit of absence of mind."

Examples of this white-anting of our self-government can be readily found in our own laws in Australia. There is also noticeable a strong tendency to extend the process. Wide powers are given to public officials, powers far wider than it is prudent that they should have, and which open up intolerable avenues to corruption if they come into the wrong hands. If any demur is made to the conferring of such powers, when proposed legislation is being discussed in Parliament, the customary reply is that the officers who are to wield those powers can be trusted to be honest and judicious in their use. Even where these officers remain subject to control by the Courts, the principle is definitely wrong, and the tendency should be checked. The boot is clearly on the wrong foot when we are made to suffer inconvenience and expense in order to defend ourselves from encroachments upon our privileges and rights, especially when those encroachments should never have been made possible. Of course, when any appeal to our Courts has been denied us in the matter, the state of affairs is much worse.

The Case of Unlawful Possession

An instance recently before our Courts is the provision of Section 40 of the Police Offences Act, which says:—"Every person having in his actual possession or conveying in any manner any personal property whatsoever suspected of having been stolen or unlawfully obtained may be arrested. . . . If such person does not, in the opinion of the Court, give a satisfactory account as to how he came by such property he shall be liable to be imprisoned for a term of not more than twelve months."

His Honour Judge Stretton, when dealing with a case under that section, said that he did not see how anyone could successfully defend a prosecution of that nature. Look at any article in your own home and realise the awful truth. A police officer may select it of having been stolen or unlawfully obtained, and you will be forced, at your peril, to satisfy the Court that you acquired it in a legitimate way. Consider how many things you possess for which you can account only in the vaguest and flimsiest way. "I bought it a long

time ago at an auction sale." "I bought it at an antique shop in Ballarat fifteen years ago." "My friend, Jim Smith, gave it to me last year, but he has gone to England now." Do you think that these are "satisfactory accounts" of how you came by them? Have you still got the receipts for everything you have ever bought, or do you think the seller will remember having sold them to you? You may rest assured that these explanations, although perfectly true, are entirely inadequate, and are precisely similar to the sort of explanation given by persons to account for things they have stolen or received dishonestly. So long as Section 40 of the Police Offences Act remains in its present form, the threat of twelve months imprisonment hangs over each and every one of us for being in possession of things legitimately acquired, but the lawful possession of which we are unable to prove!

It is idle to say that this section is used only against known or reputed thieves or receivers. It can be used against you to your detriment, and such a section would never have been made law if your legislators had realised its full purpose. Supposing you were charged under the section and succeeded in obtaining an acquittal, your enemies, and we all have them, would say that you had had a lucky escape, and some of the mud would stick.

Suggested Remedies

The above instance is only one of many that could be cited. Legislation of that and similar kinds creeps into the Statute Book unperceived. The common practice is for the Department of the Public Service which is designed to administer a proposed Act to assume the responsibility of drafting or approving the form of the Act before it is presented to Parliament. The Minister in charge of the Department advises Parliament that the Bill has been approved by those who will have to administer it. Neither he nor the other members have the ability, the time, or the inclination to scrutinise it for clauses or words that are obnoxious, and without demur, and without delay (much) the Bill is passed and becomes law. It is only when the interests of a large section of the community are threatened, as in the case of the Melbourne and Geelong Corporations Bill, that any sort of vigilance is exercised either in or out of Parliament.

Lord Hewart suggests that there should be formed in each House of Parliament a Committee, not too large, "whose sole task it should be to examine every Bill, as it is introduced, for the purpose of observing whether and in what respects its provisions may have the

effect of increasing the power of bureaucracy, and whether and by what contrivance that power is to be made irresponsible." We would go even further, and increase the scope of the Committees to include the duty of considering every proposed curtailment of the liberty of the subject in any form whatever, of opposing it unless it is shown to be vitally necessary, and of limiting it to the irreducible minimum if it is found to be necessary.

The Chief Justice suggests also, "that some, at least, of the leading newspapers should regard it as one of the appointed duties of some able member of the editorial staff, not occasionally or at the suggestion of another, but regularly and as a matter of course, to subject every new Bill to a similar examination. If the Bill contains the ingredient which it is desired to detect, to expose, and to destroy, well-timed publicity and well-directed opposition should effect their purpose." With this we heartily and respectfully concur.

A Further Suggestion

In default of Committees being formed in Parliament, or some of our leading newspapers taking the action which Lord Hewart suggests, it should be possible to use existing organisations to achieve the same end. Indeed, it seems that this would be preferable, as we have little faith in the ability of our present members of Parliament to form a satisfactory vigilance committee, and less in the public spirit of our newspapers. It would be a full time job for one man to scrutinise each Bill in the Victorian and Federal Parliaments. His researches would produce little in the way of news, and would increase the overhead of the paper. We have not yet reached the millennium.

The Melbourne Citizens Rights Defence League could, if it would, carry out the function proposed by Lord Hewart; and if the work involved were spread out over a number of watchdogs, it would not become too onerous. In the ranks of our professional men of all kinds there are surely some with sufficient altruism to give their assistance when desired in matters which come within their particular province. They could be co-opted, and a competent body would be in existence ready to safeguard, as far as possible, by their vigilance, such personal liberty as we still retain.

We offer this suggestion seriously, saying nothing further than this that we are at a critical stage in the history of self-government. There is in the world a strong body of opinion opposed to the personal freedom of the individual. If we wish to retain that personal freedom we must take some active steps to prevent it from being whittled away.

TO OUR READERS—

You may obtain your copy of "THE NEW TIMES" from any authorised newsagent. Should your agent not have supplies, please ask him to communicate direct with New Times Ltd., Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne, C.I. (phone M 5384).

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GAUNTLET

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 to-day.

In our last five 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 ten Open Letters. We now present the eleventh and twelfth (last two) Open Letters.

THE REALITY OF TRUTH

To the Editor of the "Irish Press."

There is a brand of truth, I make bold to suggest, in which you specialise, to the exclusion of its other forms and manifestations. You seek it in what is called "news." There are admittedly, shades of colour—even in shirts, in which article of dress there is no accounting for tastes—and it may be that truth has its tones and its varieties. It is difficult to distinguish colour accurately through tinted spectacles, and it is far from easy to discern truth through glasses smoked in the times of politics.

One ray of truth there is that have, I think, found too dazzling, if not blinding. Yet, it has penetrated your smoked glasses, if not your columns. I refer to the fact of financial domination of the nation and its people, for whom you claim to speak, by a private and alien money power, the same economic domination which his Holiness the Pope has placed within the sphere of "news" by entreating Christendom to grapple with it, and by declaring to Christendom the truth concerning it. Yet your columns remain curiously

closed to this item of "truth in the news." In this matter of vital import to the life of our people your sense, not only of truth, but of news value, is far from acute.

Many problems, to which you can find no remedy, fill your pages, and make depressing reading. There is but one problem at the root of them all; its solution is known and is simple; its solution is the key to the solution of them all. What is thwarting government—national, municipal and urban alike—in their effort to solve the unemployment problem? Finance. What is holding up the slum clearance problem, the land settlement problem, the afforestation problem, the tillage problem, the transport problem, the industrial development problem, the Gaeltacht problem? It is finance in every case. The truth is the money problem is behind them all, below them all, above them all. This is a truth that demands streamer headlines in your columns, for it is a national of intimate concern to all your readers. Your readers are learning the truth through other channels.

The story is told of a youth who set out with a bow and a quiverful of arrows to seek a bird that is called Truth, a white and beautiful bird whose mighty

wings bear it far above earth; above even the clouds that close earth's vision. Following a distant gleam of snowy wings, the youth toiled up a steep mountain side, up and ever up, catching now and again a fair glimpse of white in the blue above him. Beyond the last verdure, through the tract of barren boulders, into the region of eternal snows he toiled, and, at last, sank down exhausted on the topmost peak. As he lay he gazed upwards, and far in the blue heavens he descried the gleaming bird of Truth. Feebly he drew an arrow from his quiver and tried to bend his bow, but his mortal strength was spent. As he lay with half-closed eyes and failing breath, a white speck came fluttering down towards him and fell upon his breast. It was a feather!

