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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. 32.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 1938.

Every Friday, 3d

CONSCRIPTION OF WEALTH?

Diggers Licked by Figures In Books

WHAT OF NEW ZEALAND?

Woolgrowers Prefer Neck-to Knee Bathers

New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

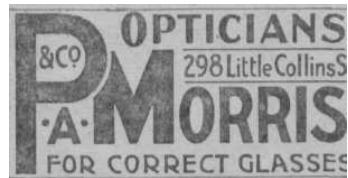
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(Continued on page 3.)

WHY NOT CONSCRIPTION OF WEALTH?

A great deal has been said recently of the need for introducing conscription so that the country can be adequately defended in case of war. An interesting cable from Vancouver, the source of much homemade war news during the Great War to prepare for Greater Wars, reports a proposed improvement upon the general ideas on the subject. The British Columbia section of the Canadian Legion of War Veterans has passed a resolution to the effect that, in the event of an emergency, there should be an automatic conscription of wealth and industry. According to the headline in the press, it seems that the emergency referred to is war.

How the "Haves" Eye It

This proposition will not appeal to the "haves," however much the great majority of the "have nots" may favour it; nor will the profiteers of the last Great War view with anything but alarm the suggestion that not only wealth, but also industry, should be conscripted.

It is, no doubt, a splendid idea to insist upon the conscription of all the young and able-bodied men, poke a rifle into their hands, and send them out to die for King and Country . . . especially if you are yourself above military age, and you carefully avoid specifying exactly in what way his Majesty and the Country will be benefited when the blood of the young and able-bodied waters either their own, or in accordance with approved military tactics, some foreign soil.

Abstract Notions More Satisfactory

It is much better to be nice and vague about the whole business. "King and Country" is a phrase that sounds well, and it can stand for all sorts of indefinable things, like the joys of digging onion weed out of the back lawn undisturbed by the Japanese, or the right to smoke "Capstans" instead of "Camels." It may also stand for the undisturbed continuance of the banking monopoly, the dole and the perpetuation of such picturesque landmarks as Dudley Flats. In practice, it is, however, not necessary to say what it stands for. It is a good enough tinkle from the bell-wethers to make the average sheep follow along without too much thought. The abstract has always provided a welcome refuge for those who cannot or will not think.

Surrender of Wealth a Different Matter

The appeal is appreciated, even if not understood, when it consists of an emotion-laden request to some poor creature to give up that mysterious and inexplicable thing called life in the defence of even more mysterious and inexplicable ideals.

When, however, it comes to handing over real wealth, including industrial plant and machinery, it is a horse of a different colour. Conscription of wealth would mean surrendering real things . . . things you can see and buy and use . . . things that other people have sweated to produce to the greater glory of those who own them. Surely this is asking too much. The suggestion shows a lamentable degree of irresponsibility on the part of those who put it forward, and a complete failure to realise the relative importance in our lives of things and person.

The Importance of Things

Since time immemorial it has been held that things are of far more importance than persons. Forgery, larceny, burglary . . . all injuries to

property rights . . . are more seriously punished than, for example, breaking your aged mother's arm in two places, or beating a man with a rubber truncheon because you do not like the shape of his nose. True, it is still regarded as unnecessarily exuberant to take human life (except in the ennobling art of war and other cases of self-defence), but otherwise, material things are and have always been more rigorously protected than persons.

It can therefore be seen that the proposal of the Canadian Legion of War Veterans is at the best an unwarranted departure from what is customary. And what about equality of sacrifice, the time-honoured slogan of the dejected taxpayer?

Equality of Sacrifice

Is it just and honourable to conscript the wealth and the industrial plant of those who possess these things? Remember that the acquisition of material things is fraught with difficulty. They may be the fruits of a lifetime of effort in the service of the people, for, though only God can make a tree, it takes considerable skill and business acumen to turn that tree into second-grade time-payment furniture that looks and sells as A1.

It is all very well for you, who have an interest in only an infinitesimal part of your country, to applaud the Canadian Legion. You have nothing worth mentioning to lose except your miserable lives, which you got

underwent a torrent of vilification for their honesty. This we know beyond dispute, that the "cheer you, thank you, kiss you" part of the bargain made with our soldiers may have been literally honoured. In the spirit it was not; nor, in retrospect, was it ever likely that it could be, under the existing economic system.

How Wars Happen

Wars do not break out like carbuncles. Unlike prices, which, according to one worthy economist "fall because they fall," wars are deliberately engineered. They always have been, and always will be contrived by the few for their own benefit or for the protection of their own interests. At best, they result from the cumulative actions of that same few in safeguarding those benefits and interests. In the ultimate analysis, discarding all the finery and the trappings designed to conceal the truth, this will be found to have always been so, irrespective of the particular occurrence upon which the declaration of war may be opportunely hung, whether it is "Belgium and Honour" or the ear of Captain Jenkins.

Are Wars Desirable?

There is one matter to be considered, and that is whether it is really desirable that there should be no more war. According to some of our trained legal mur-

of man-power, money-power and productive power. Let us pool all our resources of all kinds into a common account, conduct the war, and if we are successful in saving our country then let that country and all that is left in the account belong to the survivors in equal shares. A war fought on those conditions might be worth having, for if you jeopardised your life, at least the stake would be a decent one.

If you pacifise in this belligerent but logical way, the war mongers will see that the avenues to profiteering will be closed and will lose the main incentive to the fomentation of war. The megalomaniacs will remain, but it is doubtful they are ever able to contrive wars without the connivance or assistance of the money monopoly. As always, it is money that makes the mare go, and a general acceptance of the Canadian War Veterans' proposal provided it is pushed to the limit as suggested, would probably do more than anything else to ensure world peace.

"GIB"

From "WHY," N.Z.

The vast rocky fortress at the entrance to the Mediterranean, held by Britain since 1704, will be coming into the limelight very frequently in the near future.

First in this Dominion we mentioned the German fortifications in Spain and Africa threatening the "Rock." That the big guns were placed to command the Strait from Tarifa, and the African coast was proof in itself of the inner meaning of the intervention in Spain. Germany was helping Italy to the command of the Mediterranean.

Largely the feeling of British people for "Gib" is one of sentiment, based on a rather antiquated idea of the importance of the great inland sea, where history was born. No world conflict will be settled in the Mediterranean. Any victor within the big lake would have to come out and try the broom at the mast in the Seven Seas.

All this will not make the abandonment of Gibraltar as an Empire key position more palatable to British opinion



when the news is broken officially. It is said that negotiations are afoot for a British base at Faro, on the southern coast of Portugal near the Spanish frontier—indeed, that such negotiations are in an "advanced stage."

German and Italian batteries it is now known, have been installed at Tarifa, Algeciras, San Roque, La Linea, and on the coast of Spanish Morocco, confronting Gibraltar. Reports and maps showing the exact positions, number and calibre of the German guns are now in the hands of the British authorities, and the opinion is held that Gibraltar would become rapidly untenable in the event of a war in the Mediterranean, involving Britain and Italy.

ECONOMICS IN A NUTSHELL

Is there something to eat?—Yes.
Shall these men eat?—No.
Why?—Because they have no money to buy eatables.
Why have they no money?—Because they are out of work.
Why are they out of work?—Because output is too large.
Do you mean that they shall not eat because there is too much to eat?—Yes.
Are you a silly idiot?—No, sir, I am a Professor of Economics and an expert adviser of Governments.

—"Why," N.Z.

for nothing, anyway. What is the life of a simple citizen when compared with the life of an Andrew Mellon, a Zaharoff, a Morgan or a Montagu Norman? And how can we compare the average citizen's wealth to theirs. Comparisons, as Shakespeare said, are odorous, and the average citizen's share in the world's goods is as a bad smell to the opulence of a Mellon. Worse than that, his chance of building his mite into a respectable size by fair and honest means is about equal to his chance of winning the Calcutta Sweep.

Mammon Must Prevail

Without going any further into the matter, it must be patent to the humblest of cannon fodder that the Canadian War Veterans are indulging in the most exotic of marihuana dreams when they propose a conscription of wealth and industry in wartime.

Of course, logically and morally, they are absolutely and unutterably right. If we lapsed into irony, we did so for the very good reason that, weak as irony generally is, it could never be so weak as the strongest argument that could be advanced against the Canadian proposal. It would, in fact, be weakness on our part to attempt to defend the Canadian Legion, for they are War Veterans, and have doubtless suffered the 100% disillusionment that practically all who fought in the last War suffered. We realise now, how close to the truth were those outspoken few who shouted "sordid trade war" in 1914, and

derers, war is ennobling, and benefits the race by bringing out the best in men. If to kill off the healthiest of the males and leave the C3 class with the burden of perpetuating the species can be regarded as beneficial, then they may be right. As to bringing out the best in men, high explosives do this in the truest sense, although physiologists agree that the digestive system functions better when left inside.

The stressing of the ennobling and purifying effects of war is not even good sales talk, which, as everyone knows, need not adhere passionately to the truth. The fact is that the militarists, whether they wear the uniform of Mars or the black coat and striped trousers of Mammon, are trying to sell the public the mangiest of pups. If you don't like wooden nutmegs, or pink salmon "guaranteed not to turn red in the tins," you will be and remain a pacifist.

Why Not Militant Pacifism?

