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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. 33.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 1938.

Every Friday, 3d

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Shall We Take Another Depression Lying Down?

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(Continued on page 3).

Origins of World War

That the path of a Professor is strewn with thorns as well as roses is a proposition with which our old friend, Professor Copland would readily agree. And so would Professor S. H. Roberts. Challis Professor of History at the Sydney University.

Perhaps the outstanding feature of the experience of both Professors is that rose petals have been liberally strewn on their paths by Sir Keith Murdoch and the Melbourne Herald. It was the prosperity-by-common-sacrifice (i.e., sacrifice by the common people) ramp that put Professor Copland on the Herald pay roll many years ago. Professor Roberts made the grade by a series of uncomplimentary remarks about Herr Hitler and Aryan Germans in general, penned on his return to Australia after several months spent in Germany enjoying German hospitality.

The Professor has now come to light with a series of articles on the origins of the last World War (the 1914-1918 one). He draws attention to "the terrible analogy between those pre-war years and to-day." In the prewar period the drift to war appeared inevitable. It appears inevitable to-day, even in spite of the fact that people, at least, know what modern warfare means.

The Shallowness of Professors

And what are the Professor's conclusions? Does he conclude that some fundamental causative factor was in operation in the pre-war years, that it operated during the years of warfare, and that it has remained in operation throughout the years of so called peace? Not a bit of it. He fishes round for the origins of the last World War in the happenings of 1900 to 1914; years in which Britain and Germany were ALREADY AT WAR. The warfare then was political and economic, mainly economic. It flowered into military warfare in the ripeness of time.

What, dear Professor, drove Germany to reach out to Baghdad, to South America and elsewhere, to flood Australia and other countries with "cheap, German goods," and to try and snatch Britain's export markets? What drove Britain to defend her markets?

Perhaps we err in asking such questions of a Professor, just as we would err in asking Professor Copland what was the real origin of the depression? To a Professor these events just happen. They are to be accepted as divine visitations, and that is that.

Germany did reach out to Baghdad. She did start to undersell Britain on the world's markets. She did get Turkey in the bag.

Why not simply accept these facts and cease to worry busy Professorial journalists about such stupid matters as causes?

The Professor is prepared to accept these facts as the causes of the war, and leave it at that. Britain's record was blameless, except insofar as she failed to tell Germany with brutal plainness that she would fight on the side of France. The Professor would like to believe that if Britain had told the world this in 1913 there never would have been a World War.

He would like to believe that the next conflagration might as easily be avoided and that all that Britain has to do to avoid war is to refuse to regard as private any fight started anywhere by anyone, but to hop right in, like the proverbial Irishman. It is difficult to know what conclusions a Professor will reach when he really warms

up to his work. The Professor, not satisfied with the efforts outlined above, proceeded to drag out the old chestnut about Germany's war guilt. No doubt, he will have the blessing of Theodore Fink if he is prepared to go on record that the guilt for the next war as well will rest on Germany's shoulders.

The Alternatives Facing the Have-Nots

It is true that most of the active steps which might lead to armed conflict are now being initiated by the have-not nations—namely, by Germany, Italy and Japan. These nations have, at some stage, found themselves deprived of all the things which the international financial system forces nations to prize and scramble for. They have found themselves without export markets, without access to raw materials, without means of providing work for their citizens, and, in accordance with financial rules, consequently unable to provide avenues for the distribution of money to their citizens. Britain and America are unable to point to the stupidity of this assumption that money can be distributed only in respect of employment, for they themselves observe the same rules.

The penalty for loss in the scramble for markets and employment is stagnation, internal disruption and eventual extinction. People in glass houses must not throw bricks. The time for Britain to censure Germany's conduct with any degree of justice will arrive when Britain puts her own financial house in order, and shows Germany what can be done in the way of distributing machine-produced goods without insisting on employment as the sole possible means of providing consumers with necessary money.

Adopting the present rules, Germany has had no option but to reach out for markets, raw materials and employment. She has had no option but to re-arm. As we have said, failure in the economic struggle spells death, and the instinct of self-preservation is so strongly planted in man that it is the other fellow's life which goes when it comes down to a matter of "his life or mine."

The Autumn Manoeuvres

At the time of writing, Germany has one million soldiers in uniform, and their exercises are being carried out perilously close to the Czechoslovakian border. Our newspapers fill our ears with stories of the efficiency and preparedness of the Czech army, and alternately with stories of the weakness and unpreparedness of the Czech army. They put the same sort of ballyhoo over in the war years, one day telling us that one Australian soldier was the equal of ten Huns, and the next day that our soldiers were fighting with unexampled bravery against unprecedented odds. It seems reasonably clear that if Germany decides to step into Czechoslovakia nothing short of world war will stop her—that is, if the game continues to be played in accordance with orthodox rules.

If these rules are to be observed, Britain will find that she simply cannot pull out of the struggle, no matter how fed up she is of the stupidity of it all.

Changing the Rules

Fortunately, however, it is within the power of any country to change the rules insofar as its own domestic economy is concerned. Britain can, if she will, pull out of the struggle with absolute safety. All she has to

do is to provide a market at home for all she can produce, and for all that foreigners care to pour into her shops and warehouses. All that is required to set up this market is a steady and adequate flow of money into the pockets of her citizens. Money is a ticket, a costless creation, a device which should assist the distribution of real wealth. By making British money achieve that purpose in Britain, the British Government could cure overnight the tension existing in Europe and elsewhere.

The world has only to see a single demonstration of a sane economic and monetary system in operation to realise the full extent of its present depravity.

For that matter, the demonstration could be given here in Australia.

The "experiment is worth trying, even if it is tried merely to save Sir Keith Murdoch from too prodigal an expenditure of rose petals on those learned Professors, whose function it will be to explain the next war and the next depression to the next generation (if any).

PROFESSOR MURDOCH ATTACKS SOCIAL INJUSTICE

In the National Talk on Sunday last, Professor Murdoch concluded his series entitled "A Creed for Australia." Like many others, he has been giving some thought to the present unhappy state of society, and it is apparently his object to assist in bringing about some improvement in our lot by formulating a "Creed" made up of articles in which is set out the attitude we should adopt towards the evils that beset us.

The first evil to be dealt with by him was that of war. While agreeing that it was an evil to be eradicated, he rightly pointed out the extreme difficulty involved and the futility of any efforts in this direction which failed to attack the hidden causes of war.

Next, he pleaded for better social and economic conditions, and this entailed a consideration of the questions of justice and freedom.

In totalitarian States, freedom was suppressed in the interests of a so-called public good, and, in Italy in particular, there had been considerable gain of more than a mere material kind. But the loss of freedom was too high a price to pay, and totalitarianism, therefore, could not be a permanent abiding place.

In the democracies, though the people retained their freedom, yet it was a freedom that left much to be desired. Governments had failed to secure economic well-being for the people, many of whom were insufficiently nourished. And here danger lay. Because of the failure of Governments to take adequate steps to ensure proper

living conditions, the people might be goaded into Fascism.

Hence, freedom alone was not enough; justice also was necessary—justice in the distribution of wealth and of leisure, and equal opportunities to make the best use of leisure.

At this point, the Professor raised the question whether religion offered any solution, but he had been unable to discover that the Churches gave a creed fitted for the problems of our time. The Pope, indeed, had said much concerning the present social evils. In his Encyclical letter, "Quadragesimo Anno," he had condemned the system which allowed wealth and "immense power and despotic economic domination" to be "concentrated in the hands of a few," and he had returned to the question more recently in "Divini Redemptoris." But, asked the Professor, what is the Church doing to correct the evils the Pope condemns? Has the Church accepted the pronouncement, or made it an article of its Creed?

After exhorting us to strive to lead the way in the evolution of democracy to a better world, to be a nation determined to give to every child the chance of growing into the best kind of man it is possible to be, the Professor referred to the question of national defence, and suggested that it was desirable to make our country one worth while defending by improving the conditions under which our people live. He then concluded by inviting listeners to forward their criticisms to him.

—The Advocate (Melb.), Aug. 4. August 4.