No; I do not think the mountain in the fable has any semblance to political aspiration. I think the political path leads through a bog. And in that morass it is easy to miss even a feather of the reality of truth.

THE REALITY OF DANGER

To the Editor of the "Irish Independent."

Some little time ago you expressed alarm in a leading article, under the title, "Credit Reform and Its Dangers," and I then ventured to address to you a letter which did not receive publicity in your columns. Although it met with hospitality in the pages of several weekly papers of repute, I make so bold as to repeat it herein. This is what I wrote:

"Credit Reform and Its Dangers."

In your leading article of the 21st September, under this heading, I cannot find the slightest indication of the dangers you fear. What are these dire calamities at which you vaguely hint? Are you sure you have not seen a ghost? If it be merely that terror of the dark, so natural to childish ignorance and innocence, one might try to be soothing. There, there; the "good people" won't let bogeyman hurt banker's pet.

Go to sleep again, and Mr. Montagu Norman, foreign nursemaid of Irish credit, won't let bad credit reformers frighten baby "Irish Independent."

If your object be to scare the Irish people into continued endurance of poverty and privation in the midst of their own plenty, may I say with all deference that the Irish people are growing wise to the reality of this plenty, and to the way of escape from the fictitious poverty imposed upon them by the bankers' bluff, under the pontifical dictatorship of the foreign financial nursemaid. This plenty is a fact that does not depend upon any "theory" of Major Douglas or of Professor Soddy; nor can it be argued out of existence by any subtleties of Mr. Henry Somerville. Who is Mr. Somerville that he should suddenly be proclaimed a leader of the Irish people? The abundant produce of Irish labour upon Irish land can be made available for the people of Ireland without the aid of Douglas or Soddy; in spite of the opposition of Somerville; and in pity of the ghostly nocturnal terrors of the "Irish Independent."

* * *

In making so bold as to offer you this comfort once more for what it is worth, I should like to add a word of counsel. The reality of danger lies in hunger. The cry of a people for bread is the last danger signal. A hungry host, armed with the madness of hunger, stormed the Bastille—impregnable to any but a most desperate assault. Kings, emperors, princes, governors, rulers, under whatever name, have eaten the dust because their people have not eaten their fill of bread. No social regime can continue if it fails to provide, at least, for the basic needs of its people's life.

Starvation is dangerous, even when scarcity is the cause, as history clearly demonstrates with, almost tedious reiteration. How much more deadly is the danger when tangible abundance changes starvation from a regrettable social accident into a ghastly national crime. They well may tremble who would stand between a hungry people and the God-given harvest of their labour upon the land that God gave them.

If you could but realise that life is more than newsprint, it would help you to understand that God's life-giving fruits of the earth are more than bankers' tickets, and that the supreme danger lies in a policy that threatens life.

HOW TO SUCCEED AS A PROFESSIONAL ECONOMIST

"Unpleasantly aware that the infusion of a little genuine scientific knowledge would compel them to undertake researches for which they lack both requisite training and social inclination, orthodox economists have adroitly entrenched themselves behind a barrage of paradox which, when stripped of rhetoric, reads like this: "

- (i) Wealth is what you have and the man next door has not;
- (ii) if he had it, what you have would not be wealth;
- (iii) hence there can be no wealth without scarcity!
- (iv) since there cannot be scarcity if there is plenty, there cannot be plenty if there is wealth;
- (v) if there were no wealth, there would be no economics;
- (vi) but since there is economics, there cannot be plenty."

--The Retreat from Reason, by Lancelot Hogben. Watts & Co., London; 1/-

OPEN LETTER TO A RADIO MAGNATE

Sir Ernest Fisk, Chairman, Amalgamated Wireless.

Dear Sir Ernest, —

The daily press (and everyone knows how accurate that is) reports you as having stated in an address about radio that "all its uses have been for the benefit of mankind."

Now it is undoubted that this statement has much to support it. For instance, one of the greatest of modern benefits, as the late G. K. Chesterton has said, is that of being able to turn the wireless off. But as for television, its really beneficial possibilities are as yet largely unexplored. May we suggest some future programmes?

For instance, Programme One: Mr. R. G. Casey (now known as Dick the Doctor-Destroyer) introducing his new Insurance Bill. (It used to be called the Unemployment Insurance Bill, but that was just to make it harder, and lead people to think it was really to help the unemployed and not to knock the lodges and doctors, and make people pay for old-age pensions when they haven't enough money to live on, and so will die young anyway.)

Dick will make rather an attractive figure over the televisor, with his beautifully-groomed body, that has never been cared for by overworked doctors at eleven bob per year. But one can imagine the kiddies, who have been brought in to see and listen to this great Australian, asking: "What is that nasty bulge, daddy?" and being answered: "That my boy, is the gentleman's tongue in his cheek."

It would be a good idea also to give a brief account of this dark man from across the water. How he left this sunny land when he was very young, and mightn't have come back at all if the financiers hadn't needed him; how he was popped

into his Corio Special scat; and, finally, how he'll go back to his spiritual home, after all his taxation, leaving us (as befits a Cambridge man) very light and very blue.

Or, how about Programme Two: A televised picture of how our national finance is really arranged? See our citizens crawling to the local offices of international finance (humorously called Australian banks, which, incidentally, work under charters which any Government could revoke tomorrow), in order to be allowed to use the credit of the Australian people. We could have another scene, too, showing the chief of them all, the private pawn-office, miscalled the Bank of England, but here we couldn't have any dialogue, as some of the directors—Germans, Americans and others—are not subjects of the King, and so are unfamiliar with his English.

You mentioned also, Sir Ernest that "so far nobody has ever succeeded in producing any sort of a death-ray." But there's no need. The financial system is quite effectively strangling the people of Australia. (You will note here the charming, moral regulation our patriotic financiers have: that no bank clerk may get married without their permission. Isn't it nice to feel that one lives in a free, democratic State, and that there's no such thing as a regulation against public policy?)

Please understand, Sir Ernest, that we don't blame you and your wireless for all this. You and the rest of Australia's citizens are equally to blame for permitting these foul abuses to continue. And some day, when Australians rise in their wrath as Dirk Casey is broadcasting some further proposal to turn Australia, once the envy of the world for its liberty and democracy into a servile State, and the road-metal begins to rattle on the studio roof, you can clear yourself by showing them this copy of—

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(Continued from page 2.)

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(Continued on page 7)

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FRIDAY, JULY 29, 1938.

Villers-Bretonneux

In solemn mood King George VI. unveiled, at Villers-Bretonneux on Friday last, the monument erected to the memory of the Australian Imperial Forces in France and Flanders. In a dignified and impressive speech, his Majesty spoke of Australia's part in the war, and in particular the recapture of the town in 1918. Of this operation he said: "This ridge on which we stand surveys those hard-fought actions, and the monument which crowns it will commemorate them for all time. Its very surroundings are emblematic of the comradeship which is the watchword of the British Empire, for it looks down on a hallowed field, beneath whose soil consecrated to God and their glorious memory, lie men who came from every corner of the earth to fight for ideals common to that whole Empire."

Twenty years have gone by since that exploit, and we should ask ourselves whether, in that twenty years, we have come appreciably nearer to the realisation of those ideals. Is this solemn ceremony, to be just one more among the many of the past, held in all seriousness and sincerity as they were, and like them soon to be forgotten? In every country there are similar monuments commemorating those who died, believing that the sacrifice of all that they had to give would have some permanent and lasting result. Has not time shown that their sacrifice has been of little or no avail? Who now remembers, except in the most casual way, the men and women who died in past wars, stretching back through the centuries to Him who died upon the Cross, that we might be saved? And His sacrifice—do we not now, almost all of us, remember it in a perfunctory manner, with no true inward determination to see that it shall not be in vain?

