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# THE NEW TIMES

**NO**  X  
October 8  
—Advt.

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.38.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1938.

Every Friday, 3d

# CZECH CRISIS

## and Real Facts Behind It

## HOW SIR "EARLY" PAGE MISSED THE WORM

## Judge Dethridge As King Canute

## SLUMS OF INLAND AUSTRALIA

## Mussolini Stews Jews

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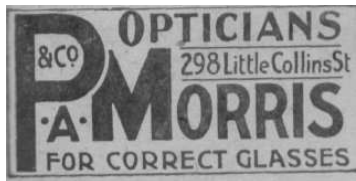
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# The European Jigsaw

With only the garbled stories presented by the newspaper cables, the widely differing comments of Special Correspondents, and the general admixture of truth, rumour and opinion dished up to us daily by the press, it is difficult for the ordinary citizen to know what to think and what to feel about the coming conflict in Europe.

Mentally conditioned as we have all been to war and warlike feelings in the past, it is, at first sight, a natural reaction to feel a sense of outraged dignity and even anger against Adolf Hitler. Nothing could be more preposterous and ridiculous than the sight of mighty nations like Britain, France and Russia, and smaller nations, such as Belgium, Holland, Poland, Hungary, Roumania and Czechoslovakia, waiting in a state of apprehension for one man to make a pronouncement at Nuremberg last week.

For Britain's Prime Minister to waft himself by air into the presence of the leading megalomaniac in Europe in order to dissuade him from what must be his normal course is again stupid in the extreme. One feels tempted, in such circumstances, to tell Hitler to go his hardest, and see what happens. But that is, once more, a natural reaction due to mental conditioning, and we, who know something of the money swindle, should particularly guard against emotional responses while we still have our reasoning faculties to rely upon.

### Start at the Beginning

In order to get the present situation in its proper perspective it is necessary to start at what was, in fact, the beginning of the present farcical situation. In 1918, when, for the first time German territory was about to be laid waste, Germany sued for peace, and got it. Dominated by the desire of France for revenge, with a capital R, the Allies imposed upon Germany a Peace Treaty, which, in its essence, was the best possible preparation for a new Great War in the future. To divest a proud and warlike people of their colonies, and to brand them with the guilt of the war, was bad enough, especially as the German forces had suffered no crushing defeat, and German territory had not been entered by victorious armies. What was worse was the imposition of an indemnity impossible of payment, and putting a bailiff in the Rhineland to ensure performance of the impossible.

It is true that, subsequently, the Dawes Plan and the Young Plan recognised that the payment of the indemnity as first proposed was quite impossible. To reduce the amount on two occasions was a confession both of weakness and of the injustice of the Peace Treaty conditions. Of course, it would have been possible for the German people to pay the indemnity, just as France paid Germany an indemnity after the Franco-Prussian war. But to secure payment, the allied nations would have been obliged to take German goods in large quantities. This would have had an embarrassing result in the shape of unemployment in the industries of the creditor countries. To avoid this, German goods were shut out as far as possible, leaving the German people in the position of being obliged by the Treaty to export far more than they imported, and at the same time being prevented from carrying out their monetary obligations by the trade policies of the people to whom those obligations were due.

### The Inevitable Result

The stage was thus set for the first Act in the new European

Tragedy. We have a great people, with a good military and naval record, shamed and humiliated, and set a task which was made impossible from the outset. The inevitable result was the growth throughout the nation, of a strong sense of oppression, and a fixed determination to shake off, as soon as possible, the yoke of the oppressors. The conditions were, therefore, as near as could be ideal for the rise of some such person as Adolf Hitler to lead the Fatherland out of the toils and back to its pristine glory. Since the 30th January 1933, when President Hindenburg signed the decree making Hitler Chancellor of the German Reich, the history of Germany has been one of relentless progress towards the goal of a Germany supreme from the Baltic Sea to the Mediterranean. One by one, restrictions have been swept aside. Step by step Hitler has consolidated the German position. The first move was the liberation of the Rhineland. The second was the absorption of Austria in the German Reich. The next item listed on the programme is the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia, and eventually its engulfment. Following that must come the securing of control over the wheat fields of Hungary and the wheat and oil fields of Roumania. What will follow after that depends rather on circumstances; for when these steps have been successfully taken Germany will have run a wedge across the middle of Europe as far as Yugoslavia and will have control of food supplies and mineral resources which are vitally necessary for economic self-sufficiency. If friendly relations are maintained with Italy, who now dominates Albania and is white anting in Yugoslavia, the two Fascist dictatorships will control Central Europe from the Baltic to the Mediterranean, and will be in an impregnable position. Ultimately, no doubt, Italy, as the junior partner in the alliance, will be virtually under German domination.

### Can Hitler be Stopped?

If we have accurately sketched Germany's plans for the future, the question which immediately arises is whether Hitler can be stopped now, and if so how. He can be halted, and probably stopped by Britain and France taking a firm stand here and now, and declaring that a German advance on Czechoslovakia will be followed by an immediate declaration of war against Germany. It is highly probable that the German people do not want a war now, and that Hitler would not have full national support if he plunged the people into a European conflict. An invasion of Czechoslovakia alone, with other countries keeping out, would be a different matter, and, in any case, there would be about three million Sudeten Germans to take the brunt of the fight.

Short of such deliberate action on the part of Britain and France, it is most unlikely that any sort of negotiation or mediation will be of avail. As Douglas Reed said in *Insanity Fair*, "The English policy of hoping that the avalanche will stop in the middle of its path and go off at right angles, or recede, is vain." The action of Neville Chamberlain in flying to Berchtesgaden to plead with Hitler is not courageous or a noble gesture, it is simply stupid, and shows a woeful lack of appreciation of the situation. The least that Hitler will agree to, when he sees to what lengths Britain is prepared to go to avoid a war, is some agreement under which Czechoslovakia is betrayed much as Abyssinia was

betrayed by the League of Nations. If the visit to Hitler results in such a betrayal, the German steamroller will not have been halted, but merely coaxed into a detour; and it will not be long before it is back on the main road again.