"NOW WE BEG OF YOU DEAR FRIENDS: SURELY ANYONE CAN SEE THAT THIS IS ONLY A GENTLE LITTLE DOVE"

THIS "DRY TALE" HAS A STING!
SINCE "NO-LICENCE" DOES MEAN PROHIBITION

Within the State of Victoria the sale, supply, barter, or disposal of liquor (under Abolition) will be illegal and punishable—(Leading Counsel's opinion). The positive, practical result (of a "Yes" majority) undoubtedly would be Prohibition whatever the order thus established might be called—(The Age, 21/7/38).

A "Yes" vote will be a vote for Prohibition—(Herald, 8/8/38.)

CALL THE PROHIBITION BLUFF

VOTE NO

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

SO YOU WONT TALK!

By YAFFLE, in "Reynolds News."

There comes a time to all of us, brothers and sisters, when it behoves us to reconsider the value of things which we have long regarded as necessary and unchangeable.

Many a man, alone with his thoughts in the silence of the night, said to himself: "Things cannot go on in the same way forever," and decided that, perhaps, the time really has come to change socks.

In the same way, the British people—and I use the term in its broadest sense, including those who are neither Scots nor Yorkshiremen—have always prided themselves on their freedom of speech.

Let us, therefore, in a spirit of love, pause a moment to inquire of our souls whether, after all, Freedom of speech may not prove to be an impediment to progress.

I was reminded of this by a recent letter to a daily paper:—

"GOSSIP IS DYING OUT."

"Gossiping . . . is not so common as it was. Nowadays, cheap and interesting newspapers, the cinema, the wireless . . . supply most of the topics of small talk, and there is no need to pry into other people's affairs."

We have here, intelligently forecast, the next important stage in the history of democratic government—the abolition of private opinions.

It is undeniable that the greatest impediment to law and order is the free and uncontrolled expression of personal opinions. No advance can be made towards national unity while people are permitted to choose their own topics of conversation.

The State can never be established on a firm basis so long as the mass of the people persist in the habit of talking to one another in their spare time.

Sooner or later, therefore, private conversation will have to be replaced by the State Regulation and Control of Opinions. Topics of conversation will be provided by a central body under the direct supervision of a Minister of State.

Fortunately, the machinery for the mass production of standardised opinions is already established. The B. B.C. has made great strides towards the final abolition of conversation. Gossip is already nearly impossible, if only for the reason that nobody can hear what anybody says.

It is a common thing for a man to beckon to his friend, lead him without a word to a remote part of the country, and, pausing at last upon the summit of a lonely hill, say to him: "Now, what was that you said?"

SHEEP WITHOUT A BUTCHER.

Already the people feel lost when the wireless is turned off. In the awful silence that follows, they wander, without aim or guidance, like sheep having no butcher. They are getting to rely upon mechanical aids to social intercourse. I am told that the original function of crooning with dance music was to provide the couples with tender sentiments and save them the trouble of inventing their own. And now many lovers prefer to sit, hand in hand, before a radio, rather than undergo the strain of telling their love. "Why make your own love," they ask, "when it's on tap?"

And I heard of one ardent swain who, keeping tryst with his beloved in a place where no radio was available, turned up wearing a gramophone on his hat, and declared his passion with the aid of sixpenny records.

Very soon everyone will be compelled by law to wear headphones during their leisure hours, and the final stage of national unity will be achieved.

During the transitional period it may be advisable to continue the outward semblance of personal expression. For instance, public meetings and debates will still be held, but the speeches will be provided by the B.B.C., while the speakers, with gags on, will provide the gestures.

There will, of course, always be exceptions. When ordinary people have ceased "to pry into other people's affairs," the Income Tax

REPEAL OF NATIONAL INSURANCE?

Electors To Be Organised

The following has been received by the *West Australian Wheat-grower* from the Acting Secretary (Mr. James Kelly) of the Movement to Repeal the National Insurance Bill:—

I have been requested by my committee to submit a letter to your journal giving publicity to the movement that is being promoted to enable the public to demand the repeal of the National Insurance Bill.

A false impression seems to have been gathered in many minds to the effect that it is too late to do anything now that the Bill has become law.

Nothing is further from the truth. It is not too late, and the Bill will only remain law just as long as the public lack the necessary determination to have it repealed. No man-made law is irrevocable, therefore it has been decided to take a petition round in the electorates of all those Federal members who supported the Bill, and ask the electors to sign such petition, demanding the immediate repeal of the said National Insurance Bill. As this movement will be Commonwealth-wide, it is obvious that the Lyons' Government will have no alternative. They will have to repeal the Bill if all the members who receive a petition threaten to vote against the Government on any and every occasion, until their demands are obeyed.

The indecent haste with which this iniquitous law was rushed through both Houses of Parliament in Canberra, clearly indicates the Government's fear of allowing the people time to organise effective protests against it.

and Means Test Inspectors will carry on the job.

* * *

We are now taking you over to a boiler factory, where you will hear the first rivets being hammered into the boilers of the sister ship to the Queen Mary.

Goodnight. ev'rybuddeh!
Go-o-odnight!

The Federal Government may have won the first round, but the public of this country can easily prove their superiority over such dictatorial actions, and it is quite certain that electors will sign the petition in thousands to free themselves from the bonds of financial slavery.

Collectively, the people are absolutely invincible, so it is not expecting too much to say that, with the completion of the petitions throughout the Commonwealth, the Bill will be repealed before it is allowed to come into operation.

The fact that many friendly societies have made arrangements to participate in the profits of the scheme need not be allowed to interfere in this determined stand, which the people will most certainly make, to show that they are the masters of the situation, and that they have the power, when they determine to use it, that will compel their servants (their representatives) to obey orders and represent the people, instead of financial institutions.

The following is the order given by the electors to their Minister, in the form of a petition:

Petition to Mr. (insert member's name here), M.H.R.,—We, the undersigned electors in the (name of electorate) electorate hereby demand the repeal of the National Health and Pensions Insurance Bill.

As the member for this constituency, you are hereby instructed to insist upon the repeal of the said National Insurance Bill, under threat of withdrawing your support from the Lyons' Government on any and every occasion when a vote or division is being taken in the House.

This will give the Government no alternative but to accede to your request and repeal the Bill, or your action will bring about the dismissal of the Government from office.

We know the National Insurance Bill is now law, but we also know there is no man-made law that is irrevocable. Any law can be repealed if the majority of the electors in the Commonwealth of Australia demand its repeal.

We, therefore, demand the immediate repeal of the National Insurance Bill and we will hold you personally responsible to us if you fail to carry out our orders.

EMPIRE DEBT FARMS

The propaganda for emigration schemes is getting under way. The response from the people for whom plans are being made—from individuals desiring to seek fortune and economic security in some unpopulated "vast space of the Empire"—is, up to now, not forthcoming.

But this is early yet, the planners are prepared to conduct a sustained campaign and to spend a lot of money painting rosy pictures of opportunity in the colonies; arrangements will be made to "assist" selected applicants, chief qualifications required being a strong arm and a weak head, plus a childlike, faith in the goodwill of the plan.

The whole business is designed to recruit a new wave of debt-fodder; the vast empty spaces of the Empire are regarded by the financial octopus as a field for exploitation—a huge "debt-farm."

The prospect for the emigrant is the opportunity to slave out his life to secure the financier's debt-fetters firmly on himself and to provide real wealth for the planners to "play" with.

The security for the emigrant to live in freedom from debt, however hard he works, however bountiful may be the crops he produces, will be found missing from the migration plans.

--Social Credit.

OPEN LETTER TO THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE

Mr. H. V. C. Thorby,
Minister of State for Defence, Victoria Barracks, St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, S.C.I.

Dear Mr. Thorby,—

When England went to war in 1914, it has been said, all the sailors came ashore to dig potatoes while the farmers manned the fleet. This was part of the Asquith "business as usual" policy. Now in 1938 we find Australia with a farmer in charge of the Defence portfolio, and the people being bluffed into believing that it is good business to spend millions of pounds on rearmament, because this gives employment.

The daily press throughout the Commonwealth has been starring you as the man behind the gun. You have been pictured shaking hands with soldiers, sailors, and aviators, firing off big cannons, pressing magic-buttons and performing all sorts of acts which are evidently calculated to capture the public imagination, thereby diverting attention from the extra taxation which is about to accompany all this munitioning racket. There is an amazing similarity between the methods of the Australian press in boosting you and the campaign conducted by the newspapers in England to lionise Britain's war minister—the Hebrew, Hore-Belisha.