Look upon the political situations in Europe, in Asia, in Africa, and acknowledge that we have done little or nothing to secure peace on earth; that goodwill towards men is the one sentiment that we seem deliberately to have discouraged in our dealings with others. Is it not true that, as Eric Linklater says, in his latest book: "Many, in a wistful, undecided

way, would have liked to be regarded as Christians, and even to practise Christianity, had it been less inconvenient. Great Britain, indeed, unlike some of its more logical competitors, remained officially a Christian country, and pledged in the person of its Monarch to defend the Faith. But the necessary values of a great imperialist Power were so clearly inconsistent with the values of Christianity that the latter could not be taken too seriously or interpreted too accurately. It was a pity, for so many thought well of it, and clung tenaciously to any parts of its teaching which did not interfere with business or their social relations."

It is not too late to do something about it! If every human being who professes Christianity were to make a resolve henceforth that in word, thought and deed he or she will follow Christian principles, war would be not only unthinkable but impossible. If every Church leader were to say, in the plainest of terms, to those whose spiritual guidance is in his charge, that war is un-Christian, and that those who take part in any future war must, and shall, be excluded from Christ's Church, then we might be said to have taken decisive steps towards the goal of "peace on earth."

In fact, it is imperative that this should be done. Otherwise, we may see again that horrible mockery of two belligerent forces, each boasting that God is upon its side, and each praying, with the aid of its chaplains, to the same God for victory because its cause is just.

A war memorial should be more than a means of remembering that there has been a war. Those who have lived through a war such as the last need no artificial aids to memory. There is that in their hearts and minds that not even time can erase. "Yet a war memorial has a use. It can be, and should be, a permanent reminder, a permanent reproach to civilised man that he should have so far forgotten spiritual teaching as to resort to force to solve difficulties which all our vaunted progress and development should have made solvable by reason and principle. It is by mental development that we have risen above the beasts, and it is a negation of all that civilisation stands for when we show that we are incapable of adjusting our personal and national differences, except by resort to the code of the jungle."

Unless this is realised, the Villers-Bretonneux memorial, unveiled with such pomp, ceremony and sincerity, will be, in effect, nothing but a man-made mass of metal and stone, disfiguring a green and sunny valley.

Mass Production of Crime

Judges, social workers and lawyers, by reason of their occupations, realise in a vague sort of way that there is some sort of connection between crime and economics. Others, whose attention is not especially directed towards the problem, are inclined to believe that the criminal is a particular anti-social type, like a "sport" in botany the reason for whose existence or development has not been exactly ascertained, but whose activities society must, in its own interests, curb. The notion of deterrent punish-

ishment must have been derived from some such reasoning, although it has also a basis in the desire of those aggrieved for some sort of retributive "justice."

The plain, fact of the matter is that society, as at present constituted, is almost entirely to blame for the crime that is in our midst, and that is constantly on the increase. In an age of mass production of goods, we mass-produce crime as well. This is especially noticeable in the increase of juvenile crime, which is so often falsely attributed to the baneful influence of the cinema. Every year we let loose upon the world a flood of youth, inspired to some extent with individuality, vision and initiative. If they can all be absorbed in industry, which is practically impossible, they are put into blind-alley occupations from which there is no prospect of escape and no demand whatever is made upon the priceless gifts of individuality which have been mainly instrumental in providing such progress as we have achieved in the past. It is the repression and constant stultification of the initiative of the individual which produces the young criminal, and for this society alone is to blame.

Unemployment, due to the increase of machine production, has a twofold aspect. Not only does the machine displace the manual worker, but even highly-specialised workers, such as accountants, are thrown into the street when calculating machines are installed. The machine draws no wages and displaces many who formerly did, and who, unemployed and disempowered, are unwilling to be thrown into the discard without a struggle. This struggle in many cases becomes a war against society, in which the individual strives to wrest from society what has been ruthlessly filched from him—the right to a decent existence, which is physically possible, but which is denied to him by the crazy rules under which society operates.

If it were only the manual worker who was displaced it would be possible to resist his depredations when he turns to crime as a means of living. But the machine is no respecter of persons, and among those whom it impoverishes are often highly-educated and gifted individuals. It is from these that are drawn the so-called "master-minds" of the criminal world, who cannot only plan a crime from the aspect of its commission, but also from the aspect of the avoidance of detection. It is not necessary to toy with the idea of the "perfect" crime. There are thousands of

BRUNO BARNABE ON THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

An Inspiring Address on Political Democracy

A large and enthusiastic audience listened with great interest to Mr. Bruno Barnabe, a member of the "Geoffrey and Margaret" Company, now appearing at the King's Theatre, speaking at a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon at the Victoria Palace last Sunday.

The lecture was delivered under the auspices of the Electoral Campaign for Economic Security (non-party political), and was entitled "The Keys to Freedom."

Although we have heard many presentations of the campaign, his address was refreshingly different to the usual type. Mr. Barnabe has a charming and somewhat unorthodox platform manner, and has the happy

skilful crimes committed which are never detected, and it needs only a reasonable degree of planning to make a career of crime both pleasant and profitable. If you don't believe this, take a look at the murders, robberies, burglaries and house-breakings which are reported, and compare them with the number in which a criminal is prosecuted to conviction.

Science has improved our police methods to such an extent that a higher degree of skill and care is required if the criminal wishes to escape the penalty of his crime. Science, however, has aided the criminal also; and, with more and more educated persons being forced into the criminal ranks, there has been an improvement not only in the quantity of crime, but in "quality." The lone wolf preying upon society has always presented a difficult problem to the police. When, as now, the lone wolves have become a pack in numbers, while still being lone in their operations, the problem becomes almost insurmountable, unless we are prepared to re-organise society upon a rational basis which will remove the necessity for a wholesale recourse to crime as a means of subsistence.

That is, of course, the obvious thing to do. We get the criminals we deserve; and it is worse than useless to try and stem by police and retributive "justice," a flood of crime let loose by our own stupidity in endeavouring to fit men into an out-of-date system, instead of fitting the system to them. If the uppermost level of the flood had been reached it would still be useless; but how can we adequately describe it when, by our own actions, the floodwaters are daily mounting?

knack of immediately making his audience feel at home.

Quoting the text, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath," Mr. Barnabe said that if that meant anything at all it meant that institution were made for man and not man for institutions. There was the perfect basis on which to build true democracy. He continued that democracy had never been tried, owing to the principle of the party system, which divided the people. The party system of government had to be swept away. The electors had to control their member and force him to take their orders. A majority of the people could always get what they wanted if they demanded it.

Mr. Barnabe gave some very interesting information about the Lower Rates Campaign in Britain. This campaign has demonstrated the value of the electoral campaign when applied to local government, and is educating the people on the true nature of democracy.

Moving a vote of thanks. Mr. Holloway, M.H.R., said he agreed with everything Mr. Barnabe had said. His life's work had showed him that reform could not be gained without the backing of a strong public opinion.

Those who missed Mr. Barnabe's address last Sunday will have the opportunity of hearing him at the Springvale Theatre Springvale, next Sunday after noon, July 31.

The *Age*, 13/7/38: "Central Banking." "Prof. Copland on Financial Art." The Professor said the "Art of Central Banking was still in the experimental stage." "Ultimate control of banking policy must rest with the Central Bank."

So, while the Central Banks are experimenting, the world has to suffer war, pestilence and famine and political turmoil. Since Germany annexed Austria, she automatically became the largest share holder in the Bank of International Settlements, the Central Bank of Central Banks, so her influence on world financial policy will be considerable. How long are Australians going to suffer from this sort of financial domination, and "Art"?

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THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AS THE KEY TO ECONOMIC REFORM

How To Get What We All Want

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

At various times the question has been raised by new or casual readers of this paper: "What is this Electoral Campaign?" This article sets out to answer the question as simply as possible and endeavours to show the tremendous advantages and power of the Campaign as compared with various movements advocating other types of action aimed at bringing about a saner state of society.

What Is Our Problem?

Before venturing to discuss economic reform it is obviously an essential prerequisite that we clarify the problem with which we are concerned. Sufficient evidence has been brought forward by this and various other reform journals throughout the world to prove beyond dispute that the only reason why this and other nations do not enjoy a much higher standard of living is the fact that a few private individuals, through the control of the money system, control not only individuals, but also the Governments which the individuals elect to office. No matter from what angle we look at our problem, we find that the only material thing we lack is sufficient purchasing-power or money in our combined pockets to buy all the wealth which we are able, willing and equipped to produce in such quantities as would provide a vastly higher standard of living for every person.

