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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. 35.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1938.

Every Friday, 3d

AUSTRALIA'S OGPU

Is Stanley Melbourne Bruce Reaching His Dotage?

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AUSTRALIA'S OGPU

Operating from Canberra is a little-known body which is the Australian Secret Service and Federal Law Enforcement organisation all rolled into one.

Its name is the Commonwealth Investigation Branch.

The Commonwealth Investigation Branch had a curious, almost a humorous, origin. Although it strongly denies the paternity, it is really an offshoot of the Commonwealth Police Force, which the then Prime Minister (Mr. Hughes) created in 1917, because, during the conscription campaign, he considered the Queensland Labor Government was not giving him sufficient personal protection.

The explosion of the famous "Warwick egg" against Mr. Hughes's anatomy created a repercussion which soon afterwards found characteristic expression—statutory rule 325 of the War Precautions regulations.

Power to do "Anything"

With a comprehensiveness denied to later Australian Prime Ministers, even in these authoritarian days, this rule gave the Commonwealth Attorney-General power to do "anything" he considered necessary for the enforcement of Federal laws, including creating of a Commonwealth police force.

This strangely begotten constabulary died of ridicule after an inglorious existence of about two years.

"It was succeeded," says the *Herald*, "by the Investigation Branch, which startlingly reversed the traditions of Commonwealth departments by providing itself with an endowment fund of £500,000, and proceeding to spend yearly less than half of the income from this sum, thus turning Federal law enforcement and allied activities into a highly profitable business for the taxpayer.

"This is by no means a fanciful version of the results of the famous Abrahams case, which caused such a sensation in Melbourne some years ago.

"Officers of the investigation branch made a sudden raid on certain business interests suspected of enormous taxation evasions.

"The books and documents seized were of such a character that the interests affected paid more than £500,000 into the Commonwealth Treasury.

"This is believed to be the greatest tax recovery haul in English history—at any rate, since the days of the Tudors.

"In addition to having retrieved this vast sum, the branch collects £5 for every investigation into a naturalisation application, and at present the receipts from this source run into £7500 a year.

"The branch costs only about £12,000 a year, so, considering the direct financial result of the Abrahams raid, it owes the taxpayers nothing."

The fact that the Branch has been able to balance its budget must be very gratifying to Sir Keith Murdoch, but taxpayers, and citizens generally, would be well advised to examine the activities, actual and potential, of the Branch before patting themselves on the back too heartily.

The Branch and Alien Immigrants

"It is the special business of the Commonwealth Investigation Branch to find out all about the prospective alien migrant and his guarantors for the Minister of the Interior, who is guided by the report of the branch in issuing or withholding the coveted landing permit.

"The branch gauges the prospect of any particular alien migrant of establishing himself in Australia, and the likely effect upon employment of Australians if he is permitted to enter.

"It investigates his local police record, watches his conduct in Australia, keeps tab on his movements, and enters these part-

icular in secret dossiers, so that, much to his surprise, the alien finds that he is an old acquaintance of the branch, if not always a friend, when, seven years after he first entered Australia, he comes before it to apply for naturalisation papers.

"The branch is in close touch with British and Continental police departments, to make sure that no aliens with criminal records come here as migrants."

Once upon a time, when flag-wagging politicians blamed all our ills on to Communists, the Branch took great care to look into the credentials of visitors or immigrants suspected of opinions with even a faint tinge of red.

But the efforts of Japan, Germany and Italy to take what international finance has denied to them, has placed the Bolsheviks of Moscow, or wherever else Bolsheviks hail from these days, well on the road to being our gallant allies, instead of "those b— Bolsheviks." The scapegoats who stop the blame for our domestic troubles change with such bewildering rapidity that the Department of the Interior has decided to overlook the colour of an immigrant's political opinions, and to concentrate on the state of his pocket-book and industry. The Department is between the devil and the deep blue sea. It wants the immigrant to be self-supporting, so that he will not be a charge on public funds. It does not want him to take another man's job and pay. In carrying out this impossible task, the Department enlists the help of the Commonwealth Investigation Branch.

The poor mugs. Nothing that the Department, the Branch or the immigrant can do will help the immigrant to be self-supporting or save the jobs of Australian workers. Those things are governed by banking policy, which dictates that money shall be issued at a certain rate and recalled at a certain rate.

Perhaps it is too much to expect an Investigation Branch to look into such an elementary and important matter.

The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

All the activities of the Branch are not of the hopeful and harmless order of investigating the pocket book and underclothing of immigrants.

Just read what the *Herald* has to say:

"The Branch, in addition to carrying out a wide range of current activities, has a contingent function of prime importance.

"The contingency contemplated and fully provided for is that a State Government may decline to use its police to assist in enforcing a Federal law.

"That contingency has happened twice, and, on the first occasion—during the fruitless attempt by the Bruce Government to deport Tom Walsh and Jacob Johanson, leaders in the great seamen's strikes which paralysed Australian shipping in post-war years—it served to bring into being a momentous Federal law, the Peace Officers Act of 1925, which is administered by the Commonwealth Investigation Branch.

"With a comprehensiveness of grasp which a W. M. Hughes, with all his War Precautions experience might well envy, this Act provides in a very few words for the appointment of peace officers with full police powers anywhere in the Commonwealth, in the event of a civil emergency.

In the Days of J. T. Lang

"By the mere act of swearing in, the Commonwealth may thus obtain a special police force of unlimited size, which is not subject to interference by State Governments. There is only one limitation—it may operate only in respect of breaches of Commonwealth law.

"This Act was used at once to appoint men to guard Walsh and

Johanson at Garden Island, when the Government of New South Wales declined to place its police at the disposal of the Commonwealth for this purpose.

"Seven years later, when, owing to the refusal of another New South Wales Government to respect Federal law, arrangements were made to invoke this Act at a moment's notice.

"When there seemed imminent danger of civil disturbance, in consequence of the Lang policy, a panel of 10,000 or more names of men, eager to be sworn in, was ready, and at the first hint of disorder the Commonwealth would have possessed a civil guard of any size required to protect life, guard Federal property and preserve the peace.

"Thus rioting would have been quelled at once had the New South Wales police been uncertain of its responsibilities in that exciting and dramatic period.

"At Canberra, the Prime Minister's Lodge was kept under secret observation by the peace officers, and arrangements were made to throw cordons around the Commonwealth Offices, Parliament House and the telegraphic and telephonic services, if necessary.

"It all sounds very melodramatic to-day, but only those in close touch know how acute the tension was."

The Cat Out of the Bag

This lets the cat out of the bag properly. The Branch may be unspectacular and undemonstrative, but there only has to arise a "national emergency" that is a challenge to the credit monopoly, and we shall have Fascism and Communism combined, at their worst.

The sneaking little Spolettas of Canberra will be seen in their true light, as bankers' watchdogs, and their ranks will, no doubt, be augmented by a host of hot-headed young fools, as yet untouched by

economic hardship or the struggle to earn their own livings, spoiling to get into a fight and mow citizens down with machine-guns or bat them on the bean with batons.

We wonder how many of the university students, who so gleefully hopped into the fray in defence of "law and order" during the police strike of 1923 in Melbourne, would behave in similar fashion in this year of grace, 1938, now that they have experienced the workings of our glorious economic system.

Thinking back over those years, one recalls that a frightful fuss was made when a few bright boys from the inner suburbs smashed the windows of the then thriving business of Craig, Williamsons. Many years later the *Argus* announced in an obscure paragraph that the same business had been placed under the control of a receiver. Shortly after, the business was closed.

Wrecked by the banks. Wrecked by banking policy, which left people without enough money to buy the goods in Craig's windows. Wrecked by the particular bank which put in the receiver. Not just the windows wrecked, mind you, but the whole business!

No police, State or Federal, were called in. No volunteers were called for or sworn in to stop this blatant smashing, or the similar smashings which go on every day—smashings of human life and of property;

But just let a State Premier try to assert a degree of financial autonomy, or a few poor devils on the waterfront hanker after a few extra shillings a week, and ten thousand bludgeons will be ready instantly to "restore law and order."

The heads to be hit the hardest when the "emergency" arises have probably already been carefully listed by the Branch.

Which is all very comforting in a free democracy.

"TICKETS, PLEASE!"

By MARK DODD.

The U.S.A. railways are renowned for their excellent service and safe operation. Bearing in mind the great number of miles covered, and the millions of passengers carried, it is a fine testimony to those responsible for the safety of travellers that only three passengers were killed in 1937. But there were others who journeyed! Unfortunates, who hadn't tickets and so had to perch precariously on buffers, carriage roofs, or on the brake-rods underneath. Death took heavy toll of these, for 2500 humans met their end violently and unnecessarily. There was plenty of room in the safety of the carriages, but these "down-and-outs" couldn't get tickets. A shortage of tickets? Oh, no! the booking offices can supply all "permits-to-travel" that may be required.