If a sufficient number of people only knew the extent to which the press, finance, and armaments are linked together, this ramp in which you are the central Australian figure (or dupe) could not be so delightfully put across. In England, the land of the free, the population is stampeded by the press into swallowing anything, even to the extent of allowing the international Jewish financier, Sir Otto Niemeyer (who introduced our depression) to hold a seat on the Bank of England and to be chairman of Vickers at the same time. Vickers, by the way, are internationally owned, and although their works are in England they are now supplying munitions to foreign countries which may be at war with England any day.

The daily press of Australia gives the public to believe that the manufacture of munitions in Australia is a government monopoly and that in times of crisis—such as the present—we must organise private firms to supplement arsenals. The truth is that whether the actual manufacturing of munitions is carried out by government or private enterprise, the major portion of the raw materials comes from industries owned or controlled by the metal and other trusts operating in Australia. Lead, zinc and copper, for example, are controlled by the Collins House (Baillieu) group. These metals play a vital part in munition making. Likewise steel, the Australian production of which is controlled by the Broken Hill Steel trust, is equally essential. Gigantic quantities of these metals are being purchased by your department, at prices that are highly profitable to the monopolistic suppliers, while sitting at your elbow, to give you the benefit of their knowledge, are Sir Colin Fraser and Sir Alec Stewart, of the Collins House metal monopoly, and Mr. Essington Lewis, of Broken Hill Pty. These gentlemen are members of the Defence Advisory Panel created by the Lyons Government and, like good businessmen, we must assume they would not object to receiving walloping big orders from Australia's War Office. Then, both Sir Colin Fraser and Mr. Essington Lewis are directors of Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation, which has huge contracts to supply aeroplanes to the Defence Department. It is anticipated that Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation will make a financial loss (for patriotic reasons, we suppose) on the year's operations, but the monopolistic suppliers of their raw materials may be expected to reap record profits.

If you consider this state of affairs to be satisfactory, then you are anti-Australian. Maybe you have missed the significance of the pretty web of flattery that has been spun around you by the press, and perhaps the presence in your department of the watchdogs of the monopolies means nothing to you. You are an extremely unsuitable Minister for Defence, and our advice to you is to get back to your farm and become a subscriber to

THE NEW TIMES.

P.S.—How strange that Labor Leader Curtin and his boys have not asked you any questions about the re-armament ramp. They must be too busy, surely.

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(Continued from page 2.)

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(Continued on page 7.)

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Artists and Democracy

A significant feature of modern trends in democracy is the apparent failure to foster art and the artists in our midst. Mr. J. R. Darling, the headmaster of Geelong Grammar School, made some pointed references to this matter when opening an art exhibition in Melbourne this week. Referring to living artists, he said: "We do occasional lip-service to them, and, eventually, when their struggle is over, we sometimes honour them with decorations. But when they are struggling, we neglect their work and fail to encourage them."

Continuing, Mr. Darling said that artists, musicians, actors and priests played a more important part in a community than engineers and architects, and an infinitely more important part than the mere seller of commodities.

The voice crying out in the wilderness has this advantage: it may be heard with difficulty and by few, but, at least, it has little to fear from competition. It is seldom enough that any prominent person feels impelled to say such things as Mr. Darling has said, and for that reason his remarks become news and are reported in the press. While frequent comment upon the subject would, of course, remove the novelty which gives news value, and would, therefore, result in less or no publicity, we welcome Mr. Darling's observations, and wish that there were more people who would stress the points which he made.

We live in a world of considerable scientific achievement, where the essentials of life, in a purely physical sense, should be available to all without argument and without great effort on their part being obligatory. It is, therefore, regrettable that "mere sellers of commodities" should assume such importance that they relegate into comparative obscurity the artists who contribute to our lives those things which make life something more than a mere existence.

It is without doubt the stranglehold which the financial monopoly has clamped upon the throats of mankind which brings about this paradoxical situation.

THE PRINTED WORD
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To allow the monopolists of money issue to keep the supply short and to consent to the proposition that distribution of goods and services shall be limited because the measurers by which distribution is customarily effected are insufficient in number, is about as sensible as to agree that there shall be no more length, and no more breadth, because there are no rulers to measure them with.

We feel confident, from our own repeated observation, that art is generally allowed to languish, not because the people are indifferent, but because they are obliged to neglect art in the entirely unnecessary and unworthy scramble for to-morrow's dinner. The forcible focussing of our attention and the greater part of our energy upon securing food, clothing and shelter, necessarily makes us exclude the finer things in life, no matter how much we appreciate and desire them.

To what are we to attribute the unexpected success of Colonel de Basil's ballet season in Australia? To the support of the wealthy sellers of commodities, or to the white-collar brigade, who, starved of beauty, went again and again, to the limit of their slender financial resources? And who is it who make the concerts of Tauber, Flagstad, Sargent, and other visiting artists possible, if it is not the mass of people rather than the wealthy few? Our point is surely proved by the existence, here and in England, of an astonishing number of amateur dramatic, operatic and choral societies, the members of which seek emotional and spiritual satisfaction in artistic self-expression, no matter on how humble a scale.

With painting, the position is different and more difficult. You cannot, with limited financial means, acquire a share in the delight of a picture as you can in the joys of a singer, a dancer or an actor. The spirit of democracies is more than willing. It is, as always, the purse that is lamentably weak; and it is that which accounts for the loss to Australia of such people as the late Henri Verbrugghen, Maurice Abravanel, and others whom we would have welcomed as acquisitions to our artistic life. They were forbidden to us because of the existence of an arbitrary and unwarranted money shortage, deliberately brought about by those to whose advantage it is to keep the money supply low.

We cannot stress the point too firmly or too often. The best things which life has to offer us are withheld, and will continue to be withheld, until such time as we combine to demand release from the domination of orthodox financial theories, and the bankers who promulgate and defend those theories against all reason and against common justice.

The Mathematics of Bank Robberies

The thieves who robbed Barclay's Bank a Nablus, in Palestine, last week are reported to have escaped with £5000. This is rather a small amount, and better

results might have been obtained by pirating a pay-roll. However ignorant they may be of ethics, for robbery even of a bank must be regarded as unethical conduct, the robbers should, by now, be better informed upon economics.

The average unthinking citizen looks enviously at a bank, and thinks of the money reposing within its massive walls. Actually, the amount of real money, in the form of bullion or legal tender, to be found in any one bank or in the aggregate of all banks, is almost insignificant when compared with the amount of phantom money represented by the pen-and-ink figures in the ledgers. We say "phantom" money advisedly, because it has no existence in fact, and never had an existence; and yet, the presence or absence of those figures on the credit side, a phenomenon in the absolute control and discretion of the bankers alone, means prosperity or misery for you and me and all those who depend upon us for their welfare.

Take a look at the next bank balance sheet that is published, and see the magnitude of the figures set out as assets of the bank. Then have a look at the cash stated to be held by the bank. You may be surprised to see how very little there is to meet the claims of its depositors, supposing they all came at once to demand payment in legal tender. The bank will, of course, be bankrupt, for its obligation is to pay its depositors in legal tender, and there is no bank (other than a bank with the power to issue notes that will be legal tender) which could do that. Banks being, by the very nature of the beast, in a perpetual state of bankruptcy, it will readily be seen that they are not really good marks for those who contemplate robbery.

There are those who may not willingly agree that it is unethical to rob a bank. We wish entirely to dissociate ourselves from any suggestion of incitement to rob; but, as a matter of the purest ethics, those who commend bank robbers on the ground that it is a case of dog eating dog, and therefore somewhat removed from normal ethical considerations, are not entirely illogical in their reasoning. Banks, by virtue of their monopoly of credit, the volume of which they increase or diminish usually without having any proper regard to the increase or decrease in the real wealth of the community, effectively rob individuals of the fruits of their labour. Suppose, for example, the banks do what they have threatened to do, if certain proposed legislation takes place, and stage a general calling in of overdrafts. That will inevitably mean a number of forced sales by their owners of assets pledged to the banks. Such sales will realise low prices, which will automatically lower prices all round. The man who has a home at present readily saleable at £1000, will find that, if he is forced to sell it in the near future, when the banks have started the downward trend of prices, it may bring only £800. If he then says that the banks, by their unwarranted action, have robbed him of £200, it would be difficult to prove him wrong, either to his own satisfaction or to the satisfaction of the ordinary rules of logic.