### Hitler Would Back Down

It seems, then that a bold front by Britain and France would make Hitler back down. But what would be the result? If there is one thing which dictators cannot afford to do, it is to give ground. Their position remains secure only so long as they are leading the people on to better things. When they remain static, or recede, their stars commence to wane, and for a megalomaniac, anything is preferable to that, even war. But even if Hitler is obliged to go quiet by a threat of superior force, he can still maintain his position and power, without going to war. He can still proceed with his dreams of empire, and his plans for their furtherance. If there is no march into Prague like the march into Vienna, there will almost certainly be civil war in Czechoslovakia. There are enough Sudetens to make a revolt as effective as the revolt of Franco in Spain. The fact that the Sudeten territories are along the German frontiers makes active German assistance just too easy. Troops, munitions and guns, tanks and aeroplanes can be made available to Henlein and his supporters, and we would then have a repetition of the shambles, only on a larger scale. The Czech army is a different proposition from the army of Republican Spain, and may be expected to put up a stronger resistance. As against that, the ease with which Germany could make the civil war into a private German war, while ostensibly remaining neutral, is readily apparent. German assistance to General Franco has been difficult to accomplish and as difficult to conceal. Neither of these difficulties would obtain in the case of a civil war commenced by Henlein with the connivance of Hitler.

### What Lies Before Us?

Summarised, the position is this. We, as a nation, were partly responsible for the terms of the Peace Treaty of 1918. That Treaty is the direct cause of the existing Nazi spirit in Germany, and the rise to power of Adolf Hitler. Hitler is determined to acquire, by some means or other, domination over Czechoslovakia. At the moment, he favours annexation by force. If dissuaded by Britain and France by direct threat of war, he will achieve his end by other means, probably by the fomentation of a civil war, with Henlein as his instrument. The ultimate result of such a civil war, if undertaken, would seem to be the establishment of a puppet government under German direction.

In other words, Czechoslovakia will become a German province unless we threaten Hitler with immediate war and he accepts the challenge. If our threat calls his bluff, which is probable, Germany gets control of Czechoslovakia anyway.

If we temporise and attempt to mediate, we will be throwing the Czechs to the wolves, for the dove-like flight of Neville Chamberlain has freely been interpreted by Germans as a sign of weakness. They will insist upon the partition of Czechoslovakia and the addition of the Sudeten areas to the German Reich, and we will probably agree.

### War v. Dishonour

Whichever way we move, in the accepted channels of politics

and diplomacy, our reward will be either the horrors of a European War, or else dishonour. Of the two, dishonour would be preferable, and, considering our past record, would be nothing new. The British lion would look more like a leopard; that is all! The catch is that, if we choose the path of dishonour once more, the problem will recur within a few years, this time over Hungary or Roumania; and after another bout of mediation, Germany will be a step further on her ambitious path. The process is like a recurring decimal. It goes on for ever, or until it results in a European War, some time in the future.

We have been hoodwinked once by talk of a war "to end war." We should, by now, know that war inevitably breeds war, and to avoid at all costs a course of action which cannot possibly be either a permanent solution of the present jigsaw puzzle in Europe or, indeed, any solution at all.

### The Personal Angle

From the purely personal point of view, one is inclined to say, "This tangle in Europe is not my affair. I will have nothing to do with it." While very sane and sensible, it is not a proper attitude, for two reasons. In the first place, it may very soon become our affair in a direct and personal way. If Britain is involved in a war with Germany, there are sure to be many who will seek to draw Australia into it. In the second place, we cannot avoid a certain degree of moral responsibility for the present situation. We are the legatees of the present trouble by virtue of the hand, which a previous Government of ours had in the making of the Peace Treaty. Even if that Government did not represent us as individuals, it did in theory, and we should do what we can to rectify the wrongs which were committed in our name.

As we well know, the root cause of the matter is economic. If the German people had been reasonably treated after the war, if they were now allowed to trade with the rest of the world in complete freedom; if the money system were, in fact, what it was intended to be, a simple and efficient mechanism for the distribution of goods and services, there would have been no post-war trouble in Germany, or in the rest of the world. If we had not allowed a maleficent group of bankers and financiers to pervert the money system into a barrier in the path of progress and prosperity, the word "war" would have long since passed into obsolescence. Hitler would not now be the Big Bad Wolf of Europe, and never would have got his first permanent job as Chancellor of the German Reich. It is purely and simply because of the fact that the whole economic system, is based on a deliberately engineered money shortage that Hitlerism and all the other political "isms" have been given a hearing at all.

### The Sensible Attitude

Whatever may result from the present crisis in Europe, the proper attitude for those who have any understanding of the new economics is to side neither with nor against Germany; but to demand that the money system be operated in the proper way as a mechanism of distribution, and to insist of our politicians that they shall not involve us in any war until this, the only remedy against war, has been permanently adopted in Australia, as a first step towards its adoption all over the world.

# CANADA—REACTION OR REFORM?

By M.C.B., in "Social Credit" (London).

That the Conservative Party must either take up the banner of economic and financial reform to save democracy in Canada or perish and be utterly overthrown, was the keynote of a stirring address by Hon. W. D. Herridge, former Dominion Minister in Washington, before the Halifax Conservative Association on June 27.

Last week we commented in these columns upon the frontal attack made by Mr. Herridge upon the policy of the Conservative Party. Now, from many quarters, we are receiving reports of the courageous way in which this man is risking the complete obliteration of a distinguished political career to stand firm for principles which he knows to be Canada's only hope of escape from unnecessary poverty and degrading insecurity in the midst of abundance.

In his address, on June 27, Mr. Herridge expressed views which must have shaken the old-line political parties of Canada to the very roots. He expressed views which have focussed the attention of the entire Dominion upon the claims of the Social Credit Movement. Mr. Herridge said . . . but let us, first, consider some of the circumstances under which he delivered his speech.