Banks also issue permits-to-travel or money tickets, which enable people to travel in the "train of life." Comparatively few people now command every luxury, and they may enjoy a comfortable journey, safe from danger. The vast majority only just manage to pay their way, whilst the jobless, unable to get tickets, hang on as best they can, bewildered and confused by the perplexities of a fast-moving

world. Hunger and sickness dangerously reduce their strength, their grip relaxes, then disease and despair soon knock them off.

Well, there is plenty of room on this earth; enough food, clothing, and shelter for everyone. The trouble is at the Booking Office, where money tickets are issued. We have a right to demand economic security as we travel on this planet. Season tickets are not good enough; we must demand a life-pass in the shape of unconditional monetary claims, so that the cry of "Tickets, please!" will not find us empty-handed, as it now so often does.

We are heirs to a great heritage, and are shareholders in the Terra-Firma Life Line. Our task right now is to exert sufficient pressure upon our representatives on the Parliamentary Board of Management, so that they will have issued sufficient money tickets to enable us all to enjoy a safe and comfortable journey through life. According to the recent Royal Commission on Banking Report (para. 504), the Commonwealth Bank can "make money available to Governments or to others free of any charge." You see, it can be done, but the Central Booking Office awaits instructions.

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WALLOP! OR THE IMPACT OF SCIENCE

By YAFFLE, in "Reynolds News."

It is my duty to give you a brief resume of some meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Scientific Knowledge.

This will hurt me more than it does you, but you must be kept up to date.

We will start with the address of the president, Sir J. Stamp. His subject was "The Impact of Science Upon Society."

It appears that Scientists are not only engaged in increasing noise and reducing the population. Sir Josiah, for instance, has discovered that science advances more quickly than politics and economics, and wants them better adapted to each other.

He did not suggest any improvement in the economic system, by which society could benefit materially from scientific discoveries. Instead, he suggested making the mind of man more adapted to scientific progress by the use of experimental psychology. No doubt, he thought that would be easier and less objectionable to the City.

On this question of the improvement of men's minds, Dr. Julian Huxley said the necessary change must depend mainly on the improvement of the brain. One way achieving this is:

Some system for using a few highly-endowed individuals to produce all the next generation.

This would mean choosing the highest types of men, such as you, sir, or—Oh, well, thanks very much. It would mean, I say, choosing the highest types of men and making them fathers of the next generation. No others need apply.

Sir Josiah admitted that the people might object to such methods of improvement. But he seemed to regret it, for he said that a "benevolent dictator" could "add 2 in. to our stature and 7lb. Or 8lb. to our weight by applying our modern knowledge of diet."

But, in any case, it would be more than any dictator's life was worth to suggest adding weight to our women.

So the discussion on improving man's brain and body was left indecisive, for lack of dictators.

Turning to the discussion on Astronomy, we are led to question whether man is worth improving at all. Sir James Jeans reminds us that in our own universe there are as many stars as grains of sand in the Sahara.

This in itself is sufficient to convince any child of the futility of washing behind its ears.

And it is clear from these figures that you are, comparatively, of so little importance that you may as well let Sir J.'s dictator dispose of you in the most scientific way.

HAS SPACE A FASHIONABLE FIGURE?

Asking the question, "How Big is Space?" Sir James said that the origin of the solar system has long been discussed by "cranks whose fancies are unchecked by scientific knowledge."

And to prove the difference between a crank and a scientist, he said that a new telescope, now being made, may solve the question whether space comes to an end or not.

This is important, as it shows that science has already advanced to the point reached by mediaeval monks, who believed that space stopped at the floor of heaven.

Meantime, there are various theories. One is that space is finite, and curves back into itself. Another is that it is infinite, and has "a negative curvature." I think that means it has a fashionable figure.

We also learn that there are several other universes, all running away from ours. I didn't gather why. It may be because they don't like our faces, or they may just be playing tag. I see no reason why universes shouldn't have their fun. Fleas do.

"UNSUBLIMATED AGGRESSIVENESS."

Having hinted that man is not fit to manage his own existence, the scientists went to Blackpool Pleasure Beach to study "the psychology of mass entertainment." One of their discoveries here was that hitting or throwing things was "an outlet for unsublimated aggressiveness."

As a result of his investigation, Sir Josiah said he would like to experiment with the workers of a large factory, to see the effect of entertainment on cheerfulness and output.

So you see from a scientific point of view, the purpose of entertainment is to make you satisfied with your wages and get more work out of you. I trust this will not make you want to "sublimate your aggressiveness" by hitting a scientist on the bean.

I have said enough, I think, to show that the function of the masses is not to use science, but to let science use them, and that the Impact of Science on Society will result in a nice, well-organised ant-heap.

It is true Sir John Orr gave

IS ANTHROPOLOGY A USELESS STUDY?

By W. BROWNLEY.

It has been suggested that a study of ethnology and anthropology will not help us to solve the problems facing the modern world. It was stated that measuring the craniums of prehistoric and contemporary men will not help us to solve the problem of poverty, and maybe this is true, but it is probably no less true that ethnological studies may help us considerably after the poverty problem has been solved.

At present truth is scattered abroad like the dismembered body of Osiris, but the new economics, like Isis, will, by solving the economic and social problem, bring all these dismembered truths once more into unity.

Ally or Enemy?

Therefore, insofar as ethnology contains the truth about the subject it studies, to that degree is it not to be lost sight of while we fight a more pressing battle on another front.

I do not claim to be either an ethnologist or an anthropologist, but I have taken an interest in these subjects and I know that an understanding of the facts of anthropology has been of great help in understanding the phenomena underlying politics and finance.

As a social science, anthropology must be either an ally or an enemy of monetary reform, but whether it will be the one or the other will depend not on the facts studied by anthropologists, but on the background against which they are studied.

Centralisation

Until recently it has been assumed by anthropologists that a centralised form of organisation was a natural growth. Influenced by the Darwinian theory of evolution, they imagined that the growth of centralisation was a step upwards in the evolution of culture. Instead, as we are beginning to see, it was a retrogression or, rather, a perversion. Men like Herbert Spencer and Sigismund

a different interpretation. He said science ought to adapt itself to man, and give him what he wanted. He even suggested that, as science could provide enough food for everybody, everybody ought to have enough food.

But this was very out of date and unscientific, and I cannot understand why such a spoilsport was invited to the party.

Freud have confused society with centralised social organisation. Consequently, they have been in the dilemma that natural man would not naturally settle into his (assumed) natural social organisation. Herbert Spencer identified social organisation and organism, and, instead of logically concluding that the interest of the individual must coincide with the interests of the organism, he postulated the antagonism of man and the State. His philosophical generalisations would have made him a Socialist and a Totalitarian, had not his acute powers of observation detected the hostility between man and centralised organisation. His identification of organisation and organism prevented him seeing the unnaturalness of centralised society and precluded his forming a unified philosophy.

Organisation or Organism?

In our own day we see the psycho-analyst, Freud, making a similar identification of social organisation and organism, and stalemated by the consequent antagonism of man to his environment. Both assumed the naturalness of something which was extremely artificial and then wondered at the seeming disharmony between man and his social organisation. (Incidentally, a great deal of psychology is only an escape mechanism—a getting away from reality. By studying the psychological effects of frustration, psychologists get so used to taking the cause of social frustration for granted that they end by assuming its naturalness.)

The Fight Against Centralisation

Now, so long as sociology, ethics, anthropology, philosophy and religion are visioned against a background which assumes the naturalness of centralisation, so long will opponents of centralisation in finance and government find it difficult to make converts amongst advocates of those sciences and studies.

But, just as centralisation is being attacked in the financial field, so it is being attacked in the anthropological field. Writers like Elliot Smith and W. J. Perry have shown how centralisation of social organisation arose, while Matinowski and Hogben have demonstrated the decentralised nature of Law.

Those who are fighting against centralisation in finance cannot afford to remain indifferent to their fellows who are fighting against centralisation in other fields. While monetary reformers are attacking on the front, the newer anthropologists are helping to turn the flank. They may have no small part in the final victory.

To neglect anthropology or to fail to give support to the new anthropological school is only to deliver up a few more trenches to the enemy.

INSIDE VIEW

"There is a virtual dictatorship of the Treasury over the House of Commons, and the majority view in Parliament is no longer allowed to be the ruling force in this country."

This statement was made by Mr. R. D. Crook, general secretary, Ministry of Labour Staff Association, at the annual conference of the Association at Bristol on May 15.

—"Social Credit."

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 2.)

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(Continued on page 7.)

OPEN LETTER TO DR. PRIESTLEY

Dr. R. E. Priestley, C/o Melbourne University.

Dear Dr. Priestley, —

This letter is addressed to you at Melbourne University, though you have now left that institution for a more lucrative job at Birmingham. (And very sensibly, too. Why should you continue working for people who are poor only because they cling to an antiquated money system?)

But, before leaving, you compiled, according to the Melbourne "Herald" (escape from having to read which must surely solace your departure), a long report, in which you "trenchantly criticised University endowment, administration, and relations with the community."