A pacifist is not necessarily a poor worm who continues to turn the other cheek. If we remember rightly, nothing was said about turning the other cheek more than once. There is such a thing as militant pacifism, and the Canadian Legion of War Veterans, British Columbia Section, shows one way in which real pacifists can be truly active and militant.

Next time conscription is mooted, support it with the utmost vigour, but go the whole hog. Plump for the conscription

WHAT ARE NEW ZEALANDERS SAYING?

The following imaginary discussion between two New Zealanders appeared in the July issue of "Farming First" (official organ of the N.Z. Farmers' Union, Auckland Province). It should serve, in part, to answer the question asked by our heading above.

Good evening, Bill. We haven't met for some time. You should be fresh for the battle.

Good evening, Dick. If it's to be a battle, you should be equally fresh. You might have warned me so that I could have gone into training. What's the battle about, where is it to be fought, and why am I to be in it?

Oh, you'll do without training. I thought we might do a little verbal sparring over the question of next elections—whether these should be a straight-out, clear-cut question of "Socialism in our time" or "Socialism out."

Do you think you can get such a clear-cut issue?

That is how the political issue is generally understood.

Kelly Gang Propaganda

Or misunderstood. Probably it has cost many tens of thousands of pounds in organising expenses and press propaganda to bring about such a general misunderstanding.

You're starting soon, to-night, Bill. How do you justify your "probably"?

Oh! I'll withdraw the "probably," and make it quite definite. Organisers have been careering round the country, calling on everyone in many districts, and their one song is: "We must get this crowd out, we must fight Socialism, we must combine to get rid of this Trades Union Government." The newspapers have been pressing the point also—it is a all hands to the pump to save the good ship Democracy from the Seven Devils of Socialism and the whirlwind they have created in this quarter of the world."

Then you think that the present Government is not "Socialistic," or you think that its Socialism is harmless?

I neither think that the present Government is not Socialistic, nor

that its Socialism is harmless. I am as aware as you are—or feel as sure as I think you do—that the present Government is only waiting till it can win another election to give us more Socialistic sauerkraut than has doubled up the Tory true-blues all over the country already. You have to remember, though, that some folk think this is quite all right.

You don't mean to say that you agree with me for once? That is too wonderful!

Public Enemy No. 1

No, I don't agree with you. You think that this Government is Public Enemy No. 1. I think it is Public Enemy No. 2.

What's "Public Enemy No. 1," then? —in view of your bad opinion of the present crowd, I think your "No. 1" must be pretty awful!

Public Enemy No. 1 is the crowd you want to put in the place of the present push. They are the gentlemen the whole country was so anxious to push out. They are the gentlemen who are responsible for the present little lot being where they are—in charge.

"New" Party

That is hardly correct. The party to oppose the present Government is a new party.

Not so as you'd notice it! Many of them are pretty old and most of them old in crimes of government. You don't want me to name them, do you? You can think the names, I reckon.

I know what you are getting at. There is a new leader, though—a man generally respected. There will be many new additions to the party after the elections.

Or, you hope so. But there will not be more, it's likely, than the new additions when the name

"United" was hoisted. Those folk were *against* the old regime, but they only made a decent meal for it.

They formed a Government. The United Party did not coalesce till the threat of Socialism compelled the two parties opposed to Socialism to come together. That was made very clear in the press at the time.

A Question of Party Funds

Very clear, I quite agree. The people who own the press made it clear. Also, as they really owned both parties, through their control of party funds, they made it clear to the leaders who were stretching their wings and extending their spurs, while they crowed defiance at each other, that the fight was off: they all had to make it up and shake hands.

All that is the purest assumption. Not the "purest" anyway, because it comes from the impure source of the parties themselves; their candidates admitted as much during the next election campaign.

Anyhow, it is clear that if they hadn't coalesced the Socialists would have got in sooner, and we'd have had the contagion amongst us three years earlier than we did.

Say four years and you'll be one year more out. Just what particular pieces of legislation are you finding fault with?

Decline of Freedom

The general regulation of everything in sight—farming, transport, industry in general. If this sort of thing continues we shall not be able to call our souls our own. As it is, the broadcasting situation is a very good example: Ministers using the air to put their own policy over, even the news impregnated with their own party point of view—you can hear it nearly every night—the "B" stations practically all shut up, power to drown the few left given to Government stations, and a rigid censorship over others—soon there will be no freedom left.

No, and we shall be left to sing "The Harp That Once Through Tara's Halls"—when the police-

man is out of hearing. But who started it all?

Who Started It?

This Government, of course. Haven't I just been telling you? You know as much about it as I do. You know this Government played Old Harry with freedom of the air, for instance.

I do. And I know that the *previous* Government appeared very willing to do the same thing. It started the game. Why, I was told by a Minister in this present Government that he was a member of the committee of one "B" station that the late Government shut up in, Wellington, and he actually said he relied on the public having as short a memory as it had on that occasion (not quite in those words). He learned the game from the previous Government. Then he improved on it a lot.

Maybe. But it wasn't only in broadcasting that this Government followed a bad example.

How is that? I can understand that the late Government might have been afraid of Communists and other wreckers putting their doctrines over the air, but they stood for freedom.

If they stood for freedom it was in the hope that they could bag that old bird. They were not sports—nobody thought they were going to take sitting shots at the poor old hen.

If you were less flippant and more informative I might have some show of knowing what you meant.

A "Might Have Been"

More "show" than "freedom" got. Ever hear of the Agriculture Emergency Act?

I think I've heard of it. What's the point?

Only that it was expressly designed to do what Hitler has done for the German farmers, a bit before Hitler thought of it—give them inspectors for breakfast, dinner and tea—for New Zealand farmers. The Bill started on the dairy farmers—it was all cut and dried to cut and dry them, too—and there was provision made for similar regimentation of *all industry* when the Government, having tried its 'prentice hand on dairying, should have become master craftsman in the art of State control. Actually, dairymen are not nearly so well regulated by this Government as was the intention of the late Government to do for them.

Electors Aroused

How was it this didn't come off, then?

The individual M.P.'s of the party were frightened, scared stiff, by the row raised in their electorates, and the plan was deferred. Just the same position is the case the present Government is in today. It also is practically in a state of siege by its back-benchers.

Well, the dairy farmers were in serious straits, and it may have been necessary to adopt heroic measures. You haven't convinced me that the late Government was as bad as this one.

I didn't set out to do that. I have to convince you that it was worse than this one. This one is only carrying on the other one's bad work. Transport, now—I think you referred to that?

I did. The transport industry is only the beginning of State control.

State Control

There's not much State control yet, though I admit that the stage is set for the entry of the villain later on. But this Government has not done one thing more than the late Government intended doing. The Bill it put through is practically the same as that the old Government intended putting through. It's the same with the "B" station and freedom of the air. In fact, this Government has allowed freedom of the platform and soap-box that the late Government denied. You can have freedom of the air in the streets now.

(Continued on page 5)

OPEN LETTER TO M.M.T.B. CHIEF

Mr. H. H. Bell,
Chairman,
Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board.

Dear Mr. Bell—

Though you are at present in Europe (at the public's expense) your activities are still before our notice, this time riding into the limelight on certain projected 'buses.

So, as you weren't here yourself, we looked up your past history. Considering that you began as a member of the Labor faction of the Richmond Council, and that, unlike many prominent municipal luminaries, you have not been identified with successful commercial or professional enterprises, your ascent to the Chairmanship of the Tramways Board has been almost unique.

Our efforts to discover just what your qualifications are to hold this important post have revealed what you are not, rather than what you are. We looked before and after, and found what you were not. We have found that you are not an engineer, not a chemist, not an architect, not an accountant. The only thing we can think of is that, perhaps, you are an economist of the Professor Copland variety—for this your pompous pronouncements and brazen effrontery would seem to fit you.

You have, however (like Professor Copland), a news value in the daily press, dating from your determination, last year, to instal an electric tramway system in Bourke Street. You condemned the motor 'bus and the trolley 'bus, waving aside the opinions of business people, and even a considerable number of the public who use and pay for the vehicles which they employ you to control.

But now, Mr. Bell, we find you sending cables from the other side of the world, holding up the Bourke Street electrification, like another Gandhi lying across the rails. The press tells us that you have located (not invented, for you never invented anything) a certain type of engine that runs on suction or hydrogen or laughing gas or something, and that you are committing the Melbourne Tramway department to some royalty arrangement for the use of these engines.

What the public wants to know firstly is: Who are you to decide on engines or transport methods or other technical matters connected with the Tramway department? You were never appointed

to the technical staff of that department. Your job is to act as the administrative head, regarding yourself as the vehicle to convey the public demands to those technical experts equipped with the special knowledge to construct and operate a transport system.

A simple enough job, but you break down on it. You have no right and no authority to even concern yourself with these highly technical problems, and it is time you dropped this outrageous interference in things outside your sphere of activity.

You resemble the spectacle we so often see of members of Parliament spruiking by the cubic mile about problems which they do not understand, and are not expected to understand. This is all an inversion of the proper and sensible procedure. We employ experts to work out the details and apply their special knowledge to the construction and application of public utilities.

Contributions by laymen such as you are valueless. Incidentally, you seem to know less than ordinary well-informed laymen. In Oxford Street, London, which probably you have recently visited (at the public expense), the London County Council is considering the installation of air-conditioning, because of the fumes from motor-engines which pollute the air. As against this, trolley 'buses, which emit no fumes, seem to be working exceedingly well in Sydney, Adelaide, and, above all, Perth. So we should like some technical explanation of your recent purchase.