Our Governments also suffer from this same money shortage, and depend, as things are, for their very existence upon the private banking system, which regulates the supply of money. Only a few years ago vast numbers of people would have hotly denied that statement, but the true position is now admitted by most well-informed thinking people. Although some would seriously doubt the accuracy of including Mr. J. A. Lyons amongst the "thinking people," he has publicly admitted the true position. Speaking at the Adelaide Town Hall prior to the last Federal elections, he said: "The banks had confidence in my Government, and they allowed us to carry on." In this alleged democracy, wherein Section 51 of our Constitution Act gives the Federal Government the power to control the supply of money in the country, it must come as a rude shock to many people to hear of the Prime Minister admitting that his Government's ability to carry on depends upon the permission of private minority interests who are responsible to no man.

The foregoing brief outline of our problem is now admitted by an ever-increasing number of people—including reformers and non-reformers. On one side we have a vast and ever-increasing capacity to produce wealth, mainly brought about by the development of science, while on the other side we see a society suffering appalling private and national poverty owing to the lack of money with which to purchase the wealth. This lack of money, as pointed out, is due to the fact that the people, through their Governments, have no control of it. What we obviously want is an effective money-bridge for the gap between poverty and plenty. The failure of the existing political parties (with the same fate awaiting any other proposed party) is becoming obvious to all. And why?

Methods or Results?

Undoubtedly, the major reason why the party-system has failed to produce any worthwhile results is the fact that the parties have confused and divided the electors upon methods and matters of no importance. The plethora of reform groups arising over past decades have added to both the confusion and the division. It is

hard to conceive of anything more undemocratic than the present system of election, whereby the representatives of two or three political parties come before the electors at long intervals, when the electors are forced to pass judgment upon matters which they have had no say in drawing up, and which hardly any of them understand. The position is graphically summed up in the following way by a close friend of mine: "Once every three years these parties come before us. They offer the alternatives of (a) being boiled in oil, (b) being hanged, drawn and quartered; or (c) being shot at dawn. You are forced to make a choice, and when a majority have 'chosen' what seems to them the *least* of the three evils, we are loudly informed by those who support the *status quo* that that is what a majority of the people want! Nothing could be further from the truth. It is quite obvious that the people are given no opportunity to vote for what they want. In such a case they would certainly say that they did not want any of the three propositions, but would much prefer to live happily ever afterwards." It is in order to give them that opportunity that the Electoral Campaign exists—so that a majority of the electors can tell their member of Parliament what *THEY WANT*.

The people have been misled into believing that they must choose between all sorts of propositions—higher tariffs or lower tariffs, balancing the Budget or not balancing the Budget, and a host of other alternatives which are all alleged methods of getting the *ONE* result which everyone wants, broadly speaking: economic security at the highest level physically possible, plus individual liberty. Even supposing that it was the job of the elector to choose between offering methods, which it is *not*, what a task would confront him! The British Engineers' Study Guild has drawn up a summary of no less than twenty-five leading methods of reform which would improve the state of society. If electors as a whole are to be experts on methods, it is quite obvious that they will have to study the whole twenty-five schemes, and a majority will then have to agree as to which one would be the best! This position would be as farcical as if the public had been asked, when the State Electricity Commission started at Yallourn, to make a choice as to which were the best turbo-alternators, etc. offering. That this policy of confusing and dividing the electors upon methods is the declared policy of vested interests is shown clearly in the following extracts from the U.S.A. *Bankers' Magazine* of August 26, 1924: "By dividing the voters through the political party system we can get them to expend their energies in fighting for questions of no importance. It is by discreet action we can secure for ourselves that which we have so well planned and so successfully accomplished."

The Electoral Campaign overcomes this vital weakness by insisting that it is the job of the electors to cease arguing about methods, and to unite in demanding those results which we all know are both feasible and desirable. This campaign reverses the present procedure, wherein we have various groups coming before the people and telling them that this or that will be good for them.

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This democratic campaign offers a mechanism through which people can start demanding from Parliament that *WHICH THEY THINK WILL BE GOOD FOR THEMSELVES*. Whether it is good or bad for them is their own concern, it is *not* for anybody else to dictate what they desire. It is for them to express their own desires.

The Function of Parliament and Its Members

As to why Parliament exists, there appears to be the utmost confusion of thought amongst electors at the present time. The same applies to the members of Parliament; and, contrary to the true conception of democracy, Parliament has been so perverted from its proper function that we find it imposing its will upon the electors instead of the electors imposing their will upon it! In the Melbourne *Herald*, some few weeks ago, Walter Murdoch, in one of his delightful essays, compares Parliament with a gadget, and suggests that we immediately start to make use of it.

The original idea of Parliament was a meeting place for the populace, and possibly the nearest approach to this was the old Greek idea of a free, deliberative assembly. However, it is obviously ridiculous for several million Australians to meet at Canberra. We, therefore send along individuals to *re-present* our wishes and our desires—at least, that is the theory of government by the people; although, as we have seen, it is not an actuality at the present time.

Following the above line of reasoning, we see that the sole reason for a member of Parliament is purely functional. If his own opinions are contrary to those of his electors he must be prepared to advocate the views of his electors or resign. He is the *paid servant* (never forget it) of the people, and must realise that his job is to re-present the wishes of those who pay him, and press vigorously for their fulfilment.

However, if he is expected to re-present the demands of his electors, as distinct from the demands of a party, it is quite clear that *his electors* must inform him clearly what *result they want*, and also show that they are prepared to support him, irrespective of parties, *so long* as he presses in the House for that result. In other words, the people should frame their policy and the members of Parliament go to Parliament to re-present that policy and see that the necessary administrative machinery is put into operation, in order that that policy obtains. It must be clearly understood that it is no more the function of the politicians to be experts than it is the job of the people. There are existing experts whom Parliament must hold responsible for getting results. Failure of these experts to get results will mean their dismissal; failure of members to press for results will mean their removal also; while failure of the electors to press for results will hasten their removal, through poverty or war. The issue is, therefore, quite clear that, unless the electors can decide what they want and start to demand it, no steps for real reform are likely to be taken.

What the Electors Want and How to Demand It

As to what the electors want, sufficient has already been said to indicate that, fundamentally, a majority of the people want *the same thing*. They all want adequate food, clothing, housing, leisure, recreation and security. Unfortunately, they have been misled into believing that they want a host of things which are not results, but methods whose advocates claim would produce the desired results. The Electoral Campaign cuts across all these issues by offering the Demand and Undertaking Form, which, when signed by the requisite number in an electorate, is, in effect, a written demand from a majority of the electors to

A HOUSEWIFE'S DAY

Thoughts and Trials

PART 2.

By LEONORA POLKINGHORNE.

These thoughts of our housewife becoming rather depressing, she once more turns on the wireless, in the hope of hearing some bright music. A coarse voice is urging her to "whistle while she works," and she endures that for a while, wondering whether the whistling is to make her forget that she is working for nothing in isolation all day. She wonders, too, why there are so many songs that harp on this strain, "Keep on

their member. This demand is for one specific result—namely, sufficient additional purchasing power with which to buy their share of that production which is, for lack of buyers at a remunerative price, destroyed or artificially restricted. When a majority demand this result, and clearly indicate to their member that they will support him *just so long* as he presses for it—and will work to replace him should he fail or cease to do so—they will control their member! Unless the member is controlled by his electors in the manner indicated, it is mockery talking about democracy. However, members of Parliament know the power of the electors, and will quickly realise that their very political existence depends upon their re-presenting such a demand.

Democracy Can Become a Reality

Reviewing the foregoing, we find that, reduced to simple terms, the Electoral Campaign is a mechanism through which the electors can always get those results which they desire in common, providing that those results are physically possible. This campaign is government by the people for results. It is true democracy *in action*, which, when exerted, will not fail. Such a power abolished child labour, put an end to chattel slavery, secured political franchise for women, and is now being called upon once more, to end for all time that greatest of all tyrannies—*economic slavery*.