Now, with the latter two criticisms we are not here concerned. We admire you for pointing out that the University suffers from the same blight of artificial poverty as the vast majority of the citizens of Victoria.

Yet, Doctor, one wonders whether, after all, the University is free from blame. Nothing has been more remarkable than the lush growth in recent years of the Economics School—a school sporting that well-known defender of the present banking system—Premier's Plan Copland. If the University will persist in turning off the credit tap with one hand, it can hardly expect to gather riches with the other.

According to the "Herald," you have remarked, and, if so, very truly, that the University is not, as

it should be, a centre of contemporary reform movements. It still teaches, does it not, a system of economics largely based on Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations"? This book was published some 150 years ago, almost exactly in the same year that Watt's invention of the steam engine ushered in the power-economy of to-day, and reduced the age of scarcity, which Smith described, and the conclusions he drew therefrom, to an exhibit in the chamber of horrors of the past.

So, even though scarcity died 150 years ago, the University (and the "Herald") haven't yet discovered that pleasing fact. There seems room for a bit of trenchant criticism here.

There was, however, one possible construction of your suggestions which you would do well to abandon. It is this: That the State Government, and city councils, should divert a larger share of their PRESENT revenues into the University's stocking. In other words, that the University should be made the driest corner of the bankers' dungeon; so that, to change the metaphor, it may glide, serene, smug and swan-like, over the turgid pool of the poverty of the common herd.

If that is Alma Mammy's object, then the public will know how to act. The State, which contributes pretty liberally, considering its fat-headed money system, to your former University, has every right to demand that it shall not teach stale doctrines which favour the little ring of credit monopolists at the expense of the rest of the people.

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The Banks in Palestine

Following closely on the report that Herr Hitler had ordered the Banks in Germany not only to stop selling securities, but to buy securities and to stop the slump which developed in the Berlin Bourse, it is reported from Palestine that a crowd attacked Barclay's Bank. The police stepped in and repulsed the attack, killing one Arab. The crowd also attempted to set on fire the Anglo-Palestinian Bank.

The reaction of a dog caught in a trap is to bite the first thing it can get its teeth into, even a hand which is endeavouring to free it. It has no thought of going out after the person who set the trap. All animals react similarly, and, unfortunately, many humans display no higher degree of intelligence. The Arabs have spent many years shooting a few Jews, for they can see in the influx of the Jews the immediate cause of their loss of livelihood.

But gradually the Arabs are attaining a clearer vision of the sources of their exploitation. They have realised the extent of their exploitation by oil interests, and have proceeded to fire the pipelines to demonstrate their realisation.

This realisation has apparently brought them no little happiness. But what was thought to be a mountain has only turned out to be a foothill, and the surmounting of it has left the Arabs with a vision of the real mountain of exploitation and oppression. That mountain is the banking system. A system controlled internationally, by Gentile as well as Jew. A system which may have its headquarters at Wall Street, or in London or elsewhere, and which can almost invariably invoke the law of a country to protect its property and privilege, although it is itself above the law and outside control.

The Arabs will do well to forget the Jews and the oil wells and to concentrate on the pseudo-British banks. They might then achieve something worthwhile. Their efforts have to be constructive, not merely destructive.

Is Mr. Bruce Reaching His Dotage?

When Mr. S. M. Bruce started his "nutrition" racket in 1935 we were of the opinion that he had suddenly become mindful of the hard row which Australia's farmers had had to hoe, and that he was intent on putting over a little publicity to boost sales of their products.

Three years later, and Mr. Bruce is still hard at it. He apparently believes in the racket, and if the people of the world won't be properly nourished, the League of Nations will be moved to jolly well make them be properly nourished.

The hottest news on the subject is to be found in last Saturday's *Herald*, and it surely will not be long before other planets will be called in to solve this one-big-two-world problem, especially as a disastrous plenitude of crops is again threatening the world with starvation.

The hot news is as follows: — "An important speech will, it is understood, be delivered by the Australian High Commissioner (Mr. Bruce) to the forthcoming League of Nations Assembly on the nutrition question, which was initiated by Australia in 1935.

"It is felt that, if the League can gain and develop the adherence of members to plan international co-operation designed to raise the standard of human welfare, the nations deliberately turning their back on this matter, will find it difficult to justify their action at the Bar of world opinion.

"This question has become of major interest, especially since Mr. Bruce initiated discussion on allied subjects, of which the most important is the standard of living, a preliminary report on which was issued by Professor Hall recently.

"The British press shows lively interest in the forthcoming discussions, leading articles appearing in the *Times*, and in other London and provincial dailies.

"Australia will raise discussions in the Assembly, under the headings of 'Standard of Living,' 'Economic Depressions,' 'Agricultural Credits,' and 'Nutrition.' "

Mr. Bruce will, of course, be wearing the old school tie.

In the pocket of his grey striped trousers there will be a sufficiency of coins, and at his bank there will be ample financial credit to ensure his own proper nutrition during his arduous labours.

Mr. Bruce would quite justifiably get hot under the collar if some busybody started to concern himself over the nutrition of Mr. Bruce, a matter which he is quite capable of looking after himself, thank you, Sir, and damn your impudence.

It is a wonder that the solution does not suggest itself to him. Put more money in the pockets of the people, more effective money, and just see whether they do not quickly learn how to look after themselves.

It is true that one or two people might, at first, eat all day like a cow and make themselves sick, but that is no reason for holding up the experiment.

They will soon learn sense!

HAS POVERTY AN ENNOBLING INFLUENCE?

By LEONORA POLKINGHORNE.

There are quite a number of people (not themselves noticeably short of material goods) who claim that poverty has an ennobling influence. There are also some who quite sincerely believe that poverty has in itself the power to refine and elevate the spirit.

Dean Farrar, in his *Life of Christ*, states quite plainly that what he calls "a decent poverty," which would be that of the Carpenter of Nazareth, is the ideal state for the spiritually minded. It is seldom, however, that Deans and Archbishops can enjoy that advantage, some of them being compelled to live in palaces, attended by liveried servants, and often having to dine at houses where the service consists of hothouse flowers, silverplate, and lengthy and expensive menus. But that is by the way. We will concede that to use Venetian crystal and a wine list served by a butler, while footmen in livery attend to the inner man, is not incompatible with "doing our duty in that state of life to which it has pleased God to call us.

Voluntary or Imposed?

We will go further still, and say that a voluntary renunciation of material comforts and satisfactions may strengthen and purify the spirit. St. Francis of Assisi evidently found it so. Nor should we lightly dismiss as futile and foolish such efforts at self-discipline, as Macaulay does when he speaks scornfully of Dr. Johnson's "celebrating the tragedy of Calvary by butterless buns and milkless coffee." This is a shallow criticism, for Dr. Johnson was far too much addicted to the pleasure of the table, and his "butterless buns and milkless coffee" on Good Friday indicated a sincere attempt to overcome this weakness of the flesh, and a real and humble appreciation of the Great Sacrifice that he believed had been made for him.

It is very necessary, however, to distinguish between such voluntary abnegation as this and a poverty condition that is imposed by incomplete distribution of the fruits of the cultural heritage. An imposed poverty can have no spiritual value whatever. On the contrary, it is more than liable to breed a crop of evils that may cripple a character for life. To argue, therefore, as many do, that we must do nothing to remove the causes of poverty, because poverty in itself has some spiritual virtue, is to build an argument on a very unsound major premise.

Freedom

No human being can rise to the full measure of his powers till he is free. He must be free to choose, free to expand, free to dare. Charles Kingsley, in his *Hypatia* says that every free-willed person feels at times that he must do certain things for no other reason than that he wants to do them. He was speaking of Pelagia's brother, the young monk, and he adds: "It is a pity when there is nothing but a monastic training to fight this desire." Better the "choose thou" than the "thou shalt not."

The world is slow to recognise this. Forever and forever the progress of mankind to adult stature is arrested by the pedagogic attitude of those who seek to dictate conditions to secure the moral

welfare of other people. "It would never do" is ever on their lips. The higher education of women was opposed by such arguments as: "It would make them vain." "It would spoil them for simple pleasures." "It would destroy their essential womanliness." To all of which Sydney Smith sarcastically replied that "the laws of man are not greater than the operations of Nature, and there is no fear of a woman's deserting her child for a quadratic equation."

The refusal to allow subject nations self-government offers as justification: "They are not fit for it." (How can they be, except by trial and error?) And we dare to say that of other peoples while we ourselves hand over to a private monopoly (through our Governments) the power of life and death!

Charity

So quite a number of these wise-acres, who doubt everybody's goodness and wisdom but their own, have quite made up their minds that to abolish poverty from the world would be to destroy a sanctifying and ennobling influence from our spiritual life. Those who give would lose the blessed opportunity of exercising their charity, while those who now receive—the beautiful quality of gratitude! So two revered institutions would vanish from our national life - - Lady Bountiful and "the deserving poor." Well, Robert Louis Stevenson says that there are no deserving poor, as "charity unduly puffs up those who give and humiliates those so the 'deserving' would as soon die as take it." There are innumerable instances to prove that recipients of "charity" hate the hand that feeds them. Quite naturally, too.