MUDDLED THINKING

By LEONORA POLKINGHORNE.

It must appear a puzzle to many students of the New Economics why the plain facts that are put before the people are not immediately accepted. It is as though a powerful searchlight was turned on a ruined building—the roof falling in, the walls tottering, mould and decay everywhere - - and those who watched said: "Well, we do not pretend that as a permanent residence it is all that could be desired, but we can't expect perfection here below, and we can see no serious fault with it." In vain you point out that the falling roof and tottering walls are a menace; the crowd shrugs and smiles—and passes on. Why is this so? Surely the reason is that these people are not seeing the ruin *as it IS*, because their vision is clouded by all sorts of preconceived ideas, obstinate prejudices, false sentiment and unused thinking faculties. Thus handicapped, oblique vision is certain, straight thinking impossible.

Education

The first stumbling-block lies in the fact that so few people want to think. There must be some grievous fault in our educational system, when this is the case. Certainly the stuffing and cramming of history (as dates and wars) into unwilling heads does nothing to stimulate thought processes. Too many teachers appear to regard children as so many empty vessels into which it is their duty to pour certain facts, which are poured back again at examination time. How seldom do we hear: "Now what do *you* think of the Feudal System? Or what would *you* have done if you had been in Cardinal Wolsey's place, and asked for a decision?" The chances are that, if such questions were asked, an unorthodox answer would bring a shocked reprimand, and the value be immediately lost. Great stress is placed in some schools on drill and athletic exercise and games, even to the extent of making them compulsory, but the *thinking* muscles are left to atrophy. We are so fond of imposing *our* ideas on the young that we have no time left to encourage them to sprout a few themselves.

Patriotism

A notable instance is the saluting of the flag. On Eyre Peninsula once, a young Church of England priest dared to question the advisability of this daily ceremony in the public schools. The vituperation that fell on his head could hardly have been more severe if he had committed a crime. Indeed, to many people he had committed a crime; yet, the chances are, that if some of these people were asked what was the chief danger to peace in these times, they would promptly say it was the *intense nationalism* of Italy and Germany.

One might well ask what is the difference between compelling our children to salute the Union Jack and repeat a certain formula, and the methods of Hitler and Mussolini. In a hundred ways we are telling our children that we are always right, and the other fellow always wrong. Even now, when every adult person knows perfectly well that our adventure in South Africa against the Boers was no better, probably worse, than the Italian conquest of Abyssinia, it is open to doubt if there is a single teacher in the Commonwealth who would dare to say as much to his pupils. If he did, he might look out for trouble. Such is the brand of patriotism we encourage! We do not say: "You belong to a democracy which is imperfect in many respects, but as it is a democracy, as such things go, it is your duty to study

its defects, take your history-book as a torch and see where we have erred in the past, and resolve within yourself that, so far as in you lies, you will try to build up a better democracy, so that you do not lose it altogether. Be frankly ashamed of past errors and injustices, and strive to see that they are not repeated. *This* is patriotism. All others are spurious brands."

Young Heads on Old Shoulders

As it is (since it is clear that no teacher is asked or expected to say things like that) few people progress mentally beyond adolescence. The leading articles in our daily press are a striking example. The belligerence, suspicion and distrust of the school playground is evidenced both in our politics and our international relations. "Yah! You're one yourself! You're another! Just try it on, see!" This appears to be the level beyond which we cannot rise. But if we were taught in our receptive years that we all belong to one human family, that every individual, every class, every nation has an equal right to fair play, justice, and an adequate standard of living; that combating bad conditions, social injustice, disease and poverty would require our fighting powers, so that we should have neither time nor inclination to fight each other; that co-operation and not conflict should be the aim of all reasonable human beings, *would we* be in the frightful mess we are in now? How can we expect the stupidity and horror of poverty to be fully realised while still there lingers in so many minds the "God bless the Squire and his relations, and keep us in our proper stations" spirit? How often we hear that blasphemy against humanity: "It is not the slightest use doing anything for the poor. They will always be like that. Give them everything to-day, and to-morrow they would be in the same position again." Thus the comfortable salve their consciences. Thus they seek to escape the trouble of thinking.

Fiddling While Rome Burns

There are many factors operating to encourage them in this mental laziness. The Associated Press is putting in good work on it, the radio is doing its bit, the intense concentration on sport is a powerful aid to the avoidance of thinking. It is quite a normal and accepted thing in any family to switch off the national and international news to listen-in to the cricket that is being played in England, even if it is not a Test match. A protest would be regarded as highly unreasonable. Listen to any conversation between men in tramcars, hotel lounges, clubs, the street. If they are not discussing cricket, football or golf, be certain it is the races. Even our national stations broadcast the odds, and give long dissertations on the chances of different horses, as though it were a matter of the greatest moment. There are, however, gleams of light in the darkness. The Department of Social Services, for example, does great research work among young students, and the programme is a comprehensive one, but such institutions are not as well-known as they should be, nor do they touch the masses of the people.

Meanwhile, while our "leaders" are showing every day the effects of muddled thinking, it is, perhaps, too much to expect that the rank and file should be more advanced.

WHY BE SHORT OF BUYING POWER? You Have Only Yourself to Blame

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H. BROWN.

Sir,—A gentleman who has been a regular reader of the *New Times* has asked me this question: "Doesn't it give you a pain having to write this stuff all the time?" Up to now I have not been conscious of any physical pain in writing, but I do feel pained at the knowledge that the community in general is still so ignorant on the all-important question of money. Writing the stuff is entirely voluntary on my part. I do not *HAVE* to do it, but, having discovered that the financial system is fraudulent, it would be dishonourable to remain silent. Indeed, silence would mean that I had become a party to the robbery of the community and the literal murder of millions of people, to say nothing of the untold suffering needlessly imposed on millions of others. Because of this, the facts must be shouted from the rooftops, and we must keep on shouting them until the people at large realise the truth and the identity of their oppressors. The people must be made aware that the private controllers of this fraudulent system are becoming possessed of the wealth of the world, and also the dictators as to what may be done with the gifts of God. When the citizens do understand this they will rush to assist in the great work of the U.E.A., an organisation destined to establish real democracy in Australia by requiring Parliament to serve the interests of *THE PEOPLE*. At present it serves only the interests of the bankers.

Australia "Cannot Afford"

A few days ago, Mr. R. G. Casey, the present Commonwealth Treasurer (a bankers' mouthpiece and himself such a beneficiary of the fraudulent system that he is never without plenty of buying power), told the representatives of the Old Age and Invalid Pensioners that the Government "could not afford" to grant their reasonable requests. The Prime Minister has also intimated that all the money available in the immediate future will be required for defence purposes, and, consequently, it would not be possible to increase the social services. Both gentlemen know full well that what pensioners and other sections of the people require is food, clothes and shelter; that there is plenty of these and we are capable of producing plenty more; that in order to get these things the people must have money; that access to goods depends absolutely on the AVAILABILITY of money; and that, unless the availability is controlled by the national Parliament, then all Governments and all people are at the mercy of those who *do* control it. These are statements of fact. They are not matters of opinion. It is, therefore, obvious that the Government's ability to "afford" is dictated by the quantity of money made available by the producers of money, and NOT by the quantity of wealth made available by the producers of wealth. Who, then, *ARE* the producers of money?

"If It Had the Money"

Evidence has been given in these columns from week to week that the only part of our system that is not functioning satisfactorily is the financial part. Material, workers, and work are plentiful. The only thing we lack is MONEY. The Government could satisfy the pensioners "if it had the money"; it could give us a uniform railway gauge "if it had the money"; it could give us hospitals, schools, roads, bridges, and all sorts of other services "if it had the money"; it could remove slums from all districts "if it had the money." The employers of labour could introduce a 30-hour week im-

mediately "if they had the money" to meet the additional expenses. Everything depends on money. It was because of an alleged shortage of money in 1931 that we were forced to submit to the mis-called Premiers' Plan, under which wages were cut, pensions reduced, government expenditure curtailed, and taxation increased. It seems almost incredible that at a time when production was increasing we allowed a "financial" emergency to precipitate an era of poverty, misery and unprecedented distress.