## Mr. Herridge a Menace

The Conservative Party is well aware of the determination shown by Mr. Herridge to press for the abolition of poverty and his untiring work for economic reform. But Mr. Herridge is a very prominent member of the Party, and, as such, he is a danger and a menace to its reactionary policy, and to its fawning acceptance of financial dictation. Moreover the rank and file of the Party have been split for some time on questions of an economic nature—which questions, it was evident, would be raised with no small backing at the Conservative Convention at Ottawa during the first week of this month.

At all costs, this man had to be discredited before he spoke at the Convention, and, judging by a report from a reliable correspondent, there is little doubt that the Halifax address was to be Mr. Herridge's self-said funeral oration. The hall chosen was a small one where the acoustics were very bad. The two front rows of seats were roped off and reserved, and the chairman was damping in his opening remarks. He stated that no arrangement had been made for a formal vote of thanks to the speaker, and that the only object which was contemplated in hearing Mr. Herridge was to see if he could express any views which might be of help to the Party at its approaching convention.

Yes, this man had to be discouraged, and every meeting-trick was employed to achieve this end.

Imagine the surprise and chagrin of the reactionary group, however, when, led by a few enthusiastic members, the entire audience made

it evident in no uncertain way that Mr. Herridge had their support—they applauded, they surged around the speaker to shake him by the hand; he was their hero. The "funeral service" had brought life and hope. The swan song had changed to a marching song of freedom. . . . But why? What had Mr. Herridge said?

## Poverty in Plenty

As a Conservative, Mr. Herridge appealed to Conservatives. "If you refuse," he said, "I do not see what else can save us. Brave hearts in every part of Canada will try. You only have the power. Have you the courage, too?"

"The national wealth of this country holds prosperity for every one of us. But there is not prosperity. National disunity results. National dissolution will follow.

"There is not prosperity, because we have an obsolete economic system, unable efficiently to operate in the conditions of to-day.

"We must reform this system, so that prosperity may take the place of want and unemployment. We must do it now. We will never do it, without leadership.

"I feel it is my duty to urge these views. I have no other purpose in coming here. For I am not a candidate for leadership of the Conservative Party.

"It is dishonest to pretend that there is not enough to go around. It is discreditable of economists to maintain the theory of essential scarcity. It is also unavailing. For trick figures crash upon manifest truth that to-day in Canada, we have per person, the greatest natural wealth of any country under the sun.

"Yet we act as if poverty were our high purpose and want and unemployment the insignia of moral greatness.

"Some say that we easily could support 50 million people. We fail to support 11 million people."

Yes; Mr. Herridge is on the right track, but read on:

## This is Democracy

"We stand throat high in riches, but many of our people are in want.

"Yet the champions of the old order go on smugly preaching unity and wildly prophesying the invincibility of Canadian democracy. Theirs is the language of the mad-house. For there is no unity without prosperity. And no democracy without unity."

Proceeding, the speaker said that reform was the greatest issue before the people of Canada to-day. The old parties were fighting against reform - - traitorously, stupidly. "The money power, international finance, the vested interests, special privilege; they have been the directors of the Conservative Party," Mr. Herridge said.

## Financial Reform

"Adequate purchasing power must rescue the present palsied

system of distribution. After the lesson these black years have taught, it is plain that there cannot be adequate purchasing power without monetary reform; possible only when the monetary system in Canada is controlled by Canada."

The older order, said Mr. Herridge, was based upon the principle of scarcity, "so we will build the new order upon the principle of plenty."

Fine words, indeed, and true. As true as the fact that this new order will only emerge when the united will of the Canadian people is aroused to demand prosperity from the institutions which exist to serve the people. And the Government of Canada is among the first institutions upon which this awakened unity must be focussed.

Premier Aberhart, commenting on Mr. Herridge's address, said:

"I believe that Mr. Herridge's speech marks the beginning of a new era in Canadian politics, and the struggle of her people to shake off the yoke of a savage economic system."

[According to the Canadian correspondent of the *Sunday Sun*, Sydney, Dr. Manion, newly-elected Conservative leader, has taken the same tone as Mr. Herridge, and is giving the Tory die-hards and Eastern money-merchants quite a headache.—Ed., N.T.]

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## WORLD- GOVERNMENT!

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—"All These Things," by A. N. Field.

## DUST IN ELECTORS' EYES

### Prohibitionists Provide Theme for W. S. Gilbert

It is an age-old electoral expedient for those who have a poor case, or no case at all, to attempt to mislead the voters by throwing dust in their eyes or drawing red herrings across the trail. Such tactics do not serve to clarify the issue, nor do they help to lighten the task of those who are endeavouring to enlighten the public mind regarding the true effect of any particular course of action.

Victorian Prohibition League spokesmen have adopted many shifts in their advocacy of a "Yes" vote on October 8. In succession they have advanced numerous "arguments," only to abandon them, as they have been proved fallacious, and to move to some other equally unsubstantial ground.

Lately they seem to have pinned their faith to a "three-point programme," in the attempt to dupe the electors into casting a vote for fanaticism. However, the briefest examination of these alleged points, applying the principles of logic, should be sufficient, by demonstrating their complete insincerity, to strengthen the conviction that no faith can be placed in any public utterance of the Prohibition League.

Examining the amazing "Three Dry Points" in order:

(1) That Abolition will "restore" sane licensing legislation!

For the rabidly fanatical Prohibition League to talk of "sanity" in connection with its attitude towards the Liquor Industry constitutes such a contradiction in terms that it is positively ludicrous. The League's only conception of "Sanity" in this respect consists of maniacal destruction, since all that is sought is the abolition of all licenses for the legal sale of liquor throughout the State.

(2) That Abolition will retain present trading hours!

This is a prize effort, no matter how "sane" the mind which produced it. The sole objective is to outlaw trading at all hours. Every licensed house now operating during the hours fixed by law will be compulsory closed. Does the League contend that its protégé, the bootlegger, with whom it will supplant the legitimate trader working under Government control, will pay more respect to legal trading hours than he does to other forms of law and order?

(3) That Abolition will guarantee democratic control of Liquor Industry Legislation!