Evil Effects

Poverty stifles genius, atrophies the sense of beauty, makes us mean, self-seeking and sordid—and very, very often makes us dishonest. It makes us gamble and drink, it breeds criminals and drives normal human beings to despair and suicide. It destroys faith in human nature, and even in God's goodness. It breeds hate and revenge and a consuming envy. It is a total denial of the fatherhood of God as it is a denial of the brotherhood of man—for what earthly father would be guilty of lavishing every good thing on one son or daughter—good clothes and food, and a liberal education—while the rest of his children went ragged, hungry and ignorant? Those who acquiesce in poverty, then, deny God's fatherhood.

Concentration on Material Things

So far from concentrating our thoughts on material things, the abolition of poverty would set us free from their domination. A hungry, ill-clothed or insecure person must be intensely occupied with thoughts of material necessities. I think it was Carlyle who said that the only way to despise and forget the body was by first taking pro-

per care of it; and he ought to know, seeing that the dyspepsia that he acquired in his years of struggle with poverty ruined his temper and destroyed the happiness of his gifted wife. A young girl, seeking her fortune in two of our big capital cities, finding employment hard to get, and highly unsatisfactory when attained, told me recently that her terrible experiences at that time made her permanently conscious of the need of material things—that they gave her a preoccupation with them that she never previously had, and which she now could not rid herself of. As an intellectual girl, and one naturally set upon higher things, she deplored the effect on her outlook, which was the dire result of her temporary lack of money and the attack on her health and morale the harassing sense of insecurity brought.

Thrift

Poverty is never good, whether it be poverty of the mind, soul or body, and poverty of the body too often means, at last, the poverty of the other two. Our "thrift" campaigns, arising from the poverty complex, must tend to cultivate in generous young minds that penuriousness that will make them Scrooges some day. A wise management of one's resources, in order that one may not be a charge on others, must be commended, but to assume that thrift is in itself a virtue, and saving and stinting a valuable aid to character, is ridiculous. That that view is taken by many, nevertheless, can be testified to by social credit lecturers, who have so often been asked, when they pleaded for plenty to be distributed: "What about thrift?"—as though it were a positive, and not merely a relative, good. As a matter of fact, we have instances in which it has degenerated into a loathsome poverty, such as one reads of in the newspapers, when old men and women are found dead in rags, emaciation and squalor, with large quantities of money concealed about their premises.

Bread or Soap?

Poverty is at war with every decent feeling, denies every decent condition, even cleanliness. As George Gissing points out in *New Grub Street*, the smug saying that "one can be clean, no matter how poor one is," is as false as most of the things that are said about poverty by those who are not poor.

It is an absolute fact that there are people in the city of Melbourne who cannot afford to buy soap. Should we condemn them then, if they and their houses are dirty? Let the cleanest of us ask, if, being very hungry, we were confronted with the choice between a bar of soap and a loaf of bread, what our choice would be!

* * *

If man had not long ago recognised poverty as an enemy, would he throughout the ages have bent his energies to conquering it? That conquest has been his major preoccupation, and he has potentially succeeded at last in that long struggle. Would it not then be the worst sort of madness to refuse to reap the fruits of that great victory?

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RAIN TO ORDER

Inducing Artificial Rain by Means of Ice-Fogs, Dusts, Smoke Clouds, and Rain-Guns is Now a Practical Possibility

By G. P. CAPART.

(Condensed from "Je Sais Tout," Paris.)

The processes actually employed in different countries to create artificial rain all belong to one or other of three methods:

- (a) Condensation, produced by lowering of the temperature of the air.
- (b) Ionisation of the surrounding air.
- (c) Violent air-disturbance, secured by the emission of a continuous series of sound-waves, which, by spreading out into space, enforce the union of the fine droplets.

Artificial Condensation

First, then, let us consider artificial rain produced by the condensation of water-vapour.

In various ways, an absolute and definite cooling of the upper or lower strata of the atmosphere is effectuated. It is thus that the aeroplane is used to precipitate into space dust-substances carried at very low temperature. We may also expect the discharge of finely powdered carbonic snow. The method has actually been employed, in the course of trials, to distribute as much as two tons of dust-matter in a single flight!

Another process, of which a great fuss has been made in Germany and in the United States, consists in building powerful bellows, to launch into space columns of air which rise to a very great height and reach temperatures of 70 degrees C. and 30 degrees C.

As with vacuum-condensers, there exists a method very much developed in Germany, which takes the form of enticing rain by artificially creating, quite close to the ground, and by injection, a kind of ice-fog, thus rapidly bringing about condensation of the steam contained in the upper layers of the air.

This latter process, which is capable of creating valuable showers, does, however, involve a pre-existent supply of water. However small this may be, it does mean in many cases a serious obstacle to the practical employment of the method for ordinary use. And so the proverb which says that "if you want rain, all you need to do is to water your garden," really rests upon a basis of truth.

Now let us see how rain is made by artificial ionisation of the atmosphere.

Artificial Ionisation

The methods derived from this principle are being perfected day by day. Artificial ionisation of the atmosphere is brought about by the application in different forms of salts of radium, and even more preferably by radio-active emanation.

The aeroplane can be used, or the discharge of the ions into space can be achieved by means of rockets. Indeed, we are even likely to see the installation on solid ground of ion-emission posts, mounted on pylons.

In order to secure the ionisation of important sectors of the atmosphere in the most economic manner possible, the idea has been mooted to employ heavy smoke clouds, similar to those employed in the navy, these smoke-clouds being made radio-active at the moment of discharge in the neighbourhood of the ion-generator.

The radio-active smoke dispersed into the atmosphere neutralises the activity of the electric field. Accordingly, the inter-repulsion of the droplets ceases, and larger drops form. *It is raining!*

When five or six of these rockets were sent up into space, we were lucky enough to see rain fall several times, in 1936 and

1937, in the Chevreuse Valley and once in Beaujolais. There was one time, at Gif, in the Department of Seine-et-Oise, when the phenomenon was actually produced in the middle of a perfectly fine, cloudless day. It rained in torrents!

A trip round the countryside demonstrated that over a radius of about six miles from the spot where the experiment had been carried out, not a single drop of rain had fallen, and the fine weather was universal.

The method of creating artificial rain by ionisation of the air can be achieved in quite another manner. This is a procedure by which artificial clouds are discharged, made radio-active in immediate proximity to the ground, by the use of the smoke-pots, well known in employment as protective agents against the effects of frost, hoar-frost at the time of the April moon, and preferably before sunrise.

Applied in this way, the smoke-bombs bring the dew streaming down in a regular shower, inducing condensation of the vapours contained in the higher layers of the atmosphere. But, quite apart from this particular beneficent action, the radio-active smoke-clouds have a very real effect in stimulating the sap in plants and thus forward the development of all kinds of cultivation.

We would also mention here the method of ionisation of the atmosphere employed in the U.S.S.R., which consists in the use of controlled ultra-short wireless waves.

Finally, let us examine the question of artificial rain obtained through air-disturbance.

Air-Disturbance

We have previously explained the attempts which are being made produce precipitation of steam in the form of rain, by bringing about the expansion of the water-vapour contained in the atmosphere.

Experiments in the laboratory have demonstrated that the sound waves, which determine the effects

of maximum condensation of water-vapour, are the ultra-sounds, inaudible to the ear. But, unfortunately, the transmission of these ultra-sounds in the air by means of emission-apparatus can be effected only over very short distances, ranging between a few inches and a few yards.

How then can we reach the clouds situated at heights of several hundreds or thousands of feet in the sky?

The sound waves which spread over the widest field are the infra-sounds, which will take effect at distances of several scores of miles. But these, too, are inaudible to the human ear.

Let us mark, in passing, the striking analogy with the infra-red and the ultra-violet rays, rays which are invisible to the human eye, and which appear in other respects to be of poor physical power, but are so rich to-day in remarkable phenomena, the results of which have been applied to the solution of so many new chemical problems.

These ultra-sounds and infra-sounds are, day by day, more widely discussed, and point to the possibility of solving ere long problems which may well upset humanity altogether.

The very real progress attained in the technique of artificial rain-making by means of sound-waves has reached the point of endowing the infra-sonorous waves, which spread over a wide distance, with the faculty of producing physical effects identical with those produced by the ultra-sounds, which, as we have now seen, produce their maximum effect in bringing about the precipitation of vapour in water-drops.

How is such a miracle to be worked? The procedure is simple enough: the emission of continuous sound-waves at low frequency, by means of an apparatus based on the principle of the organ-pipe, worked by a powerful bellows, with the object of bringing about disturbance in layers of air far away from the atmosphere. The effect of this process can be felt in the concussion of windowpanes at a distance of miles, the sound-vibration being comparable to that produced in an ordinary dwelling-house after a thunderclap or a distant burst of gun-fire.