More Financial Stringency

But we did, and the sad thing is that, through ignorance on the subject of money, we are about to allow similar criminality again. It is because of financial stringency that necessary Government works are being deferred, and for the same reason, plus the fear of increased taxation, that certain associations representing the well-to-do are clamouring for economy and still more economy. We were laughed at by some when we gave the warning several months ago that another depression had been started, but thoughtful people are not laughing at the portents today. Even the economists are alarmed, and are going about the country suggesting that Governments should "borrow" and spend more loan money on public works to make up for the withdrawal of credit by the banks. Parrot-like, the so-called "captains of industry" (like the Hon. E. W. Holden, M.L.C. of Adelaide), and the hiring press generally, are echoing the same plea. More "Loan Money!" What sort of money is that?

Study Misdirected

If the Taxpayers' Association, the charitable organisations, the unemployed committees, the Church leaders, and the supposed intellectuals among us, devoted to a genuine study of the origin and control of money half the time they give to restrictions and patch-work "relief" schemes, they would soon realise that there is no real need for taxation, no occasion for this perpetual screaming about government economy, no call for charity as we know it, and no reason whatever for any able-bodied person to be unemployed. Instead of this, we see the Taxpayers' Association asking the Government to spend less; the benevolent societies arranging bridge parties to gather "funds"; the Unemployed Central Committee talking about anything but the REAL cause of unemployment; the Church dignitaries pleading for a change of heart, instead of a more Christian distribution of God's free gifts in the form of food, clothing and shelter; and the intellectuals filling the press and the radio with a lot of moonshine about quotas, embargoes, tariffs, price levels, exchange, recession, and all the rest of it.

All Dodge It

Why do all these people avoid the true issue—MONEY? And what IS this money—the imposed shortage of which prevents our making use of our wonderful resources except for the purpose of going further into debt to the money controllers? Even the Science Congress of 1935 would not discuss it. From the welter of verbosity displayed on that occasion, not the faintest explanation of the most vital thing in the whole world's economy, MONEY, could be gleaned. Dr. Duhig, in his attack on the superstitions and taboos of the present civilisation, was the only one to get anywhere near it, when he admitted that the real wealth of the world is solely goods and services. It was because a man named J. T. Lang said something like this at the Premiers' Conference in 1931 that a worldwide and intensive campaign has been waged to dis-

credit him. Evidently a discussion of money came within the taboos to which Dr. Duhig referred.

Mr. Tunnecliffe's Idea

Two or three years ago Mr. Tunnecliffe (now Speaker of the Victorian Parliament) suggested that Victoria should borrow fifty million pounds. Assume, for the sake of illustration, that the Loan Council agreed with the idea. What would have happened? At that time the total amount of "cash" in the whole of the Commonwealth was only £48,000,000 and was held as follows:

By the Banks.. £21,000,000

By the Public. £27,000,000

It can be seen at once that had the whole of the cash been surrendered by the banks and the public the loan would have still been unfilled to the extent of £2,000,000. Not only so, but the banks, being without any cash, would have had to close their doors and there would have been a general state of panic. Obviously, therefore, the Treasury does not get "cash" when it borrows. What it gets is bank money in the form of a cheque.

As a general rule, "cash" is used for the payment of wages and for small retail transactions. Almost the whole of our business is conducted on the bank credit or cheque basis. In Australia there is, roughly, six hundred millions of this bank credit money, and this is the sort of money the Governments borrow. Let us visualise the procedure.

How Loans are Worked

The loan would be "placed on the market" and the public requested to subscribe. Applications would be accepted by banks, stock exchanges, and post offices. Cash applications are always very small, and simply mean that the amount of cash represented by these applications is transferred from the public to the banks (a definite benefit to the banks.) With this additional cash in their tills they create and issue further credit money, which they do. The applications which are paid by cheque mean that the banks' liability to depositors becomes a liability by the bank to the Government, and this is recorded by debiting the depositor and crediting the Government in the bank ledgers. The proportion of the loan not taken by the public is "subscribed" by the banks, which merely enter the appropriate figures in their books and send a cheque to the Government for the lot. No cash is passed over to the Government at all, and the banks have only undertaken to accept Government cheques to the amount stipulated. The quantity of legal money as we know it in notes and coin is not increased at all. The transaction is simply an expansion of the quantity of bank money, consisting as it does of entries in books, but this increase of bank money, which costs the banks nothing, is immediately added to the national debt and commits all of us in perpetuity to additional payments each year for interest.

A Heap of Books

You can easily imagine what these "funds" would look like if you could see them. They are a heap of books with figures in them. So when Mr. Casey says we cannot "afford" it, or that "funds are not available," he is merely saying that sufficient figures have not been written in the money books, and that the Government has no control over the books or the people who write the figures. For many years prior to 1929 these expansions of bank money were regularly made for the Bruce-Page Government, and we called it a period of great prosperity. In 1929, however, the expansions for community benefit were not only arbitrarily stopped, but similar advances, in the form of overdrafts to industry, were also called in. God and human nature got the blame, but they had nothing to do with it. The bankers alone were responsible, just as they alone are responsible for what is going on in the same direction today.

A Confidence Trick

Have you farmers, you public servants, you wage earners, you pensioners and you returned soldiers nothing to say about such a confidence trick, which robbed you of fair prices, fair pay, and fair comfort in old age or infirmity? And it is about to be done to you again! If you feel sceptical about anything I have written, consider what responsible, expert men have had to say on the subject. The President of the Midland Bank in England:

"In a community like ours, with steadily-growing production and population, unless there is a corresponding growth in the supply of money we cannot avoid deflation, with its inevitable accompaniment of trade losses and unemployment. The amount of money in existence varies only with the action of the banks in increasing or diminishing deposits. Every change in the quantity of money is effected primarily through the action of the bank, and ultimately through the Bank of England."

In the last few weeks proof has been furnished that trade losses ARE occurring and unemployment increasing, and here now is the clearest admission, by one who knows, that the Bank of England is responsible for it. This Bank of England, mind you, is a private business, and NOT a Government institution, as so many innocently think. The financial difficulties of the Empire have been brought about by this private organisation, but none of the great newspapers will publish any criticism of it. The explanation of this is to be found in the fact that bankers also control the channels of publicity. The Governor of the Bank of England is a member of the committee controlling the London *Times*, and his brother is the director of the British Broadcasting Corporation. Bank directors will also be found associated with practically the whole of the great dailies and most of the broadcasting services.

Destroyers of Money

The President of the Midland Bank told us, too, that

"Every bank loan CREATES a deposit, and every repayment of a loan DESTROYS a deposit." This shows that banks not only create money (and "create" means to produce out of nothing), but they also destroy it; and when they call in overdrafts they actually cancel money before the business man has had the chance to liquidate his costs. That is how it is that so many of our best people are ruined in times of depression, and why necessary works are so often held up because funds are not available.

"A Sorry Farce"

Another well-known authority, in the person of Professor Soddy, informs us as follows: "The cheque system, itself beneficent, has enabled the banks continuously to create and destroy money at will. It is the power of the private mint which imperils the future of scientific civilisation; which makes politics a sorry farce, and reduces Parliament to a sham. It is a manifest injustice to those who have to earn money that private firms (banks), by a stroke of the pen, should be empowered by the cheque system to CREATE it. But it is far worse that the money of the country, by a mere refusal of a banker to continue a credit to a debtor, should be suddenly and secretly destroyed again." Through the cheque system the banks are private mints, and there is not the slightest doubt that the credit system, as now operated, is the smoothest and most gigantic swindle ever slipped over the world.

Strokes of the Pen

It is therefore, literally true to say that money can be created by a mere stroke of the pen, and yet how we suffer because we have not made sufficient strokes with the pen! This financial question was shirked at Lausanne, at the Ottawa Conference, and at the World Economic Conference in London. All these conferences are organised by the people who

are beneficiaries of the present murderous arrangements, and are keen to have them continued. They are also always represented by "safe" men, such as S. M. Bruce, Sir John Latham, Sir Earle Page, R. G. Casey, R. G. Menzies, J. A. Lyons, T. W. White, Professor Copland, and the like. Strange, also, is it not, that when these fellows go abroad they always have to present themselves to the financial dictators. Mr. Menzies has just been conversing with the Governor of the Bank of England (Mr. Montagu Norman) and the President of the Reichsbank in Germany (Dr. Schacht). Contemporaneously, Sir Earle Page was conversing with the financiers in London and then with Pierpont Morgan in New York. A couple of years ago Sir Archdale Parkhill did the same! So did Professor Copland just after he had helped to impose the Premiers' Plan on us! The financiers treat their servants well.