The late W. S. Gilbert might have originated this idea if the world had been afflicted with Prohibitionists in his day. The proposal to abolish an industry and then to frame an elaborate set of laws to ensure the "democratic control" of that which has been abolished is one that would have appealed to the whimsical sense of humour of the creator of Pooh Bah.

As there will be no industry to control after the Abolitionists have had their fanatical way, it is difficult to see why Parliament should enact legislation for the purpose. There is the danger, however, that the Prohibition League, flushed by victory at the polls, will demand penal "enforcement" laws of increasing severity, leading to the Victorian equivalent of the iniquitous "Jones Law," which imposed a penalty of ten years' imprisonment for "transporting" even the smallest quantity of liquor from one side of a street to another.

Electors who value their liberty will avoid this grave peril by voting "No" on October 8.

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

## New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

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(Continued from page 2.)

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(Continued on page 7.)

## OPEN LETTER TO AN UNDIPLOMATIC DIPLOMAT

Sir J. Pratt,  
Delegate to  
British Commonwealth Relations Convention.

Sturdy Sir,  
Your twenty-seven years in the British Consular Service should have influenced you to exercise some restraint in your attack upon our friendly Japanese neighbours—as reported in the daily press this week. In condemning Japan for her "naked aggression in China" you let the cat out of the bag by revealing the influences behind your opinions. Trade, commerce, finance, and such considerations formed the basis of agreements made Japan and other countries, and, in accusing Japan of breaking her compact, you apparently expect the British (and Australian) people to join you in becoming hostile to Japan.

You made no reference to the conspiracy on the part of English and Australian commercial interests to block Japan from obtaining oil from Iraq and wool from Australia. You must be aware of the action of the financiers in denying overseas credit facilities to Japan,

followed by the embargoes on importation of Japanese goods to Iraq and Australia. Our Prime Minister, in obedience to the financial monopoly that controls him and his party, struck at the Japanese, causing them to retaliate by withdrawing from our wool sales and crashing the prices to the growers.

When a vigorous nation is not permitted to peacefully purchase the goods which her people require, and to discharge her commercial responsibilities in an honourable way, then that nation is forced by the instinct of self-preservation to obtain her necessities by some other method.

If your views represent the modern version of "British fair play" or "cricket," then you will find the average Australian will object to being picked in the team.

Representatives of sordid financial interests should not be permitted to masquerade as Consuls, and to make utterances, as you have done, so much at variance with "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."

THE NEW TIMES

# THE NEW TIMES

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23.

## Overseas Trade and Our Population

When we send a Ministerial Trade Delegation to Britain, we are entitled to expect the discussions to result in some findings or agreements relating to trade within the Empire, or with Great Britain.

According to Sir Earle Page, the leader of our delegation, the main objectives which have emerged from the recent negotiations are (1) The strengthening of Australia's military defences; (2) increasing the present population; and (3) provision of markets for the goods produced by additional population.

Either our delegates were sold a pup, or else the negotiations might have more profitably been held under the direction of the Master in Lunacy in his official capacity.

Here are we in Australia, producing large quantities of goods with our existing population, many of whom are unemployed, and unable to sell them, except by having to resort to fixed home prices, bounties and other devices which enable us to donate them to foreigners at a price that is quite unprofitable to the producer. Instead of devoting their energies, and such ability as they are assumed to possess, to finding means of disposing of what we already produce, our members return with a series of objectives dealing almost entirely with increased population and the trade problems which will arise if and when the population does increase. Strengthening our military defences will, no doubt, have an effect upon trade, but, so far as we can see, it will be a one-way trade of arms and war materials from Britain to Australia.

The British negotiators have apparently scored some sort of success on that point, but our trade gain will be about as substantial as a balloon without the skin on it! All we are likely to get is an influx unemployed from Britain, or of near-whites from Europe, with a probable extension of the "landing money" racket, whereby approved immigrants receive the requisite amount of landing money from their friends or relatives already here, and promptly hand it back on arrival.

Sir Earle believes that the domestic market can expand only through an increase of Australian population. This implies that, in

his opinion, the Australian people at present are collectively and individually surfeited with the goods which Australia produces, and that not even the adoption of a money system which would prevent the ever-increasing shortage of purchasing power, could increase total consumption. If he really believes that, then the future welfare of Australia is doomed so long as he, and politicians like him, hold responsible positions in our Government. If he does not believe that, then he should think several times before making public statements, and then remain mute.

By a happy misprint, the Melbourne *Herald* referred to Sir Earle Page as "Sir Early Page." He is really far more than a mere early page—he is a back number, unable to aspire even to the dignity of a first edition!

## War-time Food Plans

Mr. Harry Leon French, aided by 1500 local food officers, has created in London a food distributing organisation which can come into operation within twenty-four hours, in the event of war.

This is a remarkable effort, and if the plans prove to be successful when tried, will represent (a considerable achievement on the part of the organiser, who is Second Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture.

We would feel more enthusiastic if we were told that the First Secretary had evolved a plan and an organisation for the immediate distribution of food to all those in England who need it now. Unless Mr. Walter Greenwood the author of "Love on the Dole," and other writers of similar books are all unprincipled liars, there is poverty, hardship and starvation in England at the present moment, just as there is in Melbourne. Must those people wait until war breaks out before we realise that they should be supplied with food? Would it not be better, from a practical viewpoint, to maintain the health and strength of those people now, in preparedness for war, than to try by belated organisation, when war comes, to repair the ravages of malnutrition and exposure? This argument should be sufficiently compelling, even without the spur of common decency and humanity, to which, apparently, we are content to remain unresponsive.

During the last war, in England, it was perfectly simple to increase the money supply by credit creation totalling over £1,100,000,000; but that was considered necessary, in order to save our glorious Empire for the banksters, in whose interests it is run. If we had between us the spirit of a degenerate louse, we would tell the bankers to create another eleven hundred million, *in peace time*, but this time *for our benefit*. It was not regarded as inflation then, and it would not be inflation now, but what someone called "reflation." In other words, it would be a restoration to the people of a small part of the money supply which the bankers have cancelled out of existence, and for which we have the only real backing required—namely, the natural wealth of Australia—the goods, both capital and consumable, already produced, and the productive capacity represented by the brains and ability of the Australian people.