These sound-emission posts are either fixed or mobile. They can even be fitted on an aeroplane. The bellows and the compressor

are fed by electric motors or by explosion. A vent, which opens and shuts rapidly, creates a succession of sound-recoils similar to those we have previously noted as following violent bursts of thunder or the explosion of gun-fire, which cause concussion in the air powerful enough to make window-panes shake—and to bring about immediate precipitation of rain.

The emitter of high-angle sound waves has practically become a kind of "automatic gun." It is perfected by a fixture in paraboliform, set so as to direct or concentrate the collection of waves in any section of the atmosphere desired.

The rainy winters which we are experiencing in France are the logical consequence of two causatory factors. Firstly, accidental phenomena of ionisation in a disturbed atmosphere, following upon the development of electricity in its application to industrial uses. Secondly, disturbance arising from all the various kinds of vibrations and mechanical and acoustic concussions which create noise -- e.g., escape of steam from locomotives, rumbling of aeroplanes, etc.

It was precisely by the study of the anomalies observed in the phenomena of nature that the research workers soon found themselves on the road to industrial solutions, giving them a choice of methods for resolving the problem of artificial rain.

Practical tests, utilising one or other of the methods described in previous paragraphs, have already taken place in different countries.

Over many of the technical stations, however, there hangs an air of mystery. It is easy to understand when we note that artificial rain may well play an important part, from the point of view of national defence—"passive defence," as it is called—in case of war. For it is the fact that rain is an ideal means for the precipitation of poisonous gases.

And, quite apart from this, on level ground, the creation of an artificial torrent of rain may quite well produce considerable difficulties for an enemy attacking force—e.g., loss of visibility, which is a nuisance to aircraft. And, over and above this, there is the moral effect on the soldier, who does not go forward to the attack with a good heart when the ground is soaked.

It is amusing to find that in German literature the "rain-making" apparatuses have been christened "rain-guns" by our neighbours across the Rhine. And they might equally well, if the occasion arose, be called "anti-gas guns."

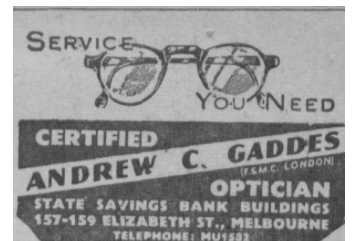
In Holland it is Professor Veraart who is the great specialist in obtaining artificial rain by chilling the upper atmosphere.

In Soviet Russia many experiments have also been undertaken. Thanks to the aeroplane, dust charged with positive electricity has been expelled into the atmosphere. Carried to a very high potential, the purpose of this dust is to neutralise the action of the electric field in the air.

Attempts have also been made in the U.S.S.R. to create artificial rain by the discharge of controlled ultra-short wireless waves. Here they are, at last, hoping to effect the discharge of special gases capable of producing condensation of the water-vapour, in combination with other measures. The man in charge of these experiments is Professor Curden. In an official summary, it is explained that the method consists in creating in the air an artificial cloud, electrically charged, and that the results obtained are absolutely conclusive. The experiment was an exact reproduction of the natural phenomenon. As with the French experiments at Gif, which we have mentioned before, there was a completely blue sky all round the spot where the test was undertaken.

What a boon it will be for the vast regions where devilish periods of drought hold sway so often! The French provinces of Northern Africa would seem to be specially marked out as the first district to benefit by this important and salutary work.

As for our own country and latitudes, an effective application might well be in the dispersal of fog from the aerodromes and air-fields.



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DR. PAUL DANE AND MONEY

Should Patients Offer to Pay in Kind?

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H. BROWN.

Sir, — Dr. Paul Dane is a well-known and highly-respected citizen of Melbourne. He has taken part frequently in the Saturday evening "Heckle Hour" debates from 3DB, and has always given a good account of himself. No one would question the sincerity of his desire to see conditions made better for the people in general, and everyone, who takes an interest in these matters knows that he has not spared himself in advocating what he believes to be the remedy for our difficulties. Because of this, I am particularly anxious that nothing in this letter should be construed as antagonistic to him. I propose merely to offer some comment on his recent contribution to the *Medical Journal of Australia*, as published on August 6, and in order that there may be no misconceptions or misquotations, I give the text of his letter in full as it appeared in the *Medical Journal*. It was as follows:

"Sir, — I agree with Dr. John Dale in his general condemnation of the national health insurance scheme as a means of social service. It can only have one certain, result, an increase in taxation or an increase in costs of some sort, thus a deduction from wages. But I profoundly disagree with my valued friend when he considers the monetary system to be at fault. He states that the monetary system fails to effect the necessary exchanges. But I would point out that it is not the monetary system that effects exchange. Exchange is facilitated by the monetary system; but it can, and does, go on without the monetary system, such as exchange of goods between nations. It is production and exchange of goods and services that call forth a monetary system, not vice versa, as Dr. Dale and his Douglas Credit friends believe. — Yours, etc.,

"PAUL G. DANE."

If Not in Money, Then Where?

Now, if the monetary system is NOT at fault, as he so emphatically declares, then where DOES the fault lie? It has been proved in these columns that booms and slumps are the result of financial manipulation, and anyone who hesitates to accept this statement as a fact is referred to the Macmillan Report in England or the Report of the Monetary and Banking Commission in Australia for confirmation. Every mother knows that if only she had the money she could get plenty of food and clothes for the youngsters, and dress better herself. Every shopkeeper knows that if only he could get people to come to his shop with money to spend he would have no difficulty in disposing of the goods on his shelves or in renewing supplies. Every farmer knows that if only the people had more money he would have no difficulty in getting a remunerative price for his products, and could then escape from the clutches of the banker. Every Government knows that if only it were not so limited for funds it could provide far greater services for the community and improve conditions all round. Every doctor knows that if only his patients had incomes equal to their demands on his time and skill, he would not have to carry so many bad debts or take part in the unseemly scramble for a better share of the inadequate supply of money.

Facts are Facts

All the argument in the world will not alter these facts, whether we are willing to believe them or not. The scientists of 1898 would not believe that a man had discovered the local anaesthetic,

but the fact remained that he HAD discovered it, as we now know to our joy. And if we look into the sphere of health, in which the worthy doctor might be expected to have a close interest, we will find that the only real difficulty is the matter of finance, and that that difficulty is chronic. Every medical man knows that the profession is accomplishing only part of what it could accomplish if it were not so hamstrung through inability to purchase the latest equipment and the best drugs. Only last week, newspaper reports of hospital management provided abundant confirmation of this disgraceful condition.

Maternity Wards Urgently Needed

In the *Argus* of August 24, for example, there were two significant items. The first was headed: "MATERNITY WARDS: URGENT NEED." This referred to the ceremony at St. Vincent's Hospital in connection with the presentation of a cot to the new Maternity Hospital. The Mother Rectress of the institution expressed herself as follows:

"The new Maternity Hospital was proving a valuable addition to St. Vincent's. The antenatal department attached to it was well attended. It was impossible to admit all the prospective mothers who applied, because there was no room for them. More maternity hospitals are needed urgently in Melbourne. To economise in this direction was a shortsighted policy on the part of the Government. Mothers and babies had to leave the Women's Hospital after only seven or eight days because of the great demand on accommodation. Two or three days extra would make an enormous difference in the health of both, and the extra nourishment provided for the baby would help it to grow into a healthy child and citizen. It would pay the Government to spend more money on maternity hospitals, because, in the long run, it would produce a healthy nation."

Money or Nothing

It will be seen at once that the Mother Rectress spoke of the need for "spending more money" on maternity hospitals. She said nothing at all about "exchanging goods between nations." What she wants is the exchange and use of goods within Australia, and she has the clear understanding that this entails the "spending of MONEY." The things actually necessary for the building or extension of a hospital are land, materials, and labour. These are plentiful, but the indisputable fact is that they cannot be put to use until MONEY is available with which "to effect the exchanges." The owner of the land wants MONEY for it; the producers of the materials want MONEY for them, and those who provide the labour must be paid in MONEY, as otherwise they would have no claim on the shops for food. The use of these things is therefore dependent absolutely on the efficiency or otherwise of the money system. Supply the hospitals with adequate money and they can be depended on to meet our needs; but deprive them of money, or continue to limit their supply of it, as we have foolishly done in the past, and they must continue to turn people away as they are obliged to do now.

Finance the Only Problem

And this would continue to be the case, irrespective of the quantity of vacant land, building materials, or idle

labour available waiting to be used, and quite irrespective of whether some other nations bartered locomotives for coffee or not. Finance is the only problem where maternity welfare is concerned, and until the supply of money is made equal to the needs of the people, the troubles complained of must inevitably remain. Yet, instead of tackling this issue, Dr. Dane indulges in propaganda calculated to turn our attention away from it, while Mr. W. M. Hughes parades the country urging our womenfolk to have more babies! We can't deal fairly with the babies we are already getting, and the only reason is lack of finance— i.e.. MONEY.