Might we draw your attention to the recent press report of a decision by the Railways Commissioners to spend £1,000,000 on electrical installations. The Chairman, Mr. Clapp, and one of his colleagues are themselves engineers. Yet the new plant is being installed on the recommendation of the Chief Electrical Engineer of the Railways Department. It is his reply which represents the decision of the Commissioners, who are responsible to Parliament, which is elected by the people.

Just get this line of action into your head, Mr. Bell, and stop meddling in these technical matters. The description of a bell is: A hollow object with nothing inside it, which makes a lot of noise. See to it that your conformity to this description is only one of name, or you shall hear further from the public and

THE NEW TIMES

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 2.)

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Pruning Our Bathing Suits

The woolgrowers are greatly perturbed at the tendency to produce bathing suits that are scantier and scantier each season. They point out that an inch off the bather means so much less wool used and a consequent loss to the grower. From their point of view, nudism and bankruptcy are two aspects of the same thing.

We are not by inclination nudists, especially in this cold weather, but we feel that we must protest at this attitude on the part of the woolgrowers. Swimming is a sport or a pastime in which the body should have as much freedom as possible, and a return to the neck-to-knee costumes of our forefathers, however desirable for the future of the wool trade, is not requisite either on the grounds of decency or of comfort. We would rather see long woollen underpants made compulsory for all males, and, shall we say, other similar reforms. But even this is beside the point, and, as usual, the woolgrowers, like so many other people, show an inability to distinguish the wood from the trees.

If an inch is taken off the bathing gowns, and the price is proportionately reduced, the buyers will have more money to spend on woollen articles. It seems to be as broad as it is long, like the modern bathing costumes, and it need not necessarily mean that less wool will be consumed in Australia.

If the woolgrowers would spend less energy chasing shadows, and delve into the whole problem of prices, they would see that the aggregate of the prices of all goods produced by Australian industries total far more than the money which those industries pay out to the people, and which forms the fund from which those prices may be met. This is particularly so in the case of the wool growing industry, which produces over 900,000 lbs. of wool yearly, valued at some £60,000,000. Do the woolgrowers seriously believe that their industry pays out in wages and salaries and other charges anything like this amount?

It is an elementary proposition in mathematics that you cannot get any more out of a bucket than you put into it, and, for that reason, industry cannot expect the people to be able to buy the goods produced at the prices which it is expedient for industry to charge.

THE PRINTED WORD

Pamphlets, Booklets Leaflets,
Weeklies, Monthlies, Annuals,
Newspapers Magazines, or
Books

EXCELLENTLY AND
ECONOMICALLY PRODUCED
By
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We do not suggest that the prices which the woolgrowers ask for their product are excessive, but we do suggest that it is asking for the impossible.

There is a fixed belief current that if you grow a ton of potatoes, or if the cow calves, in some mysterious way money to equal these natural increases in real wealth comes into existence. This is, of course, not the case. Money is not created deliberately to equate with the increase in assets, and yet, in some manner unexplained, the people are expected to be able to buy that ton of potatoes, or the calf, at the then prevailing rate. When they fail to do so, it is the height of absurdity to stage an "Eat More Calves Week," or similar trade-stimulating device, in the hope that the problem will be solved. If it is solved so far as the grazier is concerned, it must obviously be at the expense of some other trader, who will be left with goods on his hands.

We have lifted the veil which shrouds in mystery the economic problem, but we have intentionally lifted only the corner of it. A complete exposition of the flaws in the money and costing systems would require more space than we are able to give it here, but they are known and have been ably expounded by many writers. We would earnestly suggest to the woolgrowers that they study with care the money system. They will then see that only in reform of that system can they find an escape from a position in which it is a matter of vital concern that an inch or so should be docked from a few hundred thousand bathing costumes.

The Passing of Stanislavsky

It is with a profound sense of loss that we note the death at Moscow of M. Constantin Stanislavsky, the world-famous director of the Moscow Art Theatre. The art of acting is as old as history itself, and in the long list of those who have, by their genius and their efforts, placed the art of the theatre on the highest plane, he holds a distinguished place.

Forty years ago, Stanislavsky founded the Moscow Art Theatre, and it is for his work and inspiration as a producer, rather than for his ability as an actor, that the dramatists and the actors of the world owe him an eternal debt of gratitude. In his last work, "An Actor Prepares," which all who love the theatre should read, he sets out the foundations upon which an actor's training should be based, and it is in the discussions which take place between the pupils and the director that can be discerned the keenness of perception and the sense of dramatic values which Stanislavsky possessed to a superlative degree.

While the Revolution raged in Russia, the Moscow Art Theatre carried on in pursuit of dramatic ideals, untroubled by the turmoil around it. On the establishment of the U.S.S.R. every facility was provided for the theatre, which has been encouraged as no theatre in any other part of the world has been.

Little as the scheme of government of the U.S.S.R. appeals to us, based, as it is, upon pyramidal control, we feel that in its attitude towards the arts, and in particular toward the

A HOUSEWIFE'S DAY

Her Conclusions

By LEONORA POLKINGHORNE

Of course, a housewife's day of work is not done when the meals are all cleared away and the house put in order. There are innumerable small jobs after that, the main one being mending. Let us suppose that Father is "working back" and the boys are at night classes with the exception of the youngest, who is engaged with home-work. She is alone, therefore, as far as conversation is concerned, so, half-consciously while she selects needle and thread, is summing up her day's experiences.

Red Herrings

The youngest son has been told to switch off the wireless, which was wailing in a tenor voice that "There was a Gold-Mine up in the Sky," following on an earlier number which was all about a "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere." The echoes of the former "far, far away," still ring in her ears. "Up in the sky indeed," she reflects. "That is where we are all being told to look—far, far away. And why must it be 'that inverted bowl we call the sky, beneath which, crawling, cooped, we live and die?' Why are our thoughts being constantly turned from the place that should interest us right here on the earth?"

The newspaper rests on the couch where she put it after reading of the failure of our Ministers to come to a satisfactory trade understanding with Great Britain. She recalls that this is only one of many trips across the world at considerable expense, by our representatives to adjust trade conditions in our favour. "Why have they all failed, and why keep on doing it when experience must have shown the futility of it? What a strange thing that we must go to such trouble to force our goods on other people, and how remarkable that they should be unwilling to receive them!" Her husband has said that women cannot understand these things, but she at least knows that if she did not have enough food in the pantry for her family, she would not try to pass it over the fence to her neighbour. "Of course, it all arises out of a complicated sort of system under which nothing looks straightforward and simple any more," she says to herself, "but seeing that this state of things leads to war and revolution, and in view of the fact that all the efforts to make it work have tragically failed, why not acknowledge the truth and make a new and workable plan?" Isn't it, she thinks, rather like patching and patching a garment till there are more patches than garment—something like her boy's socks

Moscow Art Theatre, there is much to admire, while the general attitude of other Governments elsewhere is little short of deplorable.

With other countries, it is not that the goodwill is lacking, but, as usual, it is money shortage. That is yet another crime to be laid at the door of those who deliberately keep the money supply short. It is unlikely that we in Australia possess a genius of the calibre of the late M. Stanislavsky, but we have many who, to the best of their ability, and in spite of the monetary handicap, are struggling to keep alive the spark of inspiration. So long as we submit passively to the domination of a money system that is effete, unreal and a barrier to all progress, both material and artistic, we are betraying the great and magnificent heritage of culture which alone distinguishes us from the beasts.

that she is holding, darned so often that there is not much of the original sock left?

"How strange it is that we hear so much of the marvels of science, which in these days can change a simple, common fibre into something useful and durable (skim milk, nettles, almost anything utilised—stock fed in Germany from ground-up wood), and yet we cannot, apparently, supply part of our population with the ordinary necessities of life. And although it is true that we have been grudgingly led to admit that when people are thrown out of work we must not let them starve (though we have little compunction about letting them inhabit insanitary hovels, for which they must pay rent or work for, and expect them to be content with other people's cast-off clothes), we reduce their 'allowance' to the lowest possible level. Even when assessing the basic wage, it is always done with the idea of *how little* the worker can exist on."

Lesson of the Garden

Yet, in the garden this morning, she had been enchanted with the glorious sight of her silver-wattle tree in full bloom, and the almond trees at the back were a picture of fairy loveliness without stint. "Just fancy God and His angels sitting in council and seeing how *few* blossoms could be allowed to a tree, saying, 'We must be careful and thrifty, or these people will get extravagant ideas.' Nothing of the kind. That is what our greybeards say when gravely deciding how many pairs of bloomers a woman should be content with in a year—must not exceed four! But the wattle tree is such a glorious extravagance of pure gold, like a great fountain of gold. That is the gold standard of heaven." She may be a foolish, fanciful woman (her husband would say so), but it seemed to her as though the wattle tree was saying to her: "Here you are. There is lots more where this comes from. Be glad, be gay!" And it made her feel generous, too. She wanted to be a liberal and princely giver—would love to be—but she had nothing to give but love and sympathy, though, after all, she reflects, is that not all we *should* give, seeing that from her vast storehouse Nature gives all the rest? This asking us to give, give, give—boots, clothes, food and money—has it not an ugly sound?