## SLUMS IN INLAND AUSTRALIA

### Eric Butler Meets Realities in Riverina

By ERIC BUTLER.

The present age will be known by historians as the period when society sought to escape from realities. In the following short narrative of actual, personal experience I am going to take the risk of asking the reader to face several realities and impressions which I gained during my recent stay in Deniliquin. These impressions have nothing out of the ordinary to commend them—except that they are essentially human. Of course, you may not be interested in human values. Forty-five per cent, of our children suffer from semi-starvation, an appalling fact which causes no more than a little academic interest. Human values have, apparently, fallen very low in the social scale. If humanity does not interest you, the following will only bore you; but, hope springs eternal. I will, therefore, proceed.

### "Unbelievable Prosperity"

It was Sunday morning. Those people who believed in the efficiency of prayer to right a problem which man has created by his own stupidity and ignorance were going to church.

A friend of mine drove me down to see the local slums. Yes; they have slums—slums which are as bad as the slums in any of our big cities. As you drive around the banks, of the Edwards River you see dozens of bark humpies and other crude shelters, built from old bags and tins salvaged from the local rubbish dumps. Some who have not been kicked too low with the rottenness of the present economic system have strived to built little places and keep them tidy. Others are living little better than the animals. Appropriately, it is called Jubilee Park, and as I looked at those forgotten people I thought of "Jubilee Joe" and his "almost unbelievable prosperity." Another sight made me think of another member of Parliament. What I thought could not be safely published. Some day I hope to meet

### Italian Jews for Abyssinia

Signer Mussolini, having ousted the Emperor of Abyssinia, and thereby succeeded to his title as "the Lion of Judah," is proceeding to live up to his newly-acquired dignity. The Italian Government has prepared a scheme whereby the Italian Jews will be settled in Abyssinia.

The expulsion of the Jews from Italy presented a considerable problem, since other countries were not prepared to receive them in mass, and deprived of their worldly resources. The new project of Benevolent Benito should give some comfort to those who possess Jewish friends or relative's in Italy.

All the best writers on Ethiopia agree that, apart from Addis Ababa, the capital, which is built at a considerable height above sea level, the rest of the country is, climatically, unsuitable for white people to live in. The experience of the Italian soldiers who are unfortunate enough to be kept there on duty is that, if the climate doesn't get you, disease or native sharpshooters will. Looking at the matter from all angles, therefore, it seems that Mussolini the Magnanimous could give Surajah Dowlah, the famous inventor of the "Black Hole of Calcutta," at least fifty yards start in the open hundred, and win pulling up.

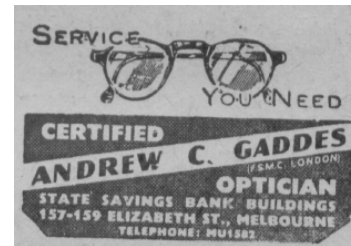
Mr. Hughes and talk to him on realities—needless realities, which condemn thousands of our children to a living hell. On the most reliable evidence, I understand that there are between thirty and forty children living at this particular spot. Living? I am sorry. You could hardly call what I saw living. It is a reversion to barbarism; and, even if the parents of these kiddies were lazy and indolent, why should innocent children suffer? Society may answer some day, when the spirit of democracy asserts itself. Democracy is a society in which the will of the majority of the electors prevails. As I looked at these sights, the burning thought seared across my mind: "Was it possible that a majority of the Australian people wanted these conditions? Was it possible that the Australian people were going to tolerate these conditions?" I answered myself: "No; a thousand times no! Surely we would get behind the Electoral Campaign for the Abolition of Poverty and see that the plenty which exists is made available to the people." Of course, when we do that, such places as Jubilee Park will be but unpleasant memories of the past. Australia will become what it should be; and a brief look at certain other realities at this centre showed the wonderful possibilities.

### Plenty can be Produced

Deniliquin is a wheat and wool growing centre. A great climate, good soils and the ability of man have produced real wealth in abundance. But the farmers are worried. It is difficult to sell their produce, as the people as a whole are obviously short of purchasing power or money—plenty on one side and want on the other. An irrigation scheme is to come through this centre shortly, which will further increase the productivity. With irrigation, wonderful oranges can be grown in this area. "But," we are told, "that would never do. We are overproducing now!" Have these authorities who talk like that never heard of malnutrition? Apparently not, because this scheme is not going to be utilised in production of citrus fruits. I thought on these matters and the insanity of it all. Surely this madness cannot continue very much longer? But it does. Deniliquin is having a sewerage scheme. Most of the work is done by a machine that can dig to the depth of twenty-five feet. Three men operate it. It has saved the services of about forty men. What do these men, displaced by machines, do in this country, which operates under "sound, sane economics"? That brings me to another reality.

### "They" Don't Want Work

You are all familiar with this loose statement. It's a parrot-like cry which saves people the trouble of thinking. Thinking involves facing realities—and this, of course, hurts. But, as I strolled through the mild evening air of my last night in this town, I met more reality. It was in the shape of a young fellow who was hiking through to Hay in search of work. He had come from Melbourne. And as it flashed through my mind that Hay is over 270 miles from the city, it struck me forcibly that here was the lie direct to those people who parrot that the unemployed do not want work. And he is only one of many. I have spoken to such men in all parts of the State—men who have left their homes and loved ones in order to search for work. And, remember, if these men do not work they are conceded no right to live, even if a machine and scientific age is producing plenty for all without their aid. Still, men struggle on, in search of this elusive and ever-decreasing thing called "work." They are victims of a foul system, but they at least give the lie to many of their well-fed critics. This aspersion that they will not work is a lie—a damnable lie—to save society the trouble of thinking. And still these tragedies go on . . . have gone on. The young fellow I mention was of my own age, and still retained (marvellous to relate) hope and optimism. I talked to him. He told me of the intense and bitter struggle—the heart-breaking, soul-destroying agony of despair. He is only one of thousands. The crucifixion of youth—youth who, after years struggle, finds the effort too much. Many of them, morally and physically broken, join the increasing slums of inland Australia. These slums haunt every town—Mildura, Echuca, Shepparton and others—and just so long as the present inhuman, unscientific, privately controlled financial system continues, these slums will continue to increase. I said farewell to my acquaintance and walked home. As I walked I ruminated over the different realities I had seen in my short stay in the town. Although things such as these make the blood boil with indignation, and the pent-up emotions of youth often bring thoughts of violence, we have to realise that this state of affairs will never end until that great slumbering, dynamic force -- democracy -- is aroused. Are you playing your part in arousing it? Or perhaps you don't like realities.