Whether this powerful key to security and liberty is going to be fully and quickly used is a question which can only be answered by each and every individual, in conjunction with his fellow-citizens. Nothing is more certain than the fact that, unless we realise the urgency of the present position and act in association, the present filching of our liberties and the decadence of civilisation is going to proceed apace. Are YOU going to act before it is too late? If you haven't yet assisted in this campaign, you may ask: "Is there really something I can do in my little corner of Australia?" Why, of course, there is! Drop a note to the *New Times* for further practical information (including the address of the nearest body of electors conducting the Campaign with whom you may be able to cooperate).

"The road to hell is paved. . ."

smiling," "look on the sunny side," "pack up your troubles in your old kit-bag," and even "cheer up, Cully, you'll soon be dead." Surely in this gay and beautiful world of Nature there should be no need to be always telling us things like that. It is just natural for human beings to be light-hearted and happy, and, if they are not, there is either something wrong with them, or *very wrong* with the conditions in which they live. She turns off the wireless, and thinks that it is a pity that so much that is definitely inferior comes to us over the air. Why? Because the public demands it? If so, why is our cultural standard so low? Can it be that long hours of ill-paid work, weariness, worry, and a gnawing sense of insecurity leave us with such small opportunities to develop our cultural life? And why must we work for long hours and have poverty and anxiety at this pinnacle and blossom of our material advancement?

The Postman!

She hears the postman's whistle and hurries out to the letterbox. There is nothing there but a "self denial appeal" from the Salvation Army. On the folder is a picture of a small black boy eating a bowl of soup, and on the other side two white boys doing the same thing. The printed matter urges her to contribute to the Salvation Army fund; to make some personal sacrifice in order that she may be able to do this. Once more she grows restive under the continual urge to do something to help the economic system to function. She begins to see that, for some reason, in spite of our large exportable "surplus" of foodstuffs, she is asked to help to do what our Governments have failed to do—feed our hungry children. Why must Governments send large quantities of wheat, fruit, sugar butter and eggs away to some foreign market where, owing to fierce competition, they are sold for what they can get, while thousands of our own children are in the direst need of all these things? And why, in that morning's paper was such satisfaction expressed at the prospect of a failure in the harvest of some other country? Why must we be glad when food stuffs threaten to be scarce? She puts the folder in the waste-paper basket, with the appeal from a city church mission for clothes, boots, or cash—mostly cash. This church runs a soup kitchen where the children of the district are given a two-course dinner every day. The clergyman and his wife are almost harassed to death trying to keep this going. It is all very hard to understand, for she is always reading leading articles in the daily press that assure all of us what a fine, free, prosperous country we live in, and how willing we ought to be to go to war to protect it.

(Continued on page 7.)

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DETHRIDGE AND HIS "MAY BE" Sheer Robbery Under the Guise of " Depression"

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H. BROWN.

Sir,—There is abundant support for the warning issued by the U.E.A. three weeks ago that unless we bestir ourselves we will be too late to escape the depression which is developing. Chief Judge Dethridge, of the Arbitration Court, said we "may" have a depression "in a year or two," but it has already been shown that it is definitely more than a possibility. As a matter of cold fact, the banks have actually put into action the policy which leads to depression.

More Expected

We saw last week how the Stock Exchanges have been subjected to "heavy selling pressure," and how this pressure is exerted by the financial institutions; also how values are simultaneously "marked down" in several counties in harmony with this selling pressure. We saw that the bankers in Australia have already decided upon an increase in the bank rate, and the calling in of overdrafts. This was confirmed by a warning issued by the Victorian Chamber of Manufactures, in which attention was called to the fact that there are definite signs of a recession in industry, and that we must expect more. We finished on the reassuring note that "there is a growing feeling in England that prosperity is ending."

Diverting Attention

Frantic efforts are being made by bankers and their spokesmen to divert attention from themselves and what they are doing. Sir Alfred Davidson, of the Bank of New South Wales, has gone so far as to say that the policy of the banks has been governed by proposals to give legislative effect to some of the recommendations of Monetary and Banking Commission. He said this: "A drastic reduction in advances, with resulting decline in business activity, incomes, and employment, would be the inevitable consequence of the proposed Federal legislation." This is precisely what did happen in 1929 and 1930, but the blame was not laid on proposed legislation. On that occasion it was the arrival of an economic blizzard!

Protection for the Community Objected to

And what is this proposed legislation? It is the suggestion that the Commonwealth Government should adopt the recommendation of the Banking Commission that private banks should keep a percentage of their deposit liabilities to the public, in the form of a cash deposit, with the Commonwealth Bank. In other words, that there should be greater protection for the members of the public who entrust the private banks with their money. It is not generally known that at the present moment the banks could pay us only about a shilling in the pound of the deposits we have with them. The rest of the deposits are only entries in books. What a cheek it would be for the Government to require banks to be something like they claim to be—the "custodians of the people's savings"! And how convenient it is to have such a suggestion to fall back on as an excuse for the barefaced robbery these knighted gentlemen are trying to perpetrate. Indeed, they give it as a reason for the robbery.

An Adelaide Knight

Sir Howard Lloyd, of the Bank of Adelaide, has repeated similar nonsense to that uttered by Sir

Alfred Davidson, and a press campaign is being conducted to make it appear that the depression which the banks are precipitating is the result of meddling attempts on the part of a sovereign Government to bring about banking reforms. These unconscionable people have actually threatened the Government that if they do introduce the legislation referred to the people as a whole will be made to suffer for it. Hitherto we have permitted that sort of thing to go unchallenged, but, fortunately, the community is awakening, and there is a much wider interest in the subject of finance than was the case in 1929 and 1930. The real enemies of society—the credit controllers who figure so frequently on the "Honours" List -- are gradually being unmasked.

Proposed Legislation Will Make No Difference

But whether the Federal Government goes on with the proposed legislation or not, there will still be a decline in business activity, in the people's incomes, and in the employment figures, unless we get together and insist that immediate action be taken by the Federal Government to prevent it.

What is the cause of that "growing feeling in England that prosperity is ending"? There is no need to discuss what is meant by the word "prosperity." We all have our own ideas about that. The important point is that conditions are definitely changing for the worse. Our woolgrowers, for example, have received in this last year £16,000,000 less than they received the previous year. If they received sixteen millions less, then obvious that they have sixteen millions less to spend. In a sense, it serves them right, for no section of the community more foolishly sticks to the ideas of what is called "sound finance," and the loss of their income is an inevitable result of the application of the insane principles of their beloved "sane" finance.

Apart from the woolgrowers, other exporters of Australian production have for more than a year seen prices steadily fall until the position became exceedingly serious for them. This is a repetition of what happened in 1929, and means that primary producers in general have millions less available for spending than was the case last year.

An Ominous Trend

This, in turn, leads to serious difficulties in connection with our debts in London. The year before last we received for our exports £26,755,000 more than we had to pay for our imports, which enabled us to meet our commitments and have a little to spare. Last year, however, we received only £516,000 more than we had to pay for imports, with the result that we would have been obliged to default on our interest payments had we not had some accumulated funds and been willing to go further into debt. Even after allowing for the borrowing of £5½ millions, and the transfer for "investment" of another £11 millions, we went back to the tune of more than six millions!

Same as 1929

The only difference between the present conditions and the conditions in 1929 is that in the year 1929 the private financiers of London shut down completely on the Australian Government and refused to make any funds available at all. In the present year the Government has not yet been subjected to that treatment, had has, therefore, been able to continue imports on an unprecedented scale, and thus to collect record revenues from Customs duties. Imagine the

state of affairs if the Government were suddenly obliged to reduce imports and sacrifice £13,000,000 of its revenue in one year, as the Scullin Government had been forced to do. Import revenues alone have saved the Government from a repetition of the "blizzard" of 1929. But how much longer can that be delayed?