Finance is the Key

Even the London *Times* has admitted that Finance is the key of nearly all policy, but it never suggests that it is about time this was used to unlock the world's abundance for the benefit of humanity. Why are people so timid in tackling this issue? There is no such thing as natural money. Every bit of it is made or created by someone. And there is nothing wrong in creating or cancelling money, just, as there is nothing wrong in printing and cancelling railway tickets, but the point is that the NATION, and the Nation alone, should be the initial OWNER of the money, and that the money should never be cancelled at a rate greater than the value of the services used and the goods consumed.

Taxed for Our Own Goods

So long as there are goods for sale and we can make more goods, the Commonwealth Government has the power to issue regularly enough money to buy the goods. If the value of these goods and services was used by the Government as the basis of money, then it would not cost the people a penny in taxation. As it is, however, the Government never uses its power to monetise the nation's production, but hands the power as a present to the private banking system, who then "lend" the product of it back to the Government in the form of book entry loans for public works, and the Government charges it to the citizens as debt, repayable to the banks through taxation. In other words, the people are taxed for their own goods and their own property.

Notwithstanding all this, the Commonwealth Treasurer had the audacity to say in the House of Representatives that members of Parliament who mention "credit" will not be regarded as good angels. For whom was he speaking? Who would be offended if the subject WERE discussed? It would be much more fitting to say that members of Parliament who FAIL to tell the people the truth about the financial system and the money swindle are greater traitors than soldiers who betray the comrades in wartime.

The Crux of the Thing

For once I agree with one of Sir Keith Murdoch's papers. On Saturday last, in its editorial, the *Adelaide News* said: "Food has been in such abundance that it has been destroyed because it lacked a market. For that state of things overproduction, has not been to blame so much as the inability of many millions to buy, through absence of purchasing power." That is the very crux of the thing. Ample buying power CAN be made available, AND WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE when you demand it. That is the purpose for which the U.E.A. has been organised, and if you fail to give it your wholehearted assistance, both financially and personally, then you will have only yourself to blame if you are the victim of another depression. We have the power to prevent depressions if we join together and use it.—Yours faithfully, BRUCE H. BROWN

BOOK REVIEWS

Every year sees a larger and larger output of books on every subject. To keep up to date in even one small branch of literature would be beyond the ability of even a person of leisure, with no other hobby than reading. Even for such a person the collection of even the cream of the output would be beyond his ability. How, then, are ordinary persons to avoid squandering what spare time they have in reading books which will ultimately prove to have been purely ephemeral? There is a persistent inflation in books, which tends not only to decrease the chance of readers securing and reading the really good books which, from time to time, appear, which tends to push good books published in the past outside the reader's remembrance.

One method is to read books only when they have proved of sufficient value to warrant their being brought out in a further edition. The danger of this is that one is always slightly out of date, but it is probably better to be a little out of date and conserve time than to make a frantic effort to be right on time, and then waste time and energy reading mere husks.

I have recently noticed the reprinting of two books, in cheaper editions, too, which can most profitably be read by all persons who desire to have a clear picture of the world around them, and to have an understanding of the problems with which we are confronted.

The first is *My Country and My People*, by Lin Yutang. This book may be described as a dispassionate anatomy of Chinese political, social and personal life. The writer is quite ready to face up to the shortcomings of his people, and does so, but what is better he gives the reader an intelligent understanding in the causes of these weaknesses. No less is he conscious of, and proud of, the glorious tradition and heritage of Chinese civilisation. It is, at the same time, a penetrating criticism and appreciation of Western culture.

It is written in what I would call a charming style. I envy the ability of anyone to write as Lin Yutang does, and marvel when I remember that he is writing in a language not his own. Messrs. Heinemann are to be congratulated on bringing out an English edition. (It was originally published in America.)

It was with no less pleasure that I saw that Hutchinsons have reprinted, amongst their very cheap pocket edition, *The Growth of Civilisation*, by W. J. Perry. This writer maintains that the history of civilisation can be written without mentioning a single king or person—and does it. It is one of the most thought-provoking books I have read in the last twenty years.

Another excellent book which has broken forth into the cheap edition is Upton Sinclair's *Oil*. This is easily Sinclair's best novel, though it is more than a novel. It is an interpretation of international politics from the viewpoint of the oil interests. But don't let that

put you off—I said it was Upton Sinclair's best novel. But it is more than that. It is an extremely good novel, which compares more than favourably with those from the pen of any other contemporary writer.

My Country and My People, by Lin Yutang (Heinemann and Co.). Price, 7/6; postage, 8d.

The Growth of Civilisation, by W. J. Perry (Penguin Series). Price, 9d.; postage, 2d.

Oil, by Upton Sinclair. Price, 4/-; postage, 5d.

My copies from F. M. Stapleton, 166 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, C.I.

-W. BROWNLEY.

* * *

Man's Worldly Goods (The Story of the Wealth of Nations), by Leo Huberman. —This is a book that should be read by everyone who desires to be informed on the manner in which the world of to-day has become ruled, not by justice, equity and common-sense, but by the power of money.

In a most interesting and breezy manner the writer goes back to the Middle Ages, when society consisted of three parts in this order—the Church, the Aristocracy and the Workers — or, as the author puts it—"the Prayers, the Fighters and the Workers." He describes in detail how the economic life of the time was conducted, and shows, step by step, the developments in trade, commerce and finance up to the present time.

There is evidently nothing new in the trusts, cartels and monopolies of the present time, as these all had their counterpart, the author declares, in the guilds of the past; but, just as the necessities of commerce gradually superseded the guilds, so economic necessity is today demanding adjustments which the Financial Monopoly opposes by such means as Fascism and Nazism. The chapter on "Whose Natural Laws?" is most entertaining. The author says; "The economists, at the time of the industrial revolution, developed a series of 'laws,' which they said were as true for the social and economic world as were the laws of the scientists for the physical world." He goes on to say: "The businessmen of the period were able to select with great ease natural laws which were complete justification for their actions." We find to-day commercial men, bank managers and others using the un-intellectual jargon of economists of to-day for exactly the same purpose. In fact, the more one reads of this book the more one realises that human nature in business is the same in all ages.

It may be that the author has a slight leaning towards Socialism as the next step in economic adjustment, but whether this be so or not this book is well worth reading, as showing the gradual assumption of power by the commercial and financial cliques down through history.

-E. S. WILLIAMS.

DR. HORNABROOK'S NEW POST

Dr. Rupert Hornabrook, of Melbourne, has been appointed unofficial adviser of the Japanese Foreign Office. The appointment carries no salary, and his chief purpose in accepting the post, he says, is to improve Anglo-Japanese relations.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VICTORIAN PREMIER, SOCIAL SERVICES AND FINANCE

Sir, —At the quarterly dinner, in the Melbourne Town Hall, Mr. Dunstan is reported in the *Argus* of August 10 as having said: "If people demand better social services they have got to pay for them. It is not possible to provide such services and at the same time reduce taxation." He concluded his speech by saying: "Within the limits of its financial resources the Government will do everything possible in the interests of the people and the development of the country."

The first statement can mean one of two things—either that, by increasing taxation, improvements in our social services can be paid for out of revenue, or that money can be borrowed for the purpose, and repaid, principal and interest, by increased taxation. There is not much difference. According to Mr. Dunstan, this exhausts the possibilities of providing such services.

Since taxation means a further reduction of the people's purchasing power, Mr. Dunstan's statement means this: If we demand a better educational system, extension of electricity supplies, better roads, more water conservation schemes or re-afforestation, we must consume less of the wheat, wool, fruit, butter and meat which we produce, in spite of the fact that about seventy per cent, of our people already consume less than they need, while we can't find markets for our surplus. He must know, and he certainly does not question the fact, that for all possible social services we have sufficient man-power and materials.

On the other hand, he says that everything possible will be done, "within the limits of the Government's financial resources," thereby explicitly acknowledging the fact money alone stands in the way of further progress in the State and better conditions in the lives of the people.

Not many people would doubt Mr. Dunstan's sincerity in wishing to do everything possible for the people whose Premier he is, and, doubtless, his Government has legislated to the best of its ability. Therefore, since his own words go so far (probably without his realising it), it should not be very difficult to induce him to see the folly of our present monetary system and the unnecessary dependence of Governments on the private owners of that system. —Yours, etc.,

ALAN C. RUSSELL.
Benalla, Vic.