The Alfred Hospital, Too

Take the other case - - the Alfred Hospital. No less a person than Sir Alex Stewart is the president of the Board of Management, and his committee includes such well-known beneficiaries of the Credit Monopoly as Sir Robt. Knox, Sir Brudenell White, and Clive Fairbairn. But even these have had to make the public confession that their only problem of management is finance— i.e., MONEY. Speaking of persons injured in car accidents and their effect on the hospital, Sir Alex said that in the last year the hospital had dealt with 854 cases, and that 389 of these were admitted as in-patients, "the cost to the hospital being £3737, while only £514 was received in return." There's the rub. The hospital had been able to do everything except collect sufficient MONEY.

The True Cost

Dr. Paul Dane knows (he has publicly admitted it) that the true "cost" of the hospital service was the time and energy of the doctors and nurses, plus the use of the accommodation and equipment. But all of these have to be converted into terms of money, and their employment or utilisation is governed by the MONEY result. Sir Alex expressed the hope that action would be taken soon to relieve hospitals of the "burden," and to ensure that an adequate "return" is made to the hospital for the services rendered. The "burden" referred to is the financial burden, and the "return" asked for is a money return. The doctor will not need to be reminded, either, that a lot of the unfortunate individuals who become involved in accidents are terribly short of money. Knowing this, perhaps they should not get hurt; but they will do these foolish things.

New Equipment, But Can't Use It

After Sir Alex had said his part, Mr. G. J. Coles, of "Nothing Over 2/6" fame, had his turn. He is the honorary treasurer, and what he said is important. It was as follows:

"The accommodation and resources of every department of the hospital had been taxed to the utmost capacity. Expenditure had exceeded receipts by £706. The debit on the building account had been increased by £2072. It was disappointing to record that the Board had not yet been able to arrange finance for new buildings to house medical services, but it was hoped to overcome these difficulties next month by a modification of the original plan. The situation had become more serious as each month passed. The hospital X-Ray services were obsolete. New equipment provided by the late Mr. A. M. Nicholas could not be used because there was nowhere to house it. Other special departments were inadequate to cope with demands."

Just imagine it! Using obsolete X-Ray equipment because they had no MONEY to provide accommodation for new equipment which had been made available as a gift! Existing accommodation and resources (the physical things) had been

taxed to their utmost capacity, and the management found it impossible to obtain more, NOT because they were scarce or unobtainable, but entirely because it could not arrange the finance (the phantom thing). Shortage of money was their only trouble, but instead of fighting against the money shortage they *modified the plan of improvements!* In other words, the hospital facilities for the treatment of the sick had to be limited to the supply of MONEY, instead of the supply of money being made equal to the needs of the sick. Exchange of goods between other nations with or without money did not enter into it. What was needed was Australian money in Australia for the purchase of Australian materials, for the payment of Australian workers, and for the care of Australian sufferers. This undoubtedly is the function of the monetary system, and it is to the provision and distribution of sufficient money by the monetary system that we must look for our remedy. Dr. John Dale's position in this respect is impregnable, and the community is extremely fortunate to have such a man standing so strongly against the forces of oppression.

A "Depressing Effect"

Countries are resorting to barter only because of the failure and general breakdown of the international financial system. The *Adelaide Advertiser*, one of Sir Keith Murdoch's chain, published a special article on August 23 by its "City Editor," calling attention to the "depressing effect" this international barter is having on the volume of trade. This supports Dr. Paul Dane's claim that the monetary system "facilitates trade," but it also supports the claim that if the monetary system is not facilitating trade, then the monetary system should be altered so that it WILL facilitate it. Cotton is being ploughed into the fields in the United States because the people have not been supplied with money to buy it. Instead of supplying more money, the financiers have brought pressure to bear on the Government to pass legislation requiring the limitation of the production of cotton. Coffee is abundant in Brazil, but the people have not the money to buy it. Instead of providing more money, the financiers have caused the alleged "surplus" to be tipped in the sea or used for locomotive fuel, and also brought pressure to bear on the Government to have the production restricted. In England, milk is allowed to run down the drain and fish are thrown back into the sea because the people have not sufficient money to buy them, and instead of removing the money deficiency, the financiers have dictated legislative measures to limit the production of milk and the catching of fish! All this while people continue to starve or go hungry. Even in Australia, beautiful potatoes are left in the ground to rot because the people of Australia have not been supplied with sufficient money to buy them. It is no use suggesting barter to the farmer, because he can pay his debts only with money. We are permitting the same insanity here as is going on elsewhere— i.e., instead of providing MONEY for the people so that they can buy more potatoes, onions, milk, fruit, and the like, we are allowing the bankers to dictate the Government's policy and bring about a further shortage of buying power.

Dr. Dane's Misconception

It is news to me that Dr. Dale and "his Douglas Credit friends" believe that a monetary system calls forth production and the exchange of goods and services. Their claim, as I understand it, is that the present monetary system throttles production and prevents the proper exchange of goods and services. They agree

with Dr. Paul Dane that it should FACILITATE production and distribution, and that is precisely what they are trying to bring about.

Even Innocent Children Made to Suffer

Even the innocent children are having needless suffering imposed upon them through our stupidity. On August 17, the president of the Children's Hospital (Lady Latham, whose husband, the Chief Justice of the High Court, helped to emasculate the Commonwealth Bank and prevented it from operating in the interests of the community) pointed out that in order to catch up with the growth of the institution, "a tremendous increase in revenue was needed. Contributions and benefactions had diminished, while costs increased. The deficit in annual maintenance was £11,000. Many urgent requirements in building and equipment could not be delayed. The X-Ray equipment was out of date and would cost £2500 to modernise. The pathology department must be enlarged. Accommodation for nursing mothers was inadequate. The lives of small babies sometimes depended on having their mothers at hand to nurse."

Dr. Colin Macdonald was one of those in attendance, and he made the significant statement that "lack of money to buy modern equipment restricted the work of Victorian hospitals. Had it been possible to buy Dr. Chevalier Jackson's biplane pleuroscope apparatus, Kelvin Rogers would not have had to go to America for the removal of a nail from his lung."

No matter how we may try to shut the fact from our minds, the truth remains that the only problem facing the committee of management at the Children's Hospital is the question of finance. The members are not concerned with the exchange of goods between nations without the use of money. They know that in order to purchase equipment, to pay the nurses, and to remain solvent financially, they must have MONEY. Dr. Paul Dane also knows it.

The Only Way

The only way to bring about the removal of this chronic money shortage is to mobilise public opinion and require the Federal Parliament to see that it IS removed. That is the objective of the U.E.A., and I am sure the organisers of that body would welcome the assistance of every citizen of goodwill. I therefore respectfully suggest to Dr. Dane that he throw his weight (physically, financially and mentally) behind those who are working in such a self-sacrificing way to bring about the very conditions he pleads for. — Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H. BROWN.

FAMOUS AMERICAN PREACHER ON DEMOCRACY

Primarily, democracy is the conviction that there are extraordinary possibilities in ordinary people and that if we throw wide the doors of opportunity so that all boys and girls can bring out the best that is in them, we will get amazing results from unlikely sources. Shakespeare was the son of a bankrupt butcher and a woman who could not write her name. Beethoven was the son of a consumptive mother, herself daughter of a cook and a drunken father. Schubert was the son of a peasant father and a mother who had been in domestic service. Faraday, one of the greatest scientific experimenters of all time, was born over a stable, his father an invalid blacksmith and his mother a common drudge. Such facts as these underlie democracy. That is why, with all its discouraging blunders, we must everlastingly believe in it.

--Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick.

AMATEURS AREN'T ETHICAL

By THE WALRUS.

One of these days the world will wake up to the fact that it owes a debt to Chicago. Chicago is the hot spot of realism. If it disapproves of social institutions, Chicago says it with guns. If there is a question of zoology, Chicago answers with tins. Chicago believes in the expert and despises the amateur. Even in the matter of funerals.

Consider this item from the *Central Queensland Herald*: "Chicago, August 14. —Lester McIntyre, a former salesman, is annoyed. On August 2 he climbed into a coffin and was buried in a grave, where he intends to remain for forty days. Now Oscar Atkin, a former taxi-driver, is trying the same stunt.

"It ain't ethical," complained McIntyre through a slender shaft, down which people are paying 10 cents for a peep at him. "Still, I'm not worrying. Atkin isn't a professional."

No one can misunderstand such an attitude. The professional isn't worrying. Quite properly the amateur should get the worry. Let the rest of mankind get maudlin about all the world loving a lover. Chicago has the low-down on that idea. You cannot feel it would tolerate any nonsense about an amateur having to be captain, say, of the English cricket eleven. Amachoor? Nix!