What Economists Think

On July 21, the Melbourne *Argus* published a review of conditions, taken from the *Economic Notes* issued by the Victorian Branch of the Economic Society and the Faculty of Commerce at the Melbourne University. In this it was pointed out that revenues would not be so good next year, and that there would be little possibility of reducing commitments on the expenditure side. Indeed, there would be increased liabilities for defence and National Insurance. The following extract speaks for itself: "Reviewing factors which will tend to reduce Government revenues in the current financial year, the journal cites the sharp fall in export prices in 1937-38, as a result of which the Australian wool clip will probably be less by something like £16,000,000, while the return from wheat, even allowing for the increased yield, may show a reduction of something like £5,000,000. Metal prices have also fallen considerably. . . . All this must have some effect on revenue from taxation and railway freights. . . . It has been suggested that Customs revenue might not be quite as high next year. . . . Although primary industry suffered a setback in 1937-38, there was some compensation in the steady expansion of secondary industry, and it seems likely that, with the stimulus of defence expenditure, this expansion should continue. If this does happen, it should balance, to some extent at least, the effects of the fall in export prices which are already manifesting themselves in announcements of reduced dividends by pastoral and mining companies."

Effects Already Showing on Railways

Notwithstanding this—the implications of which should be obvious to the veriest tyro—we are now told that the Victorian Government is surprised at the condition of the Railway finances. The Premier budgeted for a railway surplus of a thousand pounds, but instead is to have a deficit of more than £400,000. Readers of this paper who understand how finances are manipulated in the interests of the banking system are not at all surprised at this, but the Government, whose members do not, apparently, take any trouble to inform themselves on the most important material subject in the world, profess to be amazed. Another extraordinary feature about this is to be seen in the enumeration of the "factors responsible." The *Argus*, on July 13, tells us that "Among factors responsible for the deficit are increased wages, the shorter working week, loss of passenger traffic through the infantile paralysis epidemic, and additional expenditure involved in the earning of increased revenue from freight traffic." Not a word, you see, about the fall of prices overseas, or the more "cautious" attitude of the Australian banks in regard to the issue of financial credit to the community. Any explanation but the correct one!

"Stimulus of Defence"

Still another striking feature about the situation is the reference by the "experts" in the *Economic Notes* quoted in the *Argus* to "the stimulus of defence expenditure balancing to some extent at least the fall in export prices." Fancy responsible men talking this rubbish, in view of the known fact that, despite the enormous expenditure in Britain on armaments, unemployment is increasing. In the *Sun News-Pictorial* of March 7 we were informed that the Midland Bank in London was inquiring whether a slump has been entered, and had also called attention to the fact

that during the past four months there had been a greater increase in unemployment than in any corresponding period in the past ten years. The number unemployed in that period had increased by no less than half a million. What, then, is this "stimulus of defence expenditure"?

Sir John Simon's Admission

And even if it be a stimulus, is it the sort of stimulus we need? Sir John Simon, Chancellor of the British Exchequer, has himself provided a good reply to that question. I take it from the *Adelaide Mail* of July 16. Speaking in the House of Commons on July 15, Sir John admitted that his Budget had been rather a chilling shock for the country, though it was now accepted as unavoidable; also that the course of world trade had been unfavourable since the Budget was introduced last April. He went on to say:

"It is not with any pride or exaltation that I had to present to the Commons a 1,000 million pounds Budget. But we can take pride in the courage and resolution with which our fellow-countrymen shoulder the burden. We can get some satisfaction and justification in the knowledge that this country can endure the burden at least as well as the rest of the world. But I must say my overwhelming feeling is one of repulsion and resentment that humanity is really engaged in mortgaging so immense a part of its resources in preparation for a possible armageddon. So much might be done with those resources if only a solution of the difficulties could be found. This country, however, has got resources in character, courage, and history which will see us through. But let there be no mistake. If we do not succeed, and the world does not succeed, in finding some way in which we can prevent the folly of this ever-increasing expenditure on armaments, then indeed the future we are preparing for our children is one at which we may shudder."

That is worth reading again. In a world overflowing with material bounty we are preparing a future for our children at which we may shudder. Those in control of the financial system are increasing our debts, and, at the same time, reducing the money available for the payment of the debts. And this is the sort of thing Professor Copland and his satellites refer to as "the stimulus of defence expenditure"! In one sense, of course, it certainly is a stimulus—for it increases enmity between us and increases the burden for our backs.

A Marionette?

Note particularly the significance of some of the words used by Sir John. He had to present a £1,000,000,000 Budget, but he did not say who made him do it (and you must have observed that all the "burden" is a matter of finance—i.e., bookkeeping). He admits that he imposed a terrific burden on the shoulders of the people, but did not indicate who dictated it or why the utilisation of their own

resources should entail a burden of finance. He admitted that the burden was one that had to be carried by us, *AND THE REST OF THE WORLD*, but said nothing about the identity of the scoundrels who have imposed such a burden on the world or the source of their hellish power. He admitted that he and those in public office who are acting like him are mortgaging the resources of humanity for a devilish business, but was strangely silent about the persons to whom these valuable resources are being mortgaged. He admits that these resources could be put to far better use, and knows that he and the members of his Government are vested with power to put them to far better use, but untruthfully suggests that there are difficulties in the way which are insoluble. He admits the folly of what he has done, and can see the inevitable catastrophe if he continues on that course, but makes no effort to steer the better course.

There IS a Solution

Those of us who have studied the proposals put forward in the name of Social Credit know that there is a solution; that the solution can be applied without dislocation of any kind; and that, instead of increasing the people's burdens, it would lift the burdens from them. Sir John Simon is well aware that an attempt is actually being made in one part of the world to apply the very solution he professes to wish for, but those who are working so valiantly for humanity in that direction are being thwarted by the very interests who made him come to the Commons with his million-pounds Budget, and who have also been instrumental in bringing about the disallowance of legislation which would make the application of the solution possible.

"Great" Men

It is high time we ceased to look upon fellows of this type as great men merely because a prostituted press says they are great. Greatness should be assessed according to the way in which they deal with realities, and on this basis they have been a miserable failure. Sir John himself admits it. The time has, therefore, come when, instead of sitting back and leaving our welfare in the hands of politically unworthy men, we must instruct them as to our wishes and hold them personally responsible for any failure to observe them.

The Remedy

In these circumstances the remedy is in our own hands as electors, and quite apart from any ideas we may have as to "how" the problem should be solved, we must join together and demand that the resources of the people be used for the benefit of the people and not for their destruction. If those in authority say they cannot do it, then they must make way for those who can get it done. That is why every one of us should throw his whole weight behind the work of the U.E.A.—Yours faithfully,

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U.E.A. YOUTH SECTION IN ACTION "Political Dynamite To Be Used"

Speaking at the Youth Meeting, held in Brighton last Tuesday night, Eric Butler said that the Electoral Campaign now being vigorously introduced by the U.E.A. Youth Section was the application of political dynamite to Parliament.

Judging from the results and the splendid efforts which the Youth Section is putting out, they are starting to electrify things, and at long last we see the tremendous driving force of youth starting to make itself felt.

Those present at the Brighton meeting will long remember an event which brought a large audience to hear six young people, all under the age of 22 years, put forward the case for youth and political democracy in a manner which leaves very little doubt that they know what they want, and are determined to get it. Youth has spoken!

Debate With Young Communist Club

The debate on "Should Australia Boycott Japan?" between the U.E.A. Youth Section and the Young Communist Club, held at the Temperance Hall last Sunday evening, attracted a large and interested audience.

Mr. F. Robinson was the first speaker for the U.E.A., and in a very clear, logical exposition, showed the economic reasons which forced Japan into China. He also showed that the present economic system was the root cause of all international friction at the present time, and while that cause of war still remained, it was futile dealing with effects.

The second speaker was Mr. H. Kay, and the very fine address which he gave was instrumental in bringing several new lines of thought before the audience. He spoke on the objects of the U.E.A., and launched a scathing attack upon the futility of slogans without an intelligent backing.

The third speaker was Eric Butler, who summed up the salient points of the debate, and launched a vigorous appeal for action *right here in Australia*, without diverting our attentions to the other ends of the earth.

The Young Communist Club brought forward the usual arguments with which we are familiar, but "showed very little knowledge of the ramifications of international finance. Speakers from both sides spoke very well, and held the interest of the audience throughout.