ROCKS AHEAD!

Sir, —There must be a lot of dirty political work ahead, such as increased taxation, reduction of expenditure on social services, compulsory militarism, etc., and strenuous efforts will be made to have a Labor Government in power to carry it out, just as they were in 1914 and in 1929, when poor Mr. Scullin was kidded to bring out Sir Otto Niemeyer. The power behind the present Cabinet will make all arrangements. Then, when the dirty work has been carried out to the satisfaction of the said power, the Labor Government will be emptied out again and the reactionaries put back in office. So the game goes on. Haven't you noticed the indications of a change, such as the recent statement of "Joseph Aloysius," that there may be an early election; the strikes and threatened strikes here and there, and the other incidents having a tendency to temporarily discredit the present globetrotting Government? Does anyone know if anything matters in Australia?

Yours, etc.,

"C. SHORE."

Sydney.

"PROSPERITY" IN ENGLAND AND THE IMMIGRATION RAMP

Sir, —By this week's Empire Air Mail I received a letter from friends who had lived in Australia for many years, but are now more or less permanently domiciled in England. I quote the following significant extracts as emanating from a well-informed and reliable source, and leave you and your readers to form your own conclusions:

"I see what you say, as to Yorkshire wool trade and prosperity in general here. Well, for about eighteen months or two years, ending about December 1936, there was comparative genuine prosperity. By 'genuine' I mean it really rested very little on armaments, which had scarcely commenced here up to that time, and which even now is not yet in full swing. But it was a prosperity which, with all the outer turmoil, could not last. It only needed, among other things, the collapse in U.S.A., with consequent fall in prices of commodities, etc., to bring it to an end. And every country yelling for more trade and, at the same time, straining every muscle to prevent trade by tariffs—including England. At the present time, without armaments, there would be a ghastly depression in England. As it is there is a large falling off in general trade, and this would be much worse except that armaments money reaches these outside trades. Australia is bound to feel the draught, just as we feel it directly U.S.A. is in trouble. Argentine, doing much similar trade to Australia, is now in considerable difficulty because of drought, as well as lower prices."

After observations regarding living conditions in Paris, my friend proceeds as follows:

"The Rev. R. G. Nicholls, of Fitzroy, is here recruiting lads for farm work in Australia. He was on the wireless and holding what was obviously a written-out and well-rehearsed conversation with a lad anxious to go to farm work in the Great Open Spaces. The lad was desperately keen (according to programme), and the Rev. R. G. Nicholls was able thus to break the news gently that the commencing remuneration, in addition to keep, was 1/- weekly. After some few months it was, I think, 5/-. (It may have been a year; I forget.) Then, I think, after two or three years it was 10/-. or even 15/-. I forget exactly. Anyway, it didn't dampen the lad. As he said, there were those Great Open Spaces, and the horses and the dewy mornings, etc. Then the lad's mother conveniently arrived at the 'mike' and expressed a little (but not too much) anxiety about her son's going all that distance, etc. All of which (as arranged) was successfully dealt with by Rev. R.G.N. Well, during the early part of his conversation, the Rev. R.G.N. said that he always liked to refer to Australia as 'Britain, with all the latest improvements.' And, in this last part, with the lad's mother, one of the inducements or assurances was, 'Yes, and we are getting a Health Insurance Scheme soon.'"

Commenting on this latter remark, my correspondent goes on to say: "My mind went back thirty years or so, when I was one of a cheering crowd at about midnight, as we watched election results and saw that Campbell Bannerman, I think it was, was winning, and that Lloyd George would, therefore, bring in Health Insurance. 'Britain, with all the latest improvements.' Oh, dear! Whilst this came through on the wireless, Charlie (that's the lad) said to the Rev. R.G.N., in response to that weekly shilling, and thinking of those Great Open Spaces, 'Yes, but when I get into the country I feel as if a great load was taken off my shoulders.'" My correspondent remarks that his wife, who was

listening with him, observed, "Well you will be able to get a big load on your shoulders when you go." Was she right? I think so. —Yours, etc.,

"CHARMAIN"

Kew, Vic.

New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

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Their advertisement helps your paper. Say you saw it in the "New Times."

MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 3.)

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DRYCLEANING, Depot & Library A. I. Fraser, 182 High St. H. 3733.

E. WHITE, 109 High St. Confectionery and Smokes.

FLOREST, "Mayfair," Haw. 1462 Cotham Rd., near Glenferrie Rd.

GIBSON'S, High St., opp. Rialto Hosiery, Underwear and Aprons

GIFTS, & All Jewellery Repairs. Old Gold Bought. Greaves, opp. Rialto

KEW.

IMPERIAL DAIRY, R. H. Kent 9 Brougham Street. Haw. 3243.

LADIES' Hairdresser. Haw. 5605. "Burnie Salon," 81 Cotham Rd.

M. J. MARTIN, 157 High St. Haw. 3794. Shoe Store, Shoe Repairs.

MOTOR GARAGE. Kew Junction Service Station, Cr. High & Denmark Streets. Haw. 6457.

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BOOT REPAIRS. J. T. Nolan, Holmes St., 4 drs. Moreland Rd.

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E. COOKE, 49 Chapel St. W. 8044. High Class Butcher (Cash).

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. CROMBIE,

70 Casey Street, Bendigo,

and help in the fight for

DEMOCRACY.



"Youth Against the New Depression"

MASONIC HALL, St. George's Road (off Glenhenty Road), ELSTERNWICK.

DON'T FORGET THE DATE— THURSDAY, AUGUST 25th, 8 p.m.

Hear the Brilliant U.E.A. Youth Section in Action.

If you missed the Brighton meeting, where the Youth Section made history, here is another opportunity to hear them in action. All under 22 years of age, they challenge the existing social order in no uncertain manner. The onward march of youth, with its vision of new ideals, is causing Melbourne to sit up. Bring your young friends to hear these champions of Australian youth.

AN OPPORTUNITY AND A RESPONSIBILITY!

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

VICTORIA

PROGRESS.—We are pleased to report that indications over the past few weeks show that the campaign is now starting to capture real public interest on a wider scale. Many more inquiries for information, etc., are starting to come in, and, with the splendid groundwork which is being completed in Kooyong, the campaign is quickly developing to the stage where its power can be exerted. The Youth Section has played a big part in bringing a new spirit of vitality and action into the movement. They were recently responsible for getting good publicity for the movement, both through the press and on the air. With the trade decline developing, the movement is going to become the spearhead in the attack for reform, and it is essential that the organisation be in the position to deal with the position. All supporters who have not offered to help in some way are asked to come forward now. There is a tremendous job to be done, and it needs people of purpose and tenacity. Each and everyone can play his or her part in what will be the greatest drama in human history—the fight for economic liberty.

YOUTH SECTION.—The youth met at the home of Mrs. Edwards on Wednesday night last, and finalised all arrangements for the Elsterwick meeting to be held in the Masonic Hall, St. George's-road, next Thursday night, August 25. A number of keen new faces was present, and this coming meeting should be very successful. All supporters who missed this brilliant team at Brighton are urged to take this opportunity of hearing them in action. If you know any young people, bring them along to hear "Youth Against the New Depression." Intensive publicity has been given to the meeting. It is probable that street speaking will also take place next Friday night. All young people who are desirous of joining up are asked to get in touch with headquarters, or the secretary, 1 Gillard-street, Brighton East.

KEW GROUP.—The primary meeting for the purpose of forming a Kew Group was held at the home of Mrs. Webb last Thursday night. This meeting was the first of a series in Kooyong for the purpose of capitalising the Town Hall meetings. Those present showed a very keen interest, and, after a brief discussion, it was decided to form an official U.E.A. Group. Mrs. Webb was appointed chairwoman and organiser, while Mr. T. Landy was appointed secretary. It was decided to hold the group meetings

weekly, on Wednesday nights, Mrs. Webb has very kindly made her home available for these meetings, and will be very pleased to get in touch with any supporters in Kew who are keen to help. Remember, every Wednesday night at 5 Eglinton-street, Kew. All supporters welcome.