"Yet some good people are always asking us to do it. 'We have very great poverty in our midst,' a parson had said over the air that very morning. *Great poverty!* What was the use of all this talk about favourable trade-balances, booms and busts, depressions and recessions, tariffs and quotas, the gold standard and the Stock Exchange, when, whatever way it went, this one grim fact stolidly remained: 'We have very great poverty in our midst'?" This good man must be speaking the truth. And, anyway, one needed only to go down into the industrial suburbs to see it all for oneself. The unutterable drabness of it! The children with their thin legs and bad teeth, the depressed-looking men and women, the shabby stores with the inevitable notice in the window, 'Ration tickets taken here.' Crowded unlovely houses jammed together in a row. The wattle-blossom's gay message doesn't penetrate there.

Common Sense

Well, they could talk as they liked about the intricacies of high finance and the impossibility of ordinary uneducated people like herself understanding it or presuming to criticise it, but,

after all there was such a thing as *common sense*, and the conclusion she had come to was that it was just lunacy not to have things if they were there for the having. If men were clever enough to find out how to make all these wonderful things in such abundance with so much reduced effort, why on earth were they not clever enough to find out some way of letting the people have them, *all* the people, not just a few at the top? Why on earth could not those pinched children down in sad Hindmarsh have some of the beautiful navel oranges that the citrus growers of the Upper Murray were putting in the destructor? Why the destructor instead of those poor little tummies? It might all be a very clever and elaborate system that men had built up through the years, but to a simple woman like herself it was simply crazy. Nothing would please her better than to get in some place of vantage and tell them so. She just longed to say: "The fruitful earth, the marvellous machines and a *little* labour are capable of giving us all we want. Why can't you let us have it? What is the matter with your brains, with your hearts, that you have made this beautiful, happy earth a sort of concentration camp, where there is money for nothing but guns and howitzers and tanks and all the other frightful weapons of wholesale murder? Why should we be shocked when Herr Goering says that Germans must have guns instead of butter, and tamely acquiesce when Mr. Lyons says the very same thing—for it was only Thursday's *Advertiser* which quoted Mr. Lyons as saying that there will be further taxation, and *no further social services*, as the money is needed for defence. Exactly the same thing, only Goering puts it more bluntly.

"Why is the cry of the children for fruit, for milk, for playgrounds, less heeded than the chink of the moneylender's gold? Why are figures so much more important than the health and happiness of human beings?"

"Must we call on the bounty of nature and the discoveries of science to produce things that we then take out to sea and drown, or burn in the furnaces?"

Are we content to do this while the millions of the East are reduced to the minimum of sustenance or less? And worse still, those hungry millions of the East are actually fighting each other in the most horrible way just *because* of this very failure of the system to provide sustenance for the people in both countries. Would it not be much better for them, if bent on murder, to murder those who were *responsible* for such a stupid state of things?"

Best Way Out

Better still, though, to sit down and do a bit of thinking about it all. To find out quickly where the fatal flaw lay and see about putting it right, exactly as you would do with your motor car or your sewing machine if it refused to go. Just fancy, if when her sewing machine needed an overhaul, instead of cleaning, oiling, and making the right adjustments, she went out and hit her next-door neighbour over the head with a saucepan! And that would not be a single bit more stupid than what the men of the world were doing today. It might be that she would not be clever enough to put the machine right; but that would not trouble her, for she would just ring up the firm that sold it to her, and they would send out an expert to fix it up in a jiffy, and her neighbour need have no interference from her irritation. Now, wouldn't that be the sensible thing to do with an economic system that had so obviously failed to work? Get in the experts and have them overhaul it.

You will see that she is in just the mood for a visit from an Electoral Campaigner.

WHAT ARE NEW ZEALANDERS SAYING?

(Continued from page 3.)

I have your word for this, but what else is there. How do you know this? How do you know what the late Government intended to do?

Just the same way as you can know it—by looking up the Bills and the records of Parliament. Even the much-denounced Superannuation Act, in some of its features, anyway—as, for example, the continuation of the employment tax for the purpose of providing pensions, etc.—was intended to be put into effect had the old Government been returned. Of course, all kinds of fault will be found with it but I shouldn't wonder a bit if, with the positions reversed, the complaints would only be in the mouths of the defenders, and vice versa.

You said you were going to show that the late Government was worse than this one. You are trying to show that it would have done the same as this Government—instituted State control.

Would you say a sheep dog that destroyed its charges was worse than a wolf that did ditto?

Yes. I'd give you that in, but not your right to apply the titles of dogs and wolf just as you like. At least the public, when it gave its blank cheque to the late Government, did so to save itself from this Government getting it sooner. Now the late Government, in setting up the mortgage legislation it set up, arranged that farmers were to be tied up for five years, with, in many cases, probation for a further five years. I have little time for the workings of any such legislation—the smashing of contracts in all directions to allow men to carry on is, in my opinion, not only grossly immoral, but quite unnecessary. Yet, if it has to be done, let it be done at once and be done with. The present Government has been much less cruel in this than the past Government was. Of course, there have been injustices, but the general results are not long-drawn agony.

The Guaranteed Price

You'll be finding excuses for the Guaranteed Price soon. Dare you tell me that the farmers agree with this?

I dare.

Good. Will you advertise that you are an advocate for the Guaranteed Price? That will be very interesting. There'll be a heavy mail for you, my boy.

You do me wrong, sir. I said I dared to tell you that farmers—most of them, but not all, and not all districts—agree with the principle of the guaranteed price. They don't think they have a *fair* price—they want the same treatment as is accorded other folk. But a vote on whether the farmers wanted the guaranteed price or the old open market price—though these have been pretty well the same, as it happens—would find an overwhelming majority for the guaranteed price.

Bill, you really are the limit! If the farmers like the Guaranteed Price, and all the rest you say is true, about the mortgages and the evil deeds of the late Government, then it simply cannot be true that the farmers are going to reject this Government.

If There Were An Election Now

I believe that if there were a general election to-morrow the present Government would be defeated in nearly all rural constituencies.

Why do you say "to-morrow"? Why not next November?

Because I don't know what will happen next November. Voters

who were Labour last time, and have swung back to their old love may go courting again when the Labour dame comes out in her new clothes. An increase in the Guaranteed Price is almost certain, various other "doles" are possible—I think likely—and farmers may find that the organisers who were round on the political stunt were not brought up in the same school as George Washington.

I don't know how much of what you, say is conviction, and how much is cussedness. If there were an election to-morrow, and you had to vote for one or other of the existing parties, which would you vote for?

Not a Fair Choice

Now that's not fair at all. Why should I vote for either? You tell me—if you had to take strychnine or prussic acid, which would you choose?

I thought from the way you've been talking you reckoned the present Government was pretty good. Now you call it poison.

You thought wrong, then. I reckon it is not worse than it pretends to be—a Socialistic turn-out; but that the other Government was worse than it pretended to be—it was elected particularly to keep out Socialists, and it went the whole hog on Socialism itself.

That's all ancient history. If the present Nationalists get in they are going to fight Socialism. They are being returned, if they are returned, on that platform.

That's really interesting. If they are not in office, I can see that they will fight the Socialists—the outs always fight the ins. But if they are returned to office there will be no Socialism to fight. What will they do then? They will be in power. What will they do with their power?

Upset what the present Government has done, of course.

Now, Dick. I don't want to be rude. I don't want to refer to either of your respected female grandparents or great-aunts. Just think, old son. The present Opposition are going to upset just what they intended to do, and indeed, started. Is it likely? Anyway, that is only destructive work. What are they going to do that's constructive?

Well, it isn't likely they would put their platform up to be shot at. They have one, you can be sure of that.

Even if I were sure of it—and I am not—I don't see why I, or anyone, should vote for it without knowing what it is. It might, for instance, include hanging everyone over fifty.

Talk a little sense, Bill. Those who vote for the Nationalists will vote against Socialism.

The Post Office

Will they vote to do away with the Post Office?

No; not with the good and necessary works that the nation benefits by doing for itself, but with interference with private business.

Telegraphic work is private business in some countries.

But it is much more efficiently done by the State here.

How do you know? There used to be only one message that could be sent at one time over one wire, and that had to be tapped out by an operator. Now they can send many messages. If only one car could go over a road with one passenger to-day and you could improve the road so that sixty could travel on one coach in the same time, you'd expect lower fares. You have a road in the wire, on which sixty can go where one went before, but you haven't lower fares—will you insist that the new Government desocialise the Post Office?

No; but if what you say is right, it should lower the telegraphic rate.

Well, it had its chance. The improvements were before this Government got in. The previous

Government didn't improve the position in the Post Office, any more than it did in the milk business.

All the same, I think there is nothing for it but to get rid of this crowd in office. We must have a change.

Alternatives

That's what they said last time. I know men who said it, many of them, who are now saying just the same thing about those they put in last time.

Perhaps they are right. It may make the old crowd become better.

Are you sure there is any real difference?

Of course there is. One lot is Conservative and the other is Socialistic.

Yet the Conservatives started all the Socialistic experiments that the present Socialists are going on with.

Well, you're very good with your objections. What alternative have you to offer? I mean, what alternative that will get rid of the danger of Socialism—extreme Socialism—of the threat to sensible operation of trade, what alternative that will give us freedom?