Debate With Myer's Young Men's Club

A further debate was arranged with the Young Men's Club at Myer's, on Monday, July 25. The title was, "Is the Party System Democratic?" The Myer's team took the affirmative and the U.E.A. Youth Section the negative. This debate was adjudicated by Mr. Shields, who, in summing up, gave the negative team the honours for the evening on subject matter and presentation.

Brighton Youth Meeting

A Youth meeting, conducted by youth and organised by youth, was held at the Nepean Hall on Tuesday evening, July 26. This meeting may prove to be the augury of a new era in Australia. A unique meeting that will remain long in the minds of those who attended.

In organising and propaganda work for this meeting, the Brighton Youth Section showed outstanding ability. Reports advertising the meeting appeared in all the daily newspapers, and news-flashes on the air notified the people of Brighton that Youth has taken up the challenge of Sir Herbert Gepp, who said, "that Youth in Australia is engrossed in racing and S.P. bets." It would have been an education to Sir Herbert had he been present on Tuesday last.

About 100 persons attended the meeting, a creditable response for a winter's evening in a quiet outer suburb. Six speakers addressed the meeting, the eldest of whom was 22 years of age. The chair was occupied by Ron Jones, a youth of 21 years. The laurels of the evening must be awarded to the team,

still, special mention is due to the chairman for the able and effective manner in which he conducted the meeting. In a few introductory remarks he emphasised the deplorable conditions of our social state, particularly as it affected youth. He said that youth was accused of being apathetic, that they had no other thought than sport and amusement, that they were content to let things drift, but this meeting was a challenge to the assertion. The Youth Section of the U.E.A. was inclined to take the opposite view, that the older generation had let *them* down. Poverty and war was not a future that youth desired, and youth was determined to have these nightmare conditions removed from this land of plenty. This meeting, organised by seven young people of Brighton, was the launching of a campaign to rally the young generation to fight for their right to life, and they wanted the older generation to support them. The speakers on the platform, he added, would each deal with a particular aspect of our social problem. The first speaker, Ian Marks, was asked to point out the facts of poverty. He spoke of the unemployed as the lost battalion, and of the hundreds of young people who, on turning 21, are left without jobs because of the wage they have to be paid.

Then Albert Fawcett was called upon to show the facts of plenty, and, in doing so, said that "Australia produces a quarter of the world's wool supply. It is strange to read of people shivering of cold and the appeals in the daily papers for blankets for those in the slum areas." Our scientists have made tremendous steps in inventing high explosives and death dealing instruments, he stated, "but what of the inventions for the good of humanity. Of these we hear little." Agriobiology, he showed, is a threat to the farmer under the existing economic system. This method of growing vegetables on trays of chemicals was by far the better way, as production increased a hundredfold.

Grace Iggulden explained a girl's attitude to the first two conditions. We see that to the man on the basic wage marriage is a luxury and children a further liability they cannot face. One member of Parliament had the impertinence to suggest a "Stork Derby." This she considered a revolting idea, and asked how we can expect children from the slum areas to have high morals, or men who have to stand and watch their wives grow old and their children starve, how can we expect them to look at life in a sane manner?

Jack Iggulden brought in the link between poverty and plenty, showed how it was at fault, and that it had to be rectified. Money, he said, was the master of all. The first two speakers had pointed out the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty, and that conditions to-day are little better than the Middle Ages. Man had solved the problem of production, he added, and the link between the goods we produce and the consumer was money. "What do you know about MONEY?" he asked. "It is the vital factor and the answer to the mess we are in."

Bill Iggulden in showing the power of the electors, explained how the paradox could be rectified. Today,

The Preacher

The thought of war is so terrible (for she has three sons) that to banish the thought she turns on the wireless again. She has struck a church service this time, and after a hymn and prayer the preacher begins his talk, and while she dusts the furniture she listens. The preacher tells of how wicked the world has become. It has forgotten its Maker, and many terrible things have come upon it in consequence. The logic is not very clear, but she gathers that we are starving in the midst of plenty because so many people have left off going to church. Also, in spite of the fact that Parliament is opened with prayer, we are all on the verge of a terrible war. Why? Because we are all so wicked. Our housewife is not conscious of being so wicked as to deserve anything so bad as a major modern world war, and is sure that many thousands, even millions, of simple people like herself are equally guiltless of helping to bring about such a calamity, but she still listens, and presently hears what is to be the remedy for this bad state of things.

We "must repent, and choose the lowly way of submission and sacrifice"—that is, she, and you, and I must repent (we do not know for what), and, although we think we are making a great many sacrifices, and are not exactly puffed-up about it, apparently it is not enough, so, if we humble ourselves a bit more and do without a few more things we would like to have, markets would automatically appear (sent direct from heaven, it is supposed), our goods would be sold, and our shining example would so affect Hitler, Franco and Mussolini that they would disband their armies, turn their swords into ploughshares, and put their bombing planes back in their hangars. Now isn't it wonderful to think that one little housewife, and others like her,

instead of telling their Parliamentary representatives what they want, the electors are fighting amongst themselves, arguing about methods, each one trying to get his pet theory put into operation, and while we argue, he said, a minority rules; the only way to achieve results being by demanding in one united voice what we want in common. "This Youth Section is already doing what they can," he said, "the responsibility lies in the hands of each and every individual to unite with the young people. What are you doing about it?" he queried.

Eric Butler was the final speaker, and, after summarising the major points of the campaign, showed the futility of party politics and how finance controls not only individuals, but also parties. In the final part of his address he dealt with the frustration of youth, and pointed out that his generation was determined that they could, and would take the initiative in bringing about a saner society. Personal responsibility was the only way the job could be done. He appealed to everyone to get behind the campaign and make this movement something in the nature of "political dynamite."

After the addresses the audience showed a very keen interest by the number of questions which were asked. A resolution was passed by the meeting, which requested the sitting member, the Honourable T. W. White, to voice the wishes of his constituents in the House. After a hearty vote of thanks had been moved by one of the audience, the chairman closed what was undoubtedly one of the most amazing meetings ever held in Melbourne.

On Thursday, August 4, the Brighton Youth Section will hold a meeting in the Supper Room at Nepean Hall, Nepean road, Brighton at 8 p.m. Further information may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, 1 Gillard Street Brighton East.

A HOUSEWIFE'S DAY

(Continued from page 5.)

whose chief concern has been to see how far she can make the butter go (still with that regrettable "surplus" on the London market), can affect transformations like that?

Of course, she must be able to do this, or a good Christian man like this preacher would never tell her that she could. It is rather odd, though, for she had almost been beginning to believe that the main trouble is that the mass of the people are *too* submissive, *too* lowly, and are making *too* many sacrifices. She had even thought it might be a good thing if they left off behaving like this, and began asserting their rights to amend a system that inevitably meant poverty and war; but time is getting on, and, after making a hasty lunch of bread and margarine, she gets ready to go to town for some household necessities.

Shopping

She really should not do this, for there are small, struggling stores right here in her own suburb, which can only live by the custom of people like herself, but, unfortunately, these small tradesmen cannot cut prices like the big chain stores do, and *she must balance her budget*. Come to think of it, the South Australian Premier is always saying that when people petition him to do the right thing by the farmers, and the hospitals, and the roads (S.A. roads are the worst in the Commonwealth). She has a long wait in the piercing, cold wind for the tramcar, though she can see it stationary at the terminus. How stupid it seems that the car is there, the conductor and the driver, yet people are standing wearily at the various stops, waiting, waiting, but the car doesn't move. Why? Because the Tram Trust cannot "afford" to run as many cars as the people require. In the city she will see the same thing—tired groups of men and women standing in all the safety zones, straining their eyes to see if their particular tram is coming; waiting and waiting; frozen in winter, roasted in summer. Is there not enough electricity to run more trams? Why, of course, there is, as much as one needs, but "we cannot afford it." Taxi-cabs are there all day, and, apparently, no one wants them, swift and smart as they are. Idle drivers look anxiously for fares, but how many people can afford to hire a taxi? The taxis could not make a living at all if it were not for the night-birds. These drivers must acquaint themselves with all the illicit houses in the city, and be able to take seekers after bootleg liquor and vice to the right quarters. Do these young men *want* to do this? Most probably not, but they must live. Eventually the tram arrives at her stop, and she is borne off to the city, where she wears out shoe-leather looking for bargains, and comes home very tired to prepare the evening meal.