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**IS THIS A FREE COUNTRY?**

By LEONORA POLKINGHORNE.

We Australians are never tired of telling ourselves how fortunate we are in living in a free country. The press overflows with this sort of self-congratulation every day. Whenever it discusses certain forms of government in Europe, it usually concludes with: "Of course, though these people seem to be fairly contented, it would never suit us." These forms of government would not suit us, it is assumed, because we are lovers of freedom, and could not stand the restrictions they impose. As a matter of fact, however, we are suffering from quite a number of restrictions that we hardly recognise as such, because we have an idea that in a democracy there are no restrictions, and that those that seem to be such are only wise provisions for our good.

**"You Can't Do That There 'Ere"**

We cannot buy things after certain hours, no matter how badly we need them, nor how anxious the shopman is to sell them to us. That is because shop assistants are entitled to some leisure; but if there are no assistants employed there, you can't get them, all the same. You can't get on a box and talk to the people without special permission. You can't wink at a policeman. A light-hearted lad tried it, and was severely fined. You can't have a motor car, or a wireless, or a dog unless you pay the Government a sum of money yearly for the use of them. Even if you don't use the dog, you have to pay for the privilege of feeding him. You can't buy or sell anything without the same Government having a rake-off on the transaction. So we are not encouraged to own things or to spend money. There is a tax-restriction on all such ventures.

Then we are told that bank clerks are not allowed to go hatless, not because a hat is a sign of respectability, but because the hat trade would suffer. Better, it seems, that young men should go bald than an insufficient number of hats should be sold. With less hat manufacturers, less customers for the banks. Then, at a recent W.C.T.U. Convention in Adelaide, the Radiant Health Society provided the tea, accompanied by a lecture. There was no meat on the menu, but it was a very attractive meal, attractively served. A vote of thanks was proposed to the lady responsible, and the proposer, while praising the meal, condemned the idea of eliminating meat, as detrimental to the interests of the farmers. The point that arises out of these two things is: Should not the wearing of hats or the eating of meat be a purely personal thing? Is it not savouring of tyranny to suggest that we must do certain things which, rightly or wrongly, we believe to be not good for us, because our refraining from the use of these things will affect the economic position of other members of the community? We next expect to hear that total abstainers should be shown the error of their ways, and compelled to show a little practical interest in the wine industry, which is an important one in South Australia. A correspondent to the daily press complained of motorcars, urging that they should be put off the roads because of the injury did to the saddlers, harness-makers, and shoemakers! So Peter must go on paying for Paul *ad infinitum*.

**Money and Work**

These "wear more hats, eat more meat" protagonists overlook the fact that the money not spent on these articles is spent on other things. Surely the greengrocer benefits from vegetarianism, and the young man who

saves on hats can come out extra strong on ties and socks!

But, no; it is fully recognised, apparently, that there is not enough money to go round, and we must see to it that it is spent as nearly as possible between all industries. Now, in a State where money was the servant, and not the master, everyone could follow his individual tastes and preferences, and, in the case of hats, for instance, not wearing them might be the first step in a tendency to do away with hats altogether. Under a sane money system that would not matter at all, from an economic point of view, for the hat-makers would simply turn to making something that the community did want, but in our present precarious state of hanging on to existence with our teeth and nails, the very thought of any industry perishing causes panic. Mr. Butler, Premier of South Australia, was asked recently whether he would allow a certain industry, and his reply was that he would be in favour of *any* new industry being started. We have already seen what good news it was to the workers when they were called upon to make instruments of death. To what state of wicked imbecility have we come when we can see economic salvation in manufacturing bullets, bombs and all manner of death-dealing devices?

Manufacturing things (no matter what sort of things, as long as people or Governments buy them) "gives employment," and under our present monetary system, that is the chief end of Governments. It might happen, of course, that even if some such industry was established, the banks might suddenly decide to deflate, in which case that factory might close down, and all the employees be thrown out, but that would be just "bad luck." We must keep on making things, and take all those chances!

This is a "free" country, but we are fed on illusions most of the time. And, perhaps, not the least of the illusions is that we are free, for in reality we are under the dominance of a financial system that imposes the wildest absurdities on us. We are very like the vic-

**WOMEN AND THE POWERS THAT BE**

**An Aspect of "Divide and Rule"**

By NORA P. HOPGOOD.

Why can women not get into Parliament in South Australia? They have tried, it is true, and those doing so have been well equipped to do good work in a Government, but— It is just that "but," which could (if facts were realised) answer a good many of those things puzzling us today. That women *should* be so represented in any Government is obvious, since a number of their activities relating to home-life are matters entirely for women's judgment. Woman's initiative would be the most valuable asset to be introduced on any body representing either few or many of the community, and where she *has* managed to be selected, she has, generally speaking, proved herself indispensable; so much so that some of the highest positions available in every country are held by women. Why, then, is she not able to take the place she should do in this State, where so many organisations are daily increasing in their efforts for reform and the betterment of life's standard as a whole?

**Dividing Men and Women**

It is the "Powers that be" who prevent her. Their excuse that women's place is "in the home" has long been the parrot-cry of ridicule, but only those whose powers of reasoning are limited still urge this. Women together—as men together—are strong and powerful, but women and men co-operating for any particular objective would be unassailable; and it has always

tims of the professional hypnotist, who, for the amusement of an audience, makes certain persons do all sorts of ridiculous things under a false belief that everything is something else.