Just getting the candidates for Parliament that think as you do, or as I do; getting their personal pledges as to the votes they will give on the questions that we think important, and voting them into Parliament.

Independents, eh! You'd split the vote and let Labour in. That isn't wanted.

What vote would I split? Why, the vote against Labour!

I don't see why. I don't see that the vote should be anybody's but mine. It's my vote. Why should you claim that I'm splitting any vote? Haven't I the right to vote as I like? Isn't this a free country? Why should a party get the votes of a lot of voters who wouldn't vote for it if they could help it?

"Public Opinion"

The public will be annoyed if Independents are put up. They want a straight out go on the question of Socialism. They want the votes in two boxes only.

You mean on the question of who is to bring in regimentation—but I think the public is gulled. I think the public has been listening to organisers and newspapers. Any way, who is the public, and why should it tell me how I must vote? Haven't I any rights? Where's your freedom? The public can vote as it likes. Why should it tell me?

The public wants a sporting go between the two parties. It doesn't want any interference.

You mean that the people who put up the funds for both parties are interested on their respective sides to see that one or the other gets into power. It would be disastrous otherwise. But I beg to deny that it is "sporting" to deprive me of my vote. Keep sportsmanship out of it. Say the public wants to steal my vote from me.

You get your vote. There will be two parties to vote for. Everybody will have the same choice.

To my mind, they are only two dummies—not a man of them has a real say. Even in caucus, which they boast to be free in, they are only free to talk. The leaders, under instructions, say what they are to do. I want to make better use of my vote. I want freedom.

I'm satisfied that the public does not want any interference next elections—it wants a straight-out go.

And I'm satisfied that the public is just a sounding board for the echoing of what the Kelly Gang has put out through the press, and I vote as the public wants me—if it does want what you say it wants—I shall be just doing what the Kelly Gang wants, and I don't want to do that. Nor do I want to vote for either Tweedledum or Tweedledee. I want to vote for someone I agree with. The choice is the same in Russia or Germany.

You want to be different to

everybody else, of course. You would!

Aren't they all supposed to be trying to be different? I thought they were trying to exercise their *own* votes.

What is the Issue?

You are incorrigible! You know quite well what I mean. There is a major issue before the electors, and they do not want that clouded by a host of side issues. You'd have a vote on free fly-papers, if you had your way.

Is that why every party in power will have nothing to do with preferential voting, which would eliminate the side issues? Or is it that they want to *create* the main issues that they are *not* main issues at all, but only a ball tossed to the children to play with? Isn't the real question quite different?

What do you mean? What is the real question?

I'm satisfied it isn't Socialism. I'm satisfied that the question with most M.P.'s is how to stay in, and that they are only dabbling with experiments, in the hope of staying in, as their predecessors did, and that they would take any easy road, such as raiding the bank, if they could. *The real question is giving the people satisfactory livings now, and security in the future.*

In that case, it doesn't matter much which party dabbles or experiments, and, as the present crowd is going too far in one direction, it is wise for the voters to turn them out.

On the general principle of voting *against*, not *for*. You don't want to know what the present Opposition will do, if it gets in, do you?

Well, what *will* it do?

Dangers of a Labour Defeat

A lot of things *you* don't want, if it does what some of its unwise supporters have said it will do—turn many of the present State activities into private monopolies again.

What activities? The Reserve Bank, for one thing, it is claimed, will be put back under a private corporation. How many of the money reformers, who are likely to vote against the Government for spite, will be biting their nails if that happens? That is one of the greatest dangers, but not the only one.

What other perils do you see in a change of Government?

The State Advances will be put back under a private corporation, and the Marketing Department is just nicely made and moulded to become a private monopoly. Before long, the whole country could be run from abroad, under the pretext that the taxable possibilities of the country were exhausted; next drop in overseas prices would see us all in a glorious mess.

Then, if you believe this, you should vote for the present Government.

Bless you, no! The present Government is as near as the nose on your face to making a mess of things at once by doing hosts of foolish things, such as starting steel works without settling the question of why the works didn't pay before, and other follies too numerous to mention.

What can I do for you? Help yourself. What is it you want? If it's in stock you can have it at your own price.

Non-Party Politics

I want men put into Parliament who shall be there to *represent their constituents*, not to foist off on the country Socialism and Fascism that they were not returned to bring into being.

That's all very well, but how could you get a Government? How could you form a Cabinet?

Not as it's done now, by selecting the men for the time they have been in their party, or to represent some geographical district. The Independents should be all pledged to vote Ministers into office by a vote of all the members of Parliament, on their known qualifications for the jobs. As it is, only two or three Ministers in this or any other Government for a long time past have had the least real qualifications for holding the portfolios they have held. That's how it is that the permanent staffs of the departments run so many Ministers.

Don't you think the Independents would be got at?

Certainly they would! But the members of parties don't even need to be got at—they're in the bag before they're elected. It's the business of the electors to tie the candidates so that they cannot be got at, and to deal with them if they betray their trusts.

Your idea is worth thinking over, Bill. It would, perhaps, make for better Government. You think that the pledges of the candidates could be relied on?

They should be such that they had every chance of being adhered to—they should be given publicity, placed on record, and be given expressly as overriding all other pledges and considerations. They should be as effective as oaths, to faithfully represent their own electorates on the grounds of their specific promises to their own electors. The present system is immoral, and is leading to chaotic conditions. It isn't only members of Parliament need bringing to book, *it is the electors.*

I'll think it over, Bill, and, if it meets with my approval, I'll recommend it to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition How's that for an offer?

No good, Dick. Recommend it to Bill Smith, Bob Brown, Tommy White, and the whole crowd of dreamers *who think they are voters and who have a choice between two parties, neither of which belongs to them.* As they can't own a party see if you can't get them to *take a share in the member of their own constituency.*

Right ho, Bill! Anything you like, as I said before. Good-night! Good-night, Dick! And tell the wife you had your first lesson in citizenship, will you?

You've still got a good old bump of conceit, but you'll come a crop per one of these days. Cheerio!

NOTICE.

We direct your special attention to the notice on page 8 re guarantors for £500 to be advanced for construction of four tennis courts to aid U.E.A. funds

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A SLAVE TO A LIE

Mr. G. W. Holland and Returned Soldiers' Claims

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H. BROWN.

Sir—

We begin to see why our returned soldiers have accomplished so little. They stood up valiantly against the enemy they saw on the battlefield, but have been completely tricked by the camouflage of the enemy lurking at home out of sight—the banker, or the glorified bookkeeper. It is hardly surprising, in view of the remarks of the President of the R.S.S.I.L.A., that our returned men have been fooled so often by successive Governments.

Apparently with the best intentions in the world, and in the belief that he is looking after the interests of his fellow-soldiers, Mr. Holland has helped materially in having the soldiers fooled, and is actually playing right into the hands of the enemy. No one can truthfully deny that Australia has not been made the land fit for heroes, as promised during the currency of the war, and no one can truthfully deny that the only reason for this failure has been lack of finance. Notwithstanding this, the president of the League publicly admits that he does not understand the first thing about the nature of the only barrier standing between the soldiers and the fulfilment of their legitimate desires.

Some returned men may feel disposed to say that conditions in Australia are not as bad as may be found in other countries, or as bad as they would have been but for the activities of the R.S.S.I.L.A. Both statements would probably be true, but the question is: Why are the conditions not as good as was promised, or half as good as they ought to be? Hear what two of our supposed "leaders" have had to say.

What the Prime Minister Said

Speaking to the Economic Committee of the Imperial Conference, our Prime Minister, Mr. Lyons, said: "I appeal to the Empire to do its utmost to raise the world's standard of living. It is vitally important that we increase the consumption of food and generally improve the nutrition of the people. Despite scientific aids which have contributed to advanced standards of living, we are confronted with a world in which poverty and unemployment have led to grave political discontents." The only thing which prevents people consuming more food is shortage of money, and it is shortage of money that prevents the Government from meeting the annual requests of returned soldiers. But neither the Government nor the soldiers have seen fit to inquire what money really is or why we are short of it. Instead, both have accepted shortage of money as a complete justification for Government inaction. What a shock some of them will get when they realise that money is only a symbol, and that its production costs nothing. Yet for the lack of costless symbols these erstwhile courageous Australians shiver and shake before the bankers like the blackfellow shivers and shakes before the medicine-men and witch-doctors.

What W. M. Hughes Said

The second "leader" referred to is Mr. W. M. Hughes, the war-time Prime Minister who in those days was flatteringly referred to by the financiers of London and their press as a modern Demosthenes. Hear him speak at the Millions Club in Sydney: "Of Australia's 2,000,000 children, it has been shown that 40 per cent, are suffering from malnutrition. Malnutrition in a country like this! That means that we are breeding 40 percent of the citizens of tomorrow as weakly, inefficient and sickly. Doesn't it stagger the imagination! Poverty in this age of superabundance is an anachronism, a relic of the bad old days of scarcity and servitude."

Children are suffering from malnutrition because their parents have not the money to buy sufficient food, not because there is any insufficiency of food. Parents are short of money because bankers have decreed that they shall be short, and this modern Demosthenes, a favourite of the soldiers, has also cravenly surrendered to this improper dictatorship by the banks.