The Paper-and Colonies

While it is cooking, she opens the daily paper and learns from it that the international situation is very grave. Germany is "kicking up a dust" about her lost colonies. Why? Because she finds it difficult to feed her large population, but, at the same time, she is spending millions on armaments, bombing planes, and all sorts of lethal weapons. Once more—*why?* Why battleships? Nobody wants to march into Germany and take the country away from her. But she must blame someone for her lack of butter and other necessities, so she blames those who took her colonies, and, although she might have her complaint settled without incommencing anyone, the nations who took them won't hear for one moment of giving them back. Our housewife remembers what our Mr. Hughes so violently said about New Guinea. Being a simple soul, she cannot see why we are so anxious to hang on to New Guinea. We did not miss it before

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(Continued from page 3.)

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we took it. Why is it necessary to us now? And yet it is people like Mr. Hughes who are always saying how anxious we are for peace, and that it is only the other fellow who is making it obligatory for us to spend millions on defence.

"Passing the Buck"

It is all very puzzling. It seems as though everyone is wanting to blame someone else for all the mess we are in. The man at the door with the suitcase blames her for his low income because she won't buy from him. The charity drivers blame her for not contributing to their fund. They say the only way the poor can live is by the not-so-poor pinching themselves to give to them. But the less she has, the less she can spend, and all the tradesmen suffer when housewives do not spend.

Let us leave her grappling with this problem for the present.

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

VICTORIA

KOORYONG CAMPAIGN. — Final arrangements have been made for the next big meeting in Kooyong, which is to be held in the Recreation Hall, Wellington St, Kew, on next Tuesday night. All supporters are urged to bring their friends along, and make this a memorable meeting. The speakers are well known to all supporters, and can be relied upon to carry the vital message of democracy to the audience. One of the outstanding features of the meeting will be the fact that the U.E.A. Youth Section will be represented on the platform by Miss Josephine Robinson. Those who are desirous of hearing what

youth has to say should hear this young woman make a stirring appeal for voting people to help swell the ranks of the Youth Section, which is certainly showing amazing ability in getting things accomplished.

ERIC BUTLER has left for Gippsland for a few days, where he will be doing some organising to get the campaign firmly established in Flinders Electorate. To-night he will address a meeting at Narre Warren, and will also be visiting Warragul. Apart from a meeting in the city next Monday night, several other invitations to address meetings have also been extended to Eric. A letter from Bendigo intimates that the campaign will now be

started there, and Eric will probably address a meeting at this important centre in the very near future.

IMPORTANT. - - A special meeting of all supporters throughout Kooyong will take place at 73 Radnor-street, Camberwell, on Thursday, August 5, in order to form a properly constituted U.E.A. Group to capitalise the splendid work of the Town Hall meetings.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL CONVENTION.— On Saturday, July 16, the Annual Convention of the United Democrats (Non-Party Political) was held. At 2.30 p.m. the president (Mr. E. H. Hergstrom) called the Convention to order, and gave a resume of the year's activities. Mrs. Hull, as hon. treasurer, presented the financial statement and balance-sheet, indicating the satisfactory financial position of the movement. Mr. R. H. Curnow, organising secretary, reported on the work done and success achieved in the formation of the movement for a Christian social order. Mr. E. C. Finn was unanimously elected president. Mr. Curnow and Mrs. Hull will continue as organising secretary and hon. treasurer respectively. Mrs. D. C. Scott and Mrs. C. D. Brock were re-elected president and hon. secretary of the women's division. Convention was adjourned at 5.30 till 7.30 p.m. During this period members of the Women's Division provided tea in the Campaign Rooms, members making full use of the opp-

portunity for reunion and discussion. At the evening session Rev. C. D. Brock gave an address on the Rates Reduction Campaign in England and in South Australia. Then followed an official welcome to Mr. Bruce H. Brown, who has now taken up residence in Adelaide. Mr. Brown responded, and gave a most informative and educative talk, which lead to useful questions and discussion. Supper, again served by the ladies, concluded a very enjoyable, useful and united Convention.

WEST AUSTRALIA

A TRIUMPH FOR PUBLIC OPINION. Although many people may be in danger of overlooking the fact, the recent decision of the W.A. State Labor Government to proceed with the erection of a new Perth Public Hospital, at a cost of £750,000, was the direct outcome of the pressure of public opinion brought to bear on the Government by many sections of the community. In developing and mobilising this opinion, the Headquarters executive and members of the Electoral Campaign played no small part, and they can justly claim as theirs a large proportion of the credit in attaining the desired result. Even though the public may be led to believe otherwise, this is definitely a triumph for public opinion, a result obtained, because the majority of people knew what they wanted, and, by united demand, showed their servants, the politicians, that they were determined to get it, or

know why. If public opinion can compel a "sane finance" Government, that admits itself to be hard-pushed for cash, to spend £750,000 on a hospital, then that same public opinion can, acting with equal determination to get results, make any Government accede to its wishes whenever those wishes are physically possible. The abolition of poverty amidst plenty is physically possible; therefore it is up to those people who have tasted success on this occasion to begin, right now, demanding that this intolerable state of affairs shall cease to exist, and that in its stead we shall have economic security and social justice for all.

PROPAGANDA. — That the continuous release of propaganda in all parts of the State by H.Q. is having the desired effect is very evident from the increasing number of inquiries that are daily coming in to the office. Enquiries have come from places as far apart as Kalgoorlie, Albany, and Geraldton, which is evidence that interest is being created in every corner of the State.

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When the money is to hand, etc.,
WE WANT VOLUNTEERS
(giving dates available), promising to work on Saturdays (2-7 p.m.), and Sundays (8 a.m.-1 p.m.), or provide substitute. There must be no letting up, for without sufficient regular help it would be useless to start. Hence a meeting of workers and supporters will be held—U.E.A. Rooms, Wednesday, August 3, 8 p.m. We call for carpenters, trench-diggers, concrete-workers, wire fixers, roller men, etc., etc., and require the loan of spades, shovels (long and short handled), picks, forks, rakes, barrows and carpenters' tools. Tools, etc. will be carefully marked, safely stored, and handed back in good condition.
Watch New Times for dates of working bees.
We hope to open the courts Saturday, October 1.
NOTE.—We propose to pay lenders 7% interest and repay principal in 10 years.
Write, call on, or phone: Secretary, United Electors, McEwan House, 343 Little Collins Street Melbourne. —Advt.

NO-LICENCE DOES MEAN PROHIBITION

A "Yes" Vote will undoubtedly deprive of their Licences Hotels, Grocers, Spirit Merchants, Clubs and Wine Sellers.

Eminent Victorian Counsel has given his opinion that if the "No Licence" resolution were carried at the Poll on October 8, apart from temporary provisions and unimportant exceptions the following position would exist:

The manufacture of liquor will not be prohibited, but after manufacture it can be sold only for delivery beyond the limits of the State.

Within the State of Victoria the sale, supply, barter or disposal of liquor will be illegal and punishable.

Brewers and vigneron will not be able within the law to sell or make delivery of liquor, and even if other retailers were able to obtain supplies of liquor from manufacturers, they could not legally sell it or even gratuitously dispose of it.

Even assuming that liquor could be obtained, the prohibition against its supply or disposal would apply to the gratuitous supply of liquor to a guest in a private house.

THIS IS PROHIBITION WITH A VENGEANCE.

VOTE NO X

—Advt.

KEW RESIDENTS—obtain your copy of "NEW TIMES" from ANDERSON'S Newsagency, 141 High Street, Kew

ELECTORS OF KOORYONG!

Hear
DR. JOHN DALE and ERIC D. BUTLER
Launching
THE KOORYONG CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH POVERTY
Recreation Hall, KEW, (Near Kew Railway Station)
Tuesday, AUGUST 2nd, 8 p.m.