So the hypnotic power of the press, the mouthpiece of the banking system, has changed the meaning of such words as *sane, sound, democratic, wise, loyal, patriotic*, and many others, and until we wake from our hypnotic trance, we will go on drifting from reality.

been the aim of the "Powers" to prevent such a co-operation at all costs. Keep them disunited as much as possible and they will be more "manageable"—that is the great endeavour of this powerful force behind all the evils of the world. It has grown, this mighty power, from a small number of men, whose greed for power has shown no mercy, and who are responsible for the millions of lives sacrificed on the battlefields and in the homes. If men and women came together in united action, there would be no wars, no semi-starvation, and, indeed, no crimes, for the greater number of these are due to enforced poverty and unnatural conditions of life.

**What Oppressors Fear**

If we eliminated poverty and war, where would these oppressors be able to continue their work of devastation, and from what sources could they then derive their ill-gotten power and profits? People would become too contented in their justly-acquired benefits; they would seek to establish for all time those long-withheld *rights* that would bring them a sane life in place of the present half-demented conditions. Their unity would frustrate any effort to bring about friction that ultimately causes war, and this tide of good-will to all men (about which we hear so much and do so little!) would rapidly spread throughout the world and destroy the mighty powers for evil. By realising calmly and steadfastly their own enormous strength, the people of all nations would in themselves provide that "defence"

necessary against one of the greatest menaces yet known to mankind—the Armament Ring. Men and women have a horror of murder, and the instinctive fear of massacre has so long misled them into thinking it is inevitable, if they do not acquiesce, that they all play a part in the frantic preparations for a needless and ineffectual defence. The actual fact is, they do not stop to consider *why* war is necessary at all. If they could but realise that it is the inevitable result of the present economic system, as controlled by international finance for the benefit and power of a small minority, at the expense of the large majority, they would pause before again submitting to horrors that will far exceed those of the Great War, and stand together to prevent them.

**Oppression Remains**

Many have already realised this fundamental fact, it is true, and have sought intensively to bring about that unity of thought and action which alone can focus attention on the CAUSE of these things; but the rank and file are still bewildered and unable to do either themselves or their would-be leaders justice. Consequently, oppression continues, restraints of every kind are put upon them, and any attempt that they might make to respond is abandoned through fear. How long is such a situation to be endured? Only so long as humanity is lax in making that supreme effort against this evil influence, and allows the lives and wealth of nations to be destroyed by a rapidly approaching war. Peace was never attained by the creation of arms, and even the spirit of conciliation alone cannot bring it about, for nations have no quarrels with each other. It is the *one* enemy of all communities that must be fought, not with arms and bloodshed, but with the strength of the people in unity.

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## "DETHRIDGEISM"

### A Menace with Only One Remedy

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H. BROWN.

Sir,—

What are we to think of this man, Judge Dethridge? In his official position as Chief Judge of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court he has said some things which cause doubt regarding his sanity, but on top of this we see the Government selecting him as chairman of the Commission to inquire into the claims of doctors in connection with the National Insurance scheme, which indicates that those in high places regard him as quite sane. Perhaps they have inside knowledge which is not available to us, but on the basis of what he has said publicly it is exceedingly difficult to understand his mentality.

#### Preconceived Ideas

Within the past few weeks he has made three public declarations which lead us to conclude that he does not base his judgments on actualities, but on preconceived ideas. For example, when told that another depression was appearing on the horizon he did not trouble to investigate the facts, but replied that the idea was nonsense, and that, although it was "possible" that there "might be" another slight recession in a year or two, he did not think there would be. He behaved in that way even though another depression was actually developing at the very time he spoke, as has been fully demonstrated in these columns.

#### "A Fetish and a Religion"

A little later on, he told the workers that their claims for a 44-hour working week have become "a fetish and a religion." Both terms were used in a sense of derision, and with the idea of giving the impression that the workers were asking for something quite beyond the realms of physical possibility. "Neither the employers nor the Court," he said, "could appeal to the men's reason on the question," which meant, if it meant anything, that what the Unions are seeking is contrary to reason. Listen to this touching dialogue between the Judge and the employers' representative:

Judge Dethridge: "Now there is a 40-hour-ism. They swallow it holus bolus—horrible dope it may be."

Mr. Derham: "That is all the more reason why the Court should protect them."

Judge Dethridge: "You cannot protect people from their religion." This means that the workers do not know what they are doing, and should be protected from their own madness. That it brought forth a gentle rebuke from Mr. A. E. Monk, president of the A.C.T.U., was not surprising, but a gentle rebuke is not sufficient. Something much more effective is called for.

#### How Could It Work Here?

A forty-hour week may work well enough in New Zealand and other parts of the world, but how could it work in Australia, where we have no scientists, no machinery and people so much less intelligent? The League of Nations may be satisfied that it is one of the means by which the masses of the people may be given some of the benefits of scientific discovery and mechanical development, but what has the Commonwealth Arbitration Court to do with ideas of that kind? This institution is there NOT to consider physical possibilities, but to give the workers only so much as the financiers dictate. The Court is the agent of the banking system, and the president of the Court is one of its most faithful servants. So long as employers can use the Court to prevent the reduction of hours they are staving off the time when the controllers of the banking system will be called upon to account for their mishandling of the monetary system, and to that extent the

Judge and his associates are performing splendid service for the bankers.

#### What is to be Done About It?

The gentle rebuke from Mr. Monk was timely and appropriate, and I support him in the statement that "one of the main 'isms' the workers should be protected from is 'Dethridgeism,' and that his Honour's remarks are a gratuitous insult to the workers of Australia." But what is Mr. Monk and the A.C.T.U. going to do about it? They would not get rid of "Dethridgeism" by having the Chief Judge removed from the Bench because the man appointed in his place would be selected by the very people who selected Dethridge, and the Court would still be guided by the financiers and their doings. They would not get rid of "Dethridgeism" by refusing to submit their case to a court of which he is a member, because almost every other man eligible for appointment as a judge is imbued with somewhat similar ideas, and would base his decisions on the mythical financial aspect of any claims, not on the physical facts. There is only one way to get rid of Dethridgeism, and that is the way of the U.E.A., under which the whole community would regain control of their Parliaments and require the resources of the country to be used in the interests of the inhabitants of the country.