What the R.S. President Said

In the Melbourne *Argus* of July 21 it is reported that the annual conference of the Returned Soldiers' League was in session the previous evening, and passed a resolution asking that the Commonwealth Government should make full pensions available to former soldiers suffering from 70 per cent, or more of war disability when it can be shown that they were thereby prevented from obtaining employment. That in all conscience was reasonable enough. "Immediately afterward," the report went on, "a resolution was presented urging that the League should press for reimbursement by the Repatriation Commission for financial loss incurred by country soldiers in coming to Melbourne for periodical medical examinations." That, also, was reasonable enough. But upon the presentation of this resolution, the president, Mr. Holland, took it upon himself to speak to the Conference as follows: "There is one thing that this Conference must realise, and that is that the amount of money the Government has available is limited. It is a moot question whether it would be wise to ask for this in addition to full pensions for men with 70 per cent, disability." It was not the question of justice for returned soldiers. That was important, but the number of figures that had been entered in the money books! Because the figures were insufficient it was "unwise" for soldiers to ask for consideration.

What Has Income Tax To Do With It?

When the president was told by some of the delegates that there was no difficulty in finding money for armaments, he replied: "I want to make it clear that I am not opposed to the resolution. I am merely explaining the position to you. At the present moment the pensions bill equals the national income tax." Evidently no man at the Conference was less competent to "explain the position" than the president, and yet he was again elected to that high office. Fortunately there were sufficient delegates present who would not be put off in that way and the resolution was adopted. At the same time, what hope of success can they have when their representations are in the hands of a man who openly declares that shortage of money—i.e., figures in books, is an acceptable excuse for refusal by the Government, and also a good reason why soldiers should not demand their rights.

A Cabinet of Helpless Soldiers

Further evidence of how soldiers have been betrayed -- though perhaps quite unwittingly—was emphasised by the Assistant Minister for Commerce (Senator MacDonald) who represented the Prime Minister at the Christian Endeavour Convention on August 2. He is reported to have said this: "In the Federal Cabinet there were seven former soldiers. They knew what war meant and they would say nothing that would plunge Australia into war. They realised however, that the great hope of the world in the prevention of war lay in the development of a more Christian attitude. The English-speaking people had a special responsibility

in that regard, and, as the representative of the Government of one of the British Dominions, he hoped the Convention would make a great contribution to the solution of some of the troubles of the world." Here was an admission that the returned soldiers in the Cabinet had also traitorously surrendered to the ticket and figure dictators, for although half the Cabinet consists of returned men, the Government still fails to fulfil its obligations to the soldiers and their dependants, and according to Mr. Holland, the failure is due to the fact that the Government's supply of money is limited. If that be true, and it is true, how will the development of a more Christian attitude, as recommended by Senator MacDonald increase the supply of money?

A Few "Whys"

And if the Government's supply of money is limited, and because of this limitation it is unable to meet the people's needs or to make proper use of the country's resources, then would it not be far more to the point for Mr. Holland and Senator MacDonald to be finding out why the supply is limited; why a supposedly sovereign Government cannot make good any shortage; why payments to soldiers should be regarded as a "bill"; why we are never given the names of the persons to whom the "bill" is owing, and why citizens of a wealthy country should be called upon to pay income tax at all? Soldiers' pensions are used mostly to secure food, clothes, and shelter, and, as there are plenty of these, why should the pensions be a "burden"? They are a burden only because money comes into existence as a debt to the private banks instead of as a credit to the community. To suggest that because the amount paid out to soldiers is equal to the amount collected from income tax we should not ask for further pensions is to suggest that the only way in which the Government can get money is by way of taxation. That is quite untrue.

What of the Interest Bill?

It would have been far more sensible had Mr. Holland suggested that because the interest bill exceeds the total amount collected from Income Tax, Land Tax, Estate and Probate Duties, Sales Tax, Unemployment Tax, Motor Tax, and Entertainment Tax, we should discontinue pensions altogether! That the aged, the infirm, and suffering soldiers should never have preference over Interest, particularly when the Interest is a tribute for book entries called money. That is to say, the "money" which forms the National Debt and for which the Interest is paid, consists of figures written in books and pieces of paper sent to the Government. In other words, the Interest has to be paid because the figures were written in the books at the private banks instead of being written in the books at the Commonwealth Bank or the Commonwealth Treasury. The Interest represents the amount the Government pays for the privilege of writing cheques and having them cleared through the private banking system, and the debt itself represents the extent to which Australian assets have been pawned to the same private banking system for "permitting" this to be done. If the Commonwealth Bank performed this service for the Government, as it certainly should, we could immediately cancel every one of the taxes mentioned and still be fair to our soldiers without "bidding" anyone for it. It would be part of the community's credit.

A Part of the Swindle

Obviously, Mr. Holland has given no thought to this, and has not the faintest realisation that the national debt is actually part of the financial swindle. He knows, if he will but think, that payment of taxation can be made only in money. A bag of potatoes or a suit of clothes would not be accepted. Therefore the only purpose of taxation is to collect money for the Government. As the amount paid out each year

for Interest alone exceeds all the taxes mentioned, it is beyond argument that, in the main, Governments are merely collecting agencies for those who receive the Interest. With very few exceptions the Interest goes to the banks and their allied trustee and insurance companies. These self-same banks control the issue, recall, and cancellation of all monies used by the community, and have so manipulated it that it is a physical impossibility, under present conditions, for us to get out of their debt.

The Money Cancellers

They put us further into debt and then cancel the means by which we could pay the debt. They actually admitted to the Monetary and Banking Commission that they do deliberately restrict credit and make it impossible for Governments and private citizens to meet their money commitments. Therefore it is the bankers who limit the quantity of money, and when Mr. Holland tries to persuade returned soldiers not to ask for justice because money is limited, he is definitely serving the interests of the bankers while making it appear that his heart bleeds for the soldiers.

Limelight for Officials

What have the rank and file of the returned soldiers been doing to allow such conditions to develop, particularly in recent years, when so much light has been thrown on the fraudulent nature of the financial system which alone thwarts the accomplishment of their aims and objects? They have been getting more and more representation in Parliaments and more and more press publicity, but to what purpose? Their executives get their photographs in the newspapers, but the soldiers go on starving or living perilously close to the bread line. Australian soldiers could stand up to and defeat the greatest soldiers of all time, but they have not attempted as a body to stand up to the small clique of confidence men, known as bankers, who have done more harm to the community than all the enemy soldiers put together, and who have mesmerised them and their "leaders" into thinking that money is something mysterious, delicate, costly, intricate, scarce, and terribly difficult to produce.

Themselves to Blame

While educated men are willing to remain mesmerised in that way

they have only themselves to blame if the Governments, acting on the advice of the same bankers, continue to fool them. They have "conferred" year after year only to see in a world bursting with wealth, the perpetuation and intensification of "conditions in which large sections of the community are dependent for their food on Government distribution; for their shelter, on the generosity of landlords; and for the raiment, on the cast-off garments of other people" (Sir Frederic Stewart). All because there is shortage of money in the hands the people.

Ssh!!

Even the British Medical Association of Western Australia has denounced the conditions under which people are forced to live, as follows "It is a curious anomaly that in our State to-day the health and welfare of many thousands of farmers, the wives, and their families should be rated as much less important than that of their stock and machinery. Many of these farmers are returned soldiers, and yet, in the midst of these conditions, Mr. Holland, the president of the R.S.S.I.L.A., says "Ssh! Don't ask for better conditions. Forget your need and the fact that the wealth of the country is enormous, and remember only that the Government's supply of tickets is limited!" Ye Gods! The best thing for the soldiers to do is to lend a hand with the work of the U.E.A., and thus help to make Parliament the servant of the people instead of an institution which oppresses them.

Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H. BROWN.

PRISON

*This, too, I know—and wise were it
If each could know the same—
That every prison that men build
Is built with bricks of shame,
And bound with bars lest Christ
should see
How men their brothers maim.*

*With bars they blur the gracious moon,
And blind the goodly sun;
And they do well to hide their Hell.
For in it things are done
That Son of God nor son of man
Ever should look upon!*
—Oscar Wilde.

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THE ISSUE BEFORE US

The following speech, which we re-publish with acknowledgments from "Social Credit," was delivered by Major C. H. Douglas on March 9th last before a society in one of the greatest of the English Public Schools. We think it sums up with admirable terseness the fundamental social and political problem facing the Western world to-day.

In considering what I should say to you to-night, it appeared to me to be more useful to deal with certain broad and general problems, which confront us all, rather than to take up your time with technical matters of finance or otherwise, since it is the so-called axioms of our civilisation which are challenged and require examination rather than the details.

There is a peculiar fitness in talking about these things to you who live under, and are inevitably influenced by, the force of a great tradition. Tradition has a hypnotic effect and crystallises in institutions.

It is with full consciousness of this that I can make to you at once, in a few words, and count upon you to understand at once, the most important statement I have to offer: that the future of civilisation hangs on a reversal of the present domination of individuals by institutions.

To those who are not familiar with (and, therefore, do not venerate, as I do myself, and as, no doubt, do you) the force and value of tradition, this statement might first hearing sound like an attack upon tradition and the institutions which embody it.

Nothing could be further from my meaning. Tradition, with its institutions, when they have survived through the centuries, represents an invaluable body of experience.

But it is most important, I think, to bear in mind that human social experience is in general relative to particular economic and political systems, and there comes a time, such as the present, when the experience we have gained has to be employed with great judgment or it may be a hindrance rather than a help. But, if it is so employed, nothing, in my opinion, can replace it.