Bull by the Tail

It could hardly have chosen a more revealing way of showing us how wide of the mark we all are. We've been making fun of professors for years—of their absent-mindedness; the jaw-breaking words they invent to stop their ideas from leaking out among the amateurs. In every way we can think of we've been showing our detestation of them as superior persons; besides showing our own thick-headedness by paying them merely for being superior. But the moment they do or say something ridiculous, we are all for them. A professor who merely professes is less than the dust, but a professor who misbehaves himself by bonneting a policeman or by eloping with a waitress, passes at once into the class of kings playing "bears" or cinema artistes being kind to dumb animals. It isn't a very nice attitude. There's a bit of "something for nothing," as well as "I'm as good as you are" about it. Or, in the words of the Chicago salesman, "It ain't ethical." Besides, we've got

the bull by the tail—with the usual results.

Being so full of ourselves as amateurs, we insist on amateur status in everything that matters. We shouldn't dream, for instance, of allowing ourselves to be governed by a professional. No, thank you! We know that doesn't work. Never again will we trust the army to a soldier, or the navy to an admiral, or our public departments to anyone in particular. Give us government of amateurs by amateurs for amateurs! But somehow it doesn't seem to work too well. Maybe there's a professional in the wood-pile. And what are we going to do about it?

Professional Citizens?

The only thing, as far as I can see, is to take a lead from Les McIntyre, of Chicago, and become professionals ourselves—professional citizens.

It's a bit startling, I know. There will be quite a lot of professional jealousy higher up. Everybody has come to love that fine old amateur chorus, "Britons never shall be slaves." Even the professionals don't mind us singing that. It makes them laugh. But then they're not British, of course. And they won't laugh when we turn professional, too.

What is a professional citizen? He is a person who gets paid simply because he's a citizen. And how does a citizen stop being an amateur? I was afraid you'd think of that. That's the nasty part. He will, of course, have to go through the mental turmoil of finding out what it is he wants. At the present moment he's a pretty sick man, suffering from all the symptoms someone else says he has—and only to be cured by the bloke who invented the symptoms. Only in his lucid intervals could he sing with Kipling's "old men":

"Because we know we have breath in our mouths,

And think we have thought in our head,

We shall assume that we are alive,

Whereas we are really dead." Writers of fairy tales thoroughly understood this human inability to discover what mankind wants, or they wouldn't have written so many yarns about people having wishes and coming a buster.

Are You a Slave?

But, at any rate, it is quite evident from the fervour of "Rule Britannia" that people don't want

to be slaves; and it looks as if it might be a step in the right direction if we said to the Cabinet Minister's: "It's your job to see that Britons never will be slaves." We shall probably have to tell them again. Ministers are hard of hearing when you say anything unusual. And, when it does sink in, the first thing they'll say is that you aren't slaves. That, of course,

is the recognised boloney to feed slaves with. You'll have to be rather firm with them. Even if he is an amateur, you simply must have a Minister who knows a slave when he sees one.

But what is even more important than that is for yourself to know whether you are a slave or not. If you can't find that out, you'll always be a bloomin' amachoor.

BOOK REVIEWS

Books are pouring out from publishing houses at an ever-accelerating rate, and the ordinary reader can never hope to be up to date, no matter how narrow a field of reading he may select. Press reviews are useless. Only too frequently what would appear to be criticisms are only advertisements, and even when they are criticisms, they are only too often either too meagre or too adulatory to be of any use.

So, how is one to form a mesh which will catch the good books and reject the bad? Not only that. How is one to know of excellent books already published without waiting for them to become classics?

The task is obviously beyond the ability of one man, or even a group of men, but it would be possible to realise an approximation to this desirable goal if readers were only to carefully review each book they read and then send to the *New Times* reviews of only such books as they thought really good.

Personally, I read a great deal, and I generally take note of what I read. I thought, therefore, that I would illustrate what I have said by occasional reviews of such books as may come into my hands and be worthy of treatment.

"OUTLINE" LITERATURE.

A few years ago saw an epidemic of outlines. One of the best of the amusing ones was a satirical *Outline of Everything*. But I am not discussing satirical works. I would refer to more serious affairs.

Now, there are two, or rather three, ways of attacking the outline problem. One may write a broad outline of the history of the subject, or one may give a critical examination of different schools of thought on a given subject, treating them more or less in historical sequence. Or, again, one may produce an historical anthology.

It has been my good fortune to read three good Outline books quite recently. The first was called *Contemporary Sociological Theories*, by Pitirim Sorokin, of the Minnesota University. The use of the word "contemporary" in the title was rather broad, as it gave a critical examination of the sociological theories from the Mechanistic School of the 18th Century to the latest psychological theories of to-day. An able, dispassionate book, which any reader would be the wiser and soberer for reading.

The other two are in the "Modern Library" series. One is an *Outline of Sociology*, and the other is an *Outline of Anthropology*. They are both edited by V. F. Calverton, who contributes fine introductory studies, and they contain representative articles from nearly every reputed sociologist and anthropologist. Six shillings each, and a wonderful bargain! They are books which I would highly recommend to all serious students of social problems (and especially to frivolous persons—for their appealing style might make even the frivolous to think seriously).

Contemporary Sociological Theories, by P. Sorokin. (From the Public Library.)

Outline of Anthropology, by V. F. Calverton. (Price, 6/-; obtainable from F. M. Stapleton, 166 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.)

Outline of Sociology, by V. F. Calverton. (Price, 6/-; obtainable

from F. M. Stapleton, 166 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.)

—W. BROWNLEY.

"THE FIGHT FOR LIFE."

By Dr. Paul De Kruif.

Dr. De Kruif is the author of earlier works, such as *Men Against Death* and *Why Keep Them Alive?* *The Fight for Life* is his latest, and only published this year. His writings, all in the style of a master of his subject, are directed to showing the marvellous and magnificent achievements of medical science in the way of preventive and curative medicine and of surgery; but he reiterates that these are not available to the vast majority of the people of the world, owing to their high cost and the people's poverty. The last paragraph of the Prologue in his latest book reads as follows: "Now the ground is cleared for this chronicle of the fight against the death of mothers, against the maiming death of infantile paralysis, and the story of the new wars to wipe out tuberculosis and syphilis. *What is the chance for victory in a nation organised for profit, not for life?*"

Further on in the book he says: "More and more among the owners of the lives of the people, the belief spreads that *too much human life* is what ails us. Now, the mass of the people do not own their science. The owners of the lives of the people are also the ones who own the science of the fight for life. To-day they can turn it off and on, like water from a spigot. There are mutterings among the people that the balancing of the human budget comes before the balancing of the budget in terms of money. To-day's denial of life is not a permanent one. It is only a symptom of the mortal sickness of *an economic order now dying*."

"To-day there are headline-howls for economy, and bellowing about the need to have done with national spending. It is deplorable, doubtless, that 25 per cent. of the national income is eaten up by taxes. You may ask, too, where does all of the people's money come from? And the simple answer is now more and more widely known. Now, when we are threatened with war, the President and Congress do not hesitate to go to those bankers who buy the nation's bond issues." The author shows, at the end of the book, how unnecessary and uneconomic it is that the people should be deprived of their science, and he uses the following words:

"But what economic obstacle is in the way of giving the people life, when it is costing our whole nation—its rulers and owners included—billions to keep the people only half alive and to let them die? Will the people wait, will they be patient, when they know there is not even a rotten economic reason why their dear ones should drown in the blood of consumptive death, perish with childbed fever, go blind, become heart-wrecked, and go mad with syphilis? The people are beginning to know that life is no longer a question of do / live or do / die? No; in their onward march of life it now becomes do we live or do we die?"

The relief of suffering and the prevention of dying cannot be best served for all so long as there remains any money consid-

New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 3.)

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FLORIST, "Mayfair, Haw. 145. Cotham Rd., near Glenferrie Rd

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

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

LADIES' Hairdresser. Haw. 6605. "Burnie Salon," 81 Cotham Rd.

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

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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.

eration between the people and the fighters for their lives."

He concludes this fine literary and scientific effort with these words:

"This reporter believes that all considerations of private profit are not only wasteful but infamous if they frustrate the fight for life; if they deny the right of one human being to live."

—E. S. WILLIAMS.

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

VICTORIA

SPEAKERS' CLASS—Owing to the increasing demand for speakers who are thoroughly familiar with all the salient points of the campaign, U.E.A. headquarters will be conducting a regular speakers' class every two weeks, starting from Wednesday, September 14. All those who would like to become thoroughly conversant with the presentation of the campaign are asked to attend these meetings. They will provide opportunities for everyone to overcome their weak points in front of a friendly audience. All those who desire to come along and listen will also be welcome.

YOUTH SECTION. - - The U.E.A. Youth Section continues to make rapid progress, and has been given a great amount of publicity in the daily press. This has resulted in many inquiries. The youth must be congratulated on the results they are achieving at the present time. It is a long time since we have seen such enthusiasm. It is growing rapidly.

MIDDLE BRIGHTON MEETING. —The next big meeting of the Youth Section is to take place next Tuesday night, September 6, at the new Masonic Hall, Church-street, Middle, Brighton. This promises to provide a record attendance, and all those supporters who have not heard this team in action are urged to be present. A big programme has been mapped out for future activities, and meetings are to be speeded up to the point where they will be run every 10 days. Action has become the keynote of the campaign.