#### What Should Doctors Get?

Round about the time Judge Dethridge was pooh-poohing the idea of another depression he was selected by the Government to act as chairman of the Commission appointed to "investigate" the claims of the medical profession for better treatment under the National Health Insurance scheme. While acting in this capacity, the question of whether doctors should be paid what they merited or "only what the community could afford to pay them" was brought forward. This presented a favourable opportunity for the protector of the workers to appoint himself protector of the doctors also, and so he appealed to their reason in this way:

"The ability of the community to pay is a question with which I am rather familiar in my other functions. The expression is constantly thrown at me, but no one is able to measure, with anything like precision, the ability of the community to pay anything. It is quite impossible to arrive at anything like an exact measurement in that respect. Instead of proof, you get assertions, such as, 'We are living in the midst of plenty and you are starving us in the midst of plenty.' That is the common form, and quite possibly a medical man might well say, 'We are living in the midst of plenty, and, therefore, we should get a liberal rate.' As a matter of fact, plenty has to be proved. It has never been proved that there is plenty. It is all assumption. So when you ask us to measure the ability of the community to stand anything it is something we cannot do."

#### How Did He Measure It in 1931?

Now the first question I want to ask the learned Judge is this: If it is not possible to measure what the community can stand, why did he, as president of the Court in 1931, declare that wages had to be reduced because the community could not stand the rates then being paid? Who told him the community could not stand those rates, and how did they measure the community's ability in that respect? No evidence was adduced to prove that there was a serious shortage of food, clothes, or any of the other things needed to make workers comfortable, or even that

there had been any falling away in our ability to produce them. These were the things the workers wanted, but instead of taking steps to protect the workers so that they could continue to get what they needed, this man was instrumental in bringing in an order which robbed the workers of their incomes and led to the destruction of goods while millions went hungry and cold. This was done because the Court had been told that there was a shortage of Australian money, and because the Court had neither the initiative nor the inclination to satisfy itself as to why there was such a shortage, in view of the fact that Australian money is made in Australia and costs nothing to produce.

#### Why the Difference Now?

If it was not necessary to prove a SHORTAGE of goods before cutting wages, as the Court did in 1931, why should it now be considered necessary to prove a plenitude of goods before doctors can be granted fair conditions? There is no logic in the man's attitude, and this comes about because he takes for granted what he is told about finance, whereas he feels obliged to have proof of what he is told about everything else. Finance has got him mesmerised. He looks upon its witch doctors and medicine men as "wizards," and would never think of asking WHY our national income falls, HOW the fall is brought about, or WHO causes it to fall. This is where Mr. Monk's rebuke is unassailable, for all the objections to a shorter working week are on the grounds of their financial effect, and prove that the only obstacle to progress in this direction is a fraudulent and out-of-date monetary system. Mr. Monk is right when he says that the only "ism" we must think about is REALISM. Up to now, this is the very thing the Court has NOT thought about.

#### "There is No Plenty!"

But when I started to write this letter its main purpose was to comment on the amazing assertion of Chief Judge Dethridge that "it has never been proved that there is plenty. It is all assumption." In my opinion, any man who would stand up and say that is either inexcusably ignorant, intellectually irresponsible, or intentionally misleading. If documentary proof be needed, one has only to refer to the production bulletins officially published by the Commonwealth Statistician, and I suggest that Mr. Monk should have these analysed and put in as evidence. Two years ago I took the trouble to analyse these bulletins myself, and found that in the year 1934, as compared with the year 1930, we had employed fewer people on the land, but had INCREASED our production. I examined it from the point of view of VOLUME, not from its "value." The value had been reduced as the result of bank policy, but the production itself was as good as ever and as necessary as ever to the welfare of the people.

#### What I Found

This is what I found: The production for the year 1934 was greater than the production for the year 1930 to the extent of 50 million bushels of wheat 3 million bushels of oats, 850,000 tons of hay, more than a million tons of sugar cane, a million bushels of apples, 250,000 bushels of bananas, more than a million bushels of citrus fruit, more than 2½ million pounds of tobacco, nearly ten million pounds of cotton, nearly 4 million sheep, more than 2 million cattle, 30,000 pigs, nearly 60 million pounds of wool, 152 million pounds of butter, 8 million pounds of cheese, a million pounds of bacon, more than 300 million gallons of milk more than 400,000 ounces of gold, 1½ million ounces of silver, more than a thousand tons of copper, 27,000 tons of lead, 1200 tons of tin, 50,000 tons of coal, and 180,000 tons of iron. The "value" of the lesser quantity of production in

1930 was £390,000,000, but the "value" of the greater quantity of production in 1934 was only £355,000,000! We have had increasing production but DECREASING incomes. And, mind you, the figures given in this letter take no account at all of the vast quantities of production which have been destroyed or not gathered, to say nothing of the thousands and thousands of men who wandered about unemployed.

#### How Can People Buy?

What is the use of producing these things in such abundance? They can be disposed of only through sales, and sales obviously depend on the incomes of the great bulk of the people, including the pensioners and the unemployed. What DO the people get in the way of income? According to the last official census, it was as follows:

No income at all	3,648,000
Less than £1 per week	1,012,500
Less than £2 per week	617,200
Less than £3 per week	393,100
Less than £5 per week	559,400
More than £5 per week	340,000

When seven people in every ten get less than £1 per week, how CAN they participate in the bounty of God or the wonders made known and possible by scientists and engineers? Those of us who do participate in these wonderful things are able to do so only because our incomes are over the £5 per week figure. Judge Dethridge participates on a grand scale, because he gets