Now, I think that in the world to-day there are two quite fundamental ideas which are struggling for acceptance. They are capable of various antitheses, and I have made two groups of some of these, not necessarily or probably comprehensive, which might perhaps be called Group A and Group B:

Group A.	Group B.
Deductive	v. Inductive
Totalitarian	.. Democratic
Machiavellian	.. Baconian
Idealistic	.. Realistic
Jewish	.. Christian
Love of Power	.. Organic Growth
Planned Economy	.. Love of Freedom

Group A comprises, on the whole, those habits of mind which are effective in affairs, and particularly affairs of State, to-day.

With some hesitation, I will suggest that they may have been the more pragmatically useful group in the past. I have no hesitation in saying that the persistence of these habits of mind in our present world threatens that world with general catastrophe.

The flowers of the Group A ideas are the modern Dictatorships. I should like you, for a moment, to consider the fact that Messrs. Stalin, Mussolini and Hitler, to mention the better known, are men of what Jane Austen would have called "humble" birth.

I won't waste time by protesting that there is nothing derogatory in this statement—it merely means that *per se* it is a start in life which seems, from our point of view, to limit the opportunities of experience, and,

consequently, it tends to produce what is nowadays called an "inferiority complex." "Humble birth" is, of course, a feature of a particular social system.

I do not think that this similarity in origin of the Dictators is accidental. Neither am I convinced that their meteoric rise is a compliment to their useful qualities as members of society. Rather, I am inclined to regard it as a damning indictment of the systems for which they stand, as being the embodiment of the "inferiority complex." You will, no doubt, feel that this statement requires some amplification.

There is, I believe, little difference of opinion among psychologists that the characteristics of Group A are all characteristics of immaturity, of what we should call a genuine deficiency of education and culture.

So is an "inferiority complex." The unfortunate victim of it yearns to inflict on others the slights, and real or fancied injustice he has, or thinks he has, himself suffered. A dictatorship is a grim confirmation of the prophecy, "The last shall be first."

The first characteristic of a dictatorship is the assumption that all wisdom in regard to the objects of the State is centred in the Dictator. Logically, if things go wrong, it is the fault, not of the policy, but of individuals who are entrusted with its execution. Hence we arrive by rapid stages at what is so charmingly called "the blood purge."

The second characteristic is the exaltation of abstractions, such as the State. The first article of the Italian Constitution, for instance, is that the State is everything; the individual nothing, except as he is of service to the State. This is typical of Group A thinking.

You no doubt, remember *Punch's* story of the cross-channel passenger in the saloon to whom the steward said, "You can't be sick here, sir," and the passenger's reply, "Can't I?" as he demonstrated that he could.

The steward's rebuke was Group A thinking, and the passenger's reply, Group B thinking. The steward's insistence on tradition was right in its way but he mistook tradition for natural law, which is a fatal mistake.

Great Britain, although not a titular dictatorship, is an oligarchy moving towards a dictatorship as a result of the elevation of financial and legal conventions easily recognisable as belonging to Group A.

I see no reason to assume that, making allowance for the character of the people, the outcome will be less deplorable than is the case, say, in Russia, although it may take an immediately less murderous form.

One immediate effect of it is that on the whole British statesmen do not represent the best talent available, partly because the best talent available is repelled by current political practices.

That marvellous pioneer, Francis Bacon, Earl of Verulam, in the "Novum Organum," saw the nature of the problem clearly, and stated it with precision. He said in effect: "We can proceed no further along the lines of thought now prevalent. What is required is a just—that is to say, a realistic—relationship between the mind and things."

The scientists took his advice, and modern mastery of nature is the result. The lawyers and financiers did not, and civilisation is breaking up because they did not. Nations are striving for things which are no use to them, and suffering under necessities which have no real existence.

Instead, then of endeavouring to impose some abstract and immature

organisation upon nations and upon the world, the first step would appear to be to examine the nature of nations. The first act which seems incontestable about nations is that they are collections of human beings.

Human beings can exist quite comfortably without nations, but nations, or States, cannot exist without human beings. That would appear to settle once and for all the question of the relative importance of human beings and nations.

But it is a fact that human beings do tend to form nations. Why? The answer is, I think, quite simple. Human beings associate together originally in order that each individual may benefit by association. The simplest example is pulling on a rope.

Men don't pull on a rope for the benefit of the rope; they provide the rope for the benefit their associated effort brings to each of them.

Now there is definitely a form of government which is associated with this conception -- genuine Democracy. No one takes seriously the verbiage prevalent about the struggle between Democratic and Totalitarian Governments—there are no Democratic Governments.

But there might be.

Perhaps I might be permitted to touch on a few of the things that Democracy is not.

While it is inconsistent with arbitrary special privilege, economic or otherwise, it does not mean equalitarianism. It would be just as sensible to say, without amplification, that everyone had a right to a place in the Eleven.

So they have, if they have the qualifications, and it is recognised that the number of places is by general consent limited.

Neither does Democracy mean a referendum or an election on every detail of day-to-day national management. On the contrary, a realistic conception of Democracy insists that a community is sovereign, but it is not technical.

It has a right to demand results, but not to dictate methods; the word "right" being used in the pragmatic sense.

But if the results desired are not being obtained it has a right to an explanation, and, if necessary, the replacement of its administrators.

So far as Great Britain is concerned, I am inclined to think that the divergence from Democracy is not difficult to indicate. Easily the most glaring feature is our money and credit system, which is indefensible. The information it affords us is illusory, and no security is possible until it is drastically modified.

The Parliamentary system has been perverted to purposes for which it was not intended, and all real power has been taken from it by the Cabinet.

Finally, our legal system has been exalted to a semi-divine omnipotence, and invested with sanctions which make it a master and not a servant.

Obviously it would take much too long to examine each of these aspects of our decadence at length.

I do not believe that any of them will really be put right until there is a much wider consciousness of the natural relationship between the individual and his institutions.

If that can be obtained, and not until it is obtained, we shall dispense with a type of statesman who, in spite of Abraham Lincoln's warning, still hopefully tries to fool all the people some of the time and some of the people all the time, and, instead, obtain men who recognise that the advice, "If any would be greatest among you let him be your servant," was not sentimentalism, but a brilliant axiom of social and political organisation.

Letter to Editor CHINA OR JAPAN? A Plea for Fair Play

Sir,—I emphatically wish to protest against all this propaganda that is being broadcast in favour of the Chinese and to the detriment of the Japanese. Both China and Japan are friendly nations; we are at war with neither of them, and to continue to make demonstrations in favour of one and against the other is, to say the least of it, un-British.

Last Sunday week the Methodists were prominent in aiding this insidious propaganda work. The president of the Methodist Conference preached at the Chinese Methodist Church and conveyed a message of sympathy from the Methodist body to the Chinese. On the same afternoon Rev. C. Irving Benson staged another show at Wesley Church under the guise of a "Pleasant Sunday Afternoon." The pulpit was draped with the Chinese flag and many Chinese residents were present (*Argus*, 1/8/38). Dr. Pao, the Chinese Consul-General, was the speaker, and the large audience present was given the Chinese view of the question, and no doubt left the church with the impression that the Japanese were a lot of murderous, devils. Monday morning's press gave considerable prominence in their columns to the address, which is still further evidence that the show was staged to bias the people. I wonder whether Rev. C. Irving Benson, who, as an "Oxford Grouper," professes to believe in, and practise, "absolute honesty," will invite the Consul-General for Japan to speak from the same platform next Sunday afternoon, with the pulpit draped with the Japanese flag! I ha' ma doots.

Australia is a country friendly to both these nations, therefore it is but fair, British fair play in fact, that we boast so much about, that the people should be given the opportunity of hearing both sides of the question, and then be allowed to decide for themselves. This, so far, has not been done, but a deliberate attempt has been made by the powers-that-be to sway public opinion in favour of the Chinese. Some few months ago Mr. MacMahon Ball spoke from the Forum of the Unitarian Church, East Melbourne, about Japan, and emphasised the fact that Japan had been forced into this war, mainly because of the treatment she had received from other nations, England and Australia in particular. Some have, evidently, most conveniently, forgotten all about this.

Further, we must not lose sight of the fact that Japan has a population of some ninety million souls to house, clothe and feed, and that the other nations are hostile to her because she is able to live in a much cheaper and simpler fashion than Europeans and cut prices accordingly, an unpardonable crime in the eyes of the British when not done by themselves. The secret of all this agitation in favour of China is that she owes Britain several hundred millions of money. England, or Australia, either, for that matter, does not care a "tinker's dam" (please note the spelling, Mr. Editor) for China; all she is troubling about is the fear that she may lose the money she has invested there; and when all is said and done, it is not *England* that is troubling, but merely the money-gang, headed by Montagu Norman, Baron Stamp and Company. All this propaganda in favour of China is instituted and engineered by them to hoodwink and deceive the public. Therefore, when it comes to Christian (so-called) ministers aiding and abetting this nefarious scheme, it makes one wonder whether or no they are protégés of Baron Stamp?

Has Australia entirely forgotten all that Japan did for us during the Great War? Has she forgotten the Good-Will Mission led by Sir John Latham, which received such a sincere and cordial welcome from Japan?

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(Continued from page 8.)