ELSTERNWICK. - - The follow-up meeting from the public meeting showed a number of new faces. All present showed a very keen interest, and a very strong group can be expected at this centre.

STREET SPEAKING. - - In conjunction with other publicity the Youth Section is also conducting street speaking in the suburbs, with great success. Speakers are thus given experience, while the movement is being put more and more before the public.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES OF YOUTH SECTION. - - Apart from the more serious work of the campaign, the young people also have a very strong social committee for the purpose of providing relaxation and for raising funds to conduct the campaign. Their first House Party last Saturday night was very successful, both financially and socially. It is intended to interest new people at these evenings. We have been asked to report that the next social night will be a picture party. This will take place on September 14, and tickets will be available at the U.E.A. rooms.

HAWTHORN.—All supporters in Hawthorn are asked to attend the U.E.A. group meeting next Tuesday night, September 6 to be held at the home of Mrs. Allsop, 26 Grove-road. Future activities will be discussed.

KEW. - - All supporters are asked to note that meetings take place every Wednesday evening at the home of Mrs. Webbe, 5 Eglinton-street. Everyone welcome.

CANTERBURY. - The preliminary work for a big public meeting at this centre has been carried out, and the date of the meeting was decided at the first group meeting last night, September 1. All those desirous of helping are asked to get in touch with U.E.A. headquarters. It is expected that the public will take place in about a fortnight, and the speakers will be Dr. Dale and Eric Butler.

CENTRAL COUNCIL.—The delegates from the various electorates are asked to be present at the U.E.A. rooms next Tuesday evening, September 6, for the quarterly meeting of the Council. A report of business and activities will be submitted by the executive.

SQUASH EVENING AT BOX HILL.—Mr. and Mrs. Gerrand, of 25 Birdwood-street, are kindly making their home avail-

able for a squash evening on Saturday night, September 24. Besides providing an opportunity for the supporters to get together and know each other, it will help raise funds for the movement. All those who think that they could help in organising this evening are asked to get in touch with Mr. H. Gerrand, whose phone number is WX 1222, or Miss J. Robinson, 5 Barcelona-street, Box Hill; phone, WX 1305.

YOUTH AGAINST THE NEW DEPRESSION

Magnificent Meeting at Elsternwick

The U.E.A. Youth Section made another big step forward in its campaign in Balaclava electorate with a magnificent meeting at Elsternwick last Thursday night August 25. A large attendance comfortably filled the hall, and showed its keen appreciation of the very fine addresses with enthusiastic applause. One of the finest meetings ever seen in Melbourne, it produced the following splendid report on the second page of the following morning's Sun:

"FLUENT YOUNG DEMOCRATS SWAY ELDERS."

"Six earnest young people, addressing a meeting at Elsternwick last night, painted a gloomy picture of Australian social conditions, assailed the political party system and demanded action to end the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty.

"With obvious sincerity, the youngest, a girl of 19, declared that children were a luxury for people on the basic wage, and a calamity for people on sustenance.

"All showed a sound knowledge of current national and international affairs. They eschewed 'isms', placed great faith in democratic government, and blamed both electors and politicians for many of the social ills.

"They were members of the Youth Section of the United Electors of Australia, and convinced many of their elders, who signed pledges to replace their present member of Parliament if he would not support progressive tax reduction and stop production restrictions. Points from the addresses were:

"The prosperity of a nation is not judged by what it can produce, but what it can buy.

"Those who control the nation's credit hold the people's destiny in the hollow of their hands.

"The money system should fit facts and not the narrow columns of a banker's ledger.

"In a democracy, people do not beg or petition, but demand their just rights.

"The people's will should be imposed on Parliament, and not Parliament's on the people."

This report speaks for itself. The first five speakers gave short addresses of five minutes. Eric Butler was the last speaker, and in a magnificent address of half an hour crystallised the main points of the campaign, and thoroughly convinced the large audience that it was their responsibility.

Printed by H. E. Kuntzen, 143-151 a'Beckett Street, Melbourne, for New Times Limited, Elizabeth House, Melb.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"CASEY'S ABORTION"

Sir, —Prompted by Mr. Clapp's successful action in giving a name—"The Spirit of Progress"—to the Railway Department's recent achievement, I think people generally could do no better than give names to the achievements of our political and other "leaders." For instance, during the "war to end war" we had the War Precautions Act, which could well have been named "Billy's Menace." Since then we have had other political "achievements," which could have been named respectively "Stan's Deception," "Scullin's Blunder," etc., etc., etc. However, it is now too late to label these, but not too late to give a title to Mr. Casey's achievement, and I propose, Sir, that you invite your readers to compete (for an imaginary prize) in giving a name to the so-called National Insurance Act, and as first entry I submit: "Casey's Abortion." When you, Sir, have made a decision as to the best title, no other title be then used in this journal when reference is made to this Act.

I make this suggestion with a view to bringing some measure of general contempt or ridicule upon it. Once a suitable title has been adopted it should not be difficult to get it publicly adopted. One has only to say when any friend or acquaintance refers to the Act: "Oh, most people now call it 'so-and-so.'"

The weapon of ridicule could be used to a greater extent than we have been using it in dealing with the enemy and his servants. Among other methods, ditties and limericks could be composed to record their exploits or sing their praises, as (so I believe) were some of our nursery rhymes originally directed at people in authority. - Yours, etc.,

"S.N."

Hawthorn, Vic.

CASE FOR PROHIBITION

Sir, —Although realising the financial power of vested liquor interests, and how they have the means of buying out all opposition, I hope your democratic paper will publish this letter, advocating prohibition, as a gesture to those of your readers who desire to see both sides of this question published.

All sincere advocates of social reform, on principle, are moralists who visualise a society free from physical and mental bondage, of dope and vice. A more perfect physical and spiritual civilisation is our inspiration, or, at least, should be.

In the first place: Why do men drink intoxicating liquor? In my experience of drink on the mind of the victim, the intoxicating effect on the mind is the sole reason for its popularity with the masses. It is a medium in which they can forget temporarily their poverty, thus reducing the drinker's already low mentality (caused by the bankers' press, radio and pulpit propaganda) to infinitesimal proportion, and making them more helpless than would be the case if kept compulsorily sober. It speaks for itself that in dense slum areas more public houses and wine shops exist, on a population basis, than elsewhere.

The U.E.A. in striving to create an intelligent democracy, must, on principle, assist in the coming liquor referendum to abolish one of

the most deadly mental dopes enslaving our democracy—intoxicating liquor.

This sob stuff about creating unemployment by abolishing one of the greatest dope trades in the world is sheer bunk. Common sense instinctively tells us that the basic wage of married men would be better spent in providing milk, bread, groceries, fruit, clothing, recreation and better housing for the wives and children of those at present suffering through breadwinners "shouting" drinks all round in public houses, on a wage scarcely allowing the bare necessities of life, excluding beer money.

Again, this sob stuff regarding curtailing the liberty of individual action by imposing prohibition. Is it a liberty for a married man to spend his family's wages on intoxicating liquor? No; I call it unbridled licence. Wives and children of these creatures must be protected by prohibition or the blackfellow's act. The present enforced poverty of the innocent is intensified by such liberty.

Can you imagine the New Social Order we are striving for, in which the people have won wealth and leisure, only to dissipate same in drink and licentious living! Poverty under such circumstances could never be abolished.

To me the issue is clear: prohibition is necessary to sober the poverty-stricken masses, in order to give them back their lost instinct of self-preservation.

Then God help the financial racketeers. —Yours, etc.,

"C.S.B."

South Melbourne.

NATIONAL INSURANCE REPEAL

Sir, —Those people who have started to organise the electors of Western Australia to demand the repeal of the National Insurance Act are to be congratulated on their action. I hope all other States will do the same; especially Victoria, home of the financial octopus.

Were it not for the *New Times*, we would never hear of these things, which is another reason why you deserve our sincerest thanks. —Yours, etc.,

R. F. GILBERT.

Caulfield, Vic.

How You Can Help the "New Times" to Increase Its Fighting Strength

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." Parcels of 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?

ORDER ON NEWSAGENT.

To.....
(Newsagent)

Address.....

PLEASE SUPPLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE ONE COPY OF "THE NEW TIMES."

Signed.....

Address.....

TO OUR READERS—

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

If you wish to have your copy posted direct from this office, please complete the form below and mail it, accompanied by remittance payable to New Times Ltd.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM.

To New Times Ltd.,
Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne, C.I.
Please forward me "The New Times" for.....
months, beginning with issue dated....., 193...
cheque
I enclose postal note for the sum of.....
money order

Name.....

Full Postal Address.....

Date.....

The subscription rate to "THE NEW TIMES" is 15/- for 12 months; 7/6 for 6 months; 3/9 for 3 months, post free.