HAWTHORN.—Will all supporters in Hawthorn make a point of attending the initial meeting for the purpose of forming a U.E.A. Group at this centre? The date is next Wednesday, the 24th, at the home of Mrs. Allsop, 26 Grove-road. This meeting is very important, as it is essential that the U.E.A. push on with the work of laying down groups throughout the Kooyong Electorate.

GIPPSLAND.—It is with regret that we announce that the response to the appeal for a regular broadcast over 3UL, Warragul, has not yet been sufficient to warrant proceeding. All that is required is the sum of £1/9/- per week. Once again we urge all supporters throughout Gippsland to write in and state how much per week they can contribute towards this worthy objective. It need only be sixpence a week, but let headquarters know immediately. Now is the time—not tomorrow or the next day.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

WOMEN'S DIVISION.—The next monthly luncheon will be held on Wednesday, August 24. Men are cordially invited to attend. Rev. A. C. Sanders will give an address on his experiences in social reform work. Rev. Sanders is vice-president of the Christian Social Order, and his address should contain much of interest to all working for that ideal state.

TOWN HALL MEETING.—United Democrats (Non-Party) will join with other organisations to help make a success of the Adelaide Town Hall meeting, convened by the society working for a Christian social order. Speakers will address the meeting on "Plenty, Poverty and Realities." A resolution will be submitted, calling for a deputation to present members of Parliament with a statement of the people's reasonable and just demands. The meeting is arranged for Thursday, September 1, at 8 p.m.

WEST AUSTRALIA

REPORT FROM KOOLINDA GROUP.—H.Q. has received, as usual, a very lengthy report from the secretary of the M.V. Koolinda Group. The amount of work done for the

Campaign by this Group is truly amazing, and one could not convey a correct idea of it unless the full report was published. Propaganda leaflets and other Campaign literature have been distributed in Carnarvon, Darwin, Point Sampson and many other towns. Prominent people—magistrates, school teachers, union secretaries, local M.P.s, and clergymen—have been contacted, either by personal interviews or directly addressed propaganda articles, and funds have been raised to assist the various funds of H.Q.

COUNTRY PRESS AND NEWSPAPER LETTERS.—The State Director of Campaign and the Hon. Director of Publicity are keeping both the metropolitan and country newspapers well supplied with letters to the editors and other articles. This form of propaganda is having excellent results.

LOCAL OBJECTIVES.—Don't forget local objectives. If you know of a possible one let H.Q. know of it, or get started on it yourself, and they will assist.

The Pingelly Local Objective is still going great guns, and citizens in that area are getting plenty of education in the principles of the Electoral Campaign at work; in fact, they have the local M.P. quite worried.

LOWER THE RATES CAMPAIGN.—The State Director of Campaign is still seeking information in readiness for the launching of "Lower the Rates Campaign." If you have any information relative to the rates, loans and interest of any roads board or council, forward it along, for he can use it.

BROADCASTING.—Do not fail to listen in to the weekly broadcast from Stations 6AM and 6PM every Sunday night at 9.45.

RESOLUTION PASSED BY CONGREGATIONAL UNION.—A resolution passed at the recent annual meeting of the Congregational Union indicates that this body of people is alive to the paradox of poverty amidst plenty, and is prepared to take action to remedy the anomaly. The resolution reads as follows:—

"This Council draws attention to:—
 (a) The right of every individual to a reasonable standard of living.
 (b) The power of modern industry to produce goods and services in abundance,
 (c) The present undiscovered poverty of a large section of the community.

"(d) The need for an informed and determined public opinion to seek a remedy for the present situation. In view of the foregoing, this Council would urge all individuals and groups within the community to co-operate in any necessary action to remove the un-Christian anomaly of poverty in the midst of abundance." This resolution clearly shows that members of the Congregational Union understand that incomplete distribution of the real wealth of industry is a fundamental wrong in society to-day, an absolutely unnecessary wrong that must be speedily remedied if we are to avoid economic chaos. By stressing the need for organised and determined public opinion, they also show that they are aware of the only power existing that is strong enough to

bring about the desired change. They make only one mistake by suggesting that this public opinion should seek a "remedy."

Public opinion should only concern itself with demanding results, and in reality is incapable of devising a remedy. The remedy is the job of the experts who are qualified to do the job; and, since they exist in abundance, it is the job of public opinion to demand of their representatives that these experts be engaged to produce the desired results—and keep on demanding until the demand is acceded to.

MR. CURTIN INVITED TO SPEAK.—Mr. Curtin, the leader of the Opposition in the Federal Parliament, is to be invited to address an audience of Campaigners and give his and the Labour Party's views on the present so-called National Insurance Bill. As this is a matter which vitally concerns all workers in Australia, we are trusting that Mr. Curtin will accept our invitation, and so enable us to get a clear definition of the Labor Party's attitude to the Bill and national insurance in general.

NATIONAL INSURANCE CIRCULAR.—Circulars setting out the fallacies of National Insurance, and exposing the present Bill for what it really is, a method to standardise and commercialise poverty by assuming that it is inevitable and permanent, have been distributed to leading citizens, organisations and doctors. It is felt that by continually reminding the people of the trap they are being gulled into, they will kick the traces before it is too late, and demand the standard of health insurance that Australia, as an exceedingly wealthy nation, is capable of giving them.

PAPER SALES.—We are happy to be able to report a further increase in the sales of the *New Era* and the *New Times*. This is indeed an encouraging sign. We would urge all those supporters who obtain their papers from H.Q. to be sure to order their copies in advance, otherwise they will be in danger of missing them.

CONTRIBUTIONS.—Have we had your contribution yet? If not, may we suggest that you send it along as soon as possible. You can subscribe to any of the following funds: The President's Fund, the Broadcasting Fund, the Poster Fund—all of which require and deserve your support and assistance.

PRESSURE POLITIC!
IN TASMANIA

The following matter suggests the nature of the activities being carried out by "The United Democrats" (Non-Party), 101 Collins Street, Hobart. Further information may be had from the honorary secretary.

PETITION TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

For Permission to Remove the Slums of Hobart.

Sir,—We, the undersigned, citizens of Hobart, request permission to remove the slums of Hobart and to build in their place houses suitable for workers on the low wage levels.

As all the labour and materials will be supplied locally, no expense will be incurred either by the Commonwealth Government or by the other States.

The question, therefore, is one of purely local concern, but, unfortunately, under the Constitution, neither the City of Hobart nor the State of Tasmania has the power to issue the money tickets necessary for the exchange goods and labour.

The power to do this has been given to the Commonwealth Government. We, therefore, ask you, as the head of the Commonwealth Government, to issue the necessary instructions to enable the slums of Hobart to be cleared. To this end we ask you to release in Hobart goods and services to enable 6000 houses to be built by issuing the necessary credit through the Commonwealth Bank; the same to be repayable from rents received.

The State Government is willing to pay for the cost of issuing the necessary credit, provided such cost does not exceed 1/2 (half) per cent.

As the people of Hobart are backing the issue of credit by their own labour and services, we wish to state that we do not desire any interest on the loan of our own credit. (Signed)—

THE CITIZENS OF HOBART

Note:
 Present weekly rent of a £1000 house 30/-
 Under new scheme, rent of a £1000 house 14/-
 Burden on rates..... nil
 Burden on taxpayer . . . nil
 Security for credit . . Houses built

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A PRACTICAL SUGGESTION FOR EVERY READER

With the advent of the recent financial appeal, the "New Times" was given a further lease of life. However, it is essential that immediate steps be taken to increase our REVENUE sufficiently to fully liquidate our costs. We have already taken steps in this direction by starting to build up our advertising revenue and sales. The possibility of getting increased advertising partly depends upon an enlarged circulation. This is where EVERY reader can help without cost to him- or herself.

WHAT YOU CAN DO
 We are frequently asked: "What can I do?" Well, you can introduce the "New Times" to your friends, to people interested in reform and, whenever the opportunity presents itself, to strangers.
 Ask them to try it for a few weeks. Don't rely on them having the initiative to order it from a newsagent. Get them to sign the "Order on Newsagent" form printed below. They do not commit themselves to take it for a fixed period—and they do not have to pay you any money. Pass on the form to their nearest newsagent who will supply at 3d. per week. Further copies of the form may be had, free and post free, from the "New Times." Specimen copies of the "New Times" are also available (free and post free).
 The "New Times" is fighting YOUR fight. Will you help it to do so more effectively?

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