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Present happenings give one the impression that it was all hypocrisy on our part, the hypocrisy that is begotten of our rotten monetary and social systems.

I appeal to the readers of your admirable paper to give their earnest and thoughtful consideration to this important question; not to allow themselves to be deluded and misled by the false propaganda that is being spread by the money gang, its agents and fawning sycophants, but to remember that there are two sides to the question, and, before passing judgment, to honestly and calmly sum up the facts on both sides, first of all removing the plank from their own eye before attempting to remove the speck from their brother's eye.

"ACTIONS, NOT WORDS."
North Melbourne.

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

VICTORIA

KEW MEETING.—As mentioned in last week's *New Times*, we have held the report of the Kew meeting over to this issue. On one of the coldest nights in the history of Melbourne more than 150 people attended, and throughout the meeting displayed enthusiasm. It was undoubtedly one of the most successful public meetings conducted, and is further evidence that the citizens of Kooyong are starting to realise that this campaign means action.

The first speaker was Dr. John Dale, who took for his subject "Health and Poverty." "My official duties as a Health Officer," he said, "bring me in contact with appalling conditions of poverty. It is my work to combat these conditions, and, as this meeting has been convened by a movement whose objective is the Abolition of Poverty, I feel it my duty to be on the platform and to assist in every way I can." His address was scientifically interesting, and convinced the audience of the urgency of the desired reform.

Eric Butler gave a quiet, penetrating address which covered the wide field of party politics, the mechanical age, democratic principles and the purpose of the Elector's Demand and Undertaking Form. Judging from the response, Eric carried his audience with him, in one of his best expositions yet heard on the campaign.

The third speaker was Miss Josie Robinson, who represented the Youth Section. In a short, appealing address she dealt with the frustration of youth at the present time, and gave several telling examples of the mad state of society under which we live. A short account of the activities of the Youth Section was listened to attentively. In conclusion, Miss Robinson made a special appeal to all young people to join the Youth Section and help in building a new society for themselves. Upon sitting down she was given a very warm ovation, indicating quite clearly that both young and older people were impressed by the ability of this young woman in taking the platform against existing conditions.

At the conclusion of the addresses the chairman put a resolution to the meeting, which was carried unanimously. The resolution was to the effect that the meeting desired the Federal member, Mr. Menzies, to press at all Times in the House for the Abolition of Poverty.

BOX HILL MEETING.—In spite of rain and the short time in which the meeting was organised approximately 50 people attended to hear Rev. C. D. Brock and Eric Butler speak in furtherance of the campaign in the electorate of Deakin.

Dr. John Dale took the chair, and, in his opening remarks, stressed the urgency of the problem with which we are confronted.

In a short, provocative address Eric gave a clear exposition of the campaign, and left no doubts in the minds of the audience as to the tremendous power of true democracy. At the conclusion of his address he launched a vigorous warning against the new depression, which, in conjunction

with the National Insurance scheme, he said, would start to make the people sit up and do a bit of thinking. "Democracy thinks on its stomach," he said, "and unless we are prepared to accept our democratic responsibilities, what we are going to get in the very near future will serve us right."

Rev. Brock was given a very warm welcome, and said that he was very pleased to be able to have the opportunity of speaking in his hometown. In a very interesting address he dealt with the personal responsibility entailed in the campaign if it was to be successful. He gave some very interesting information on examples of pressure politics in England, and also similar moves which were taking place in Australia.

The meeting closed on a good note, and many of those present indicated that they desired to help in furthering the campaign.

CROYDON.—As Rev. Brock has had his time fully occupied, Eric Butler gave the address on National Insurance to the Housewives at Croydon on Wednesday afternoon last.

KOOYONG. — Keen satisfaction was expressed by those present at the Kooyong Group meeting last Thursday evening with the results obtained at the series of public meetings. It was decided to start and organise the various centres into groups for the purpose of more intense organising. All supporters in Kooyong are asked to note the following Secretaries of the various groups, and get in touch with them immediately:—

Camberwell Group: Mr. Hinds, 73 Radnor-street, Camberwell.

Hartwell Group: Mr. W. Allan, 15 Callanish-road, Hartwell.

Kew Group: Mr. T. Landy, 82 Tennyson-street, Kew.

YOUTH SECTION.—The follow-up meeting after the Brighton meeting saw several new faces, and a plan of organising the meeting for Elsternwick was laid down. Social functions for raising funds are being arranged, and should prove a valuable adjunct to the serious work of the movement. Hon. Secretary is J. Iggulden, 1 Gillard-street, Brighton East.

The preliminary meeting to the Elsternwick meeting will be held at 40 Elizabeth-street, Elsternwick, on Tuesday, August 16. Mrs. K. C. Edwards has kindly opened her home for the evening. All young people who are interested are asked to be present, and to come early.

KOOYONG CAMPAIGN executive invites all those interested to be present at 73 Radnor-street, Camberwell, on Wednesday, August 17, to discuss future activities.

FRANKSTON. - - A small group is being formed at this centre, and we expect a public meeting to launch the campaign in the very near future.

GIPPSLAND.—The response to the broadcasting appeal has not been satisfactory as yet, and all supporters who desire this step to be taken are urged to get in touch with headquarters immediately, stating to what extent they are prepared to help.

MELBOURNE SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE CLOSED

Women's Voice Stifled

On the grounds that its aims were political, the Shrine Trustees refused permission for a women's pilgrimage to the Shrine, announced by the Australian Women's Movement for Social and Economic Research, for Sunday, August 7. Another reason given by the Trustees was that the Shrine had already been booked for a unit pilgrimage on the 7th.

With the first application for the use of the Shrine, Miss Robinson, honorary secretary of the movement, enclosed a copy of a leaflet setting out the objects of the pilgrimage and a copy of a pledge to which it was proposed to invite signatures at tables in the Shrine grounds. The leaflet announced that the pilgrimage would take place on Sunday, August 7, to protest against economic

insecurity and the threat of war, and to call on the Federal Government to abolish them.

The text of the signature-scrolls is: "We, the women of Victoria, protest most strongly against the existence of insecurity in Australia when the real wealth of our country is unlimited and against the drift towards war when our most earnest desire is peace. We therefore demand that our Federal Government shall take immediate steps to abolish insecurity and the threat of war."

Discussions between the Trustees and Miss Robinson followed, in which the former made known their objection to the political aspects of the pilgrimage. Sir Harry Chauvel asked, "Why the Shrine?" On receiving the answer, "That the Shrine is a memorial to those who died in a war to end war," Sir Harry again asked, "Who said so? The men went to save their country, it was their duty to go." Certain modifications were suggested by Miss Robinson, and on July 11 she wrote to the trustees stating that "women as individuals and as organisations had been invited to attend the Shrine to dedicate themselves to the completion of the task begun by those whom the Shrine commemorates." (The women were asked to walk through the Shrine and offer up a silent prayer that war be averted.)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Delegates from the United Democrats (Non-Party) attended the meeting on July 28, convened by the Society Working For a Christian Social Order. Delegates from the trade unions, church societies and other social reform organisations heard the Rev. Norman Crawford speak on "It Can Be Done." He emphasised the brotherhood of man and his rights, according to his highest ideals. Rev. C. L. Sanders spoke on "It Must Be Done," showing the imperative need of a change in our economic life. "The false prosperity due to the vast armaments expenditure throughout the world is likely to end and bring great distress. A young country such as Australia can provide for all," he said. Paragraph 504 of the Royal Commission on Banking was quoted to show "where the money could come from." It was resolved to call a Town Hall meeting on September 1, in which the 125 organisations previously circularised should be invited to participate.

WEST AUSTRALIA

A DYNAMIC CLERGYMAN.—The Rev. John Bell, of Christ Church, Claremont, has become a forceful personality in W.A. His powers of oratory, both from the pulpit and over the air, have had a profound effect upon his many listeners, causing them to think of things as they are, when many other speakers have failed.

The Rev. Bell holds no brief for the present un-Christian economic conditions, which allow people to suffer unnecessary want in the midst of plenty; and, in a number of brilliant addresses, he has told his congregation and his radio audience just what he thinks of them,

POSTER CAMPAIGN.—H.Q. urges supporters not to forget this aspect of the campaign, and states that funds are still needed to complete plans for launching it. The sooner they receive your contribution the sooner will the people of Perth see, upon city hoardings, posters calling their attention to the campaign and its work.

People of BENDIGO AND DISTRICT

Arrangements are being made to establish the Electoral Campaign to Abolish Poverty in Bendigo.

Get in touch with

MR. T. COMBIE,

70 Casey Street, Bendigo, and

help in the fight for

DEMOCRACY.

YOUR GOOD DEED FOR NEXT WEEK — And Every Week

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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 vigneronns 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

AT THE PROHIBITION POLL, OCTOBER 8.

Authorised by J. J. Liston and Brig.-General J. C. Stewart, Assistant Director, The Block, Collins Street, C.1.

EVERYTHING READY!

4 Tennis Courts (Porous) to Aid U.E.A. Funds

Plans and specifications are ready; carpenters and workers all keyed up to their work. £500 in one lump sum available. All we want is guarantors for this amount—as separate guarantors, not joint. We do not think there is any possibility of calling on the guarantors—as many people are waiting for these courts to be completed. Write in at once to Secretary of U.E.A. McEwan House, C.1

--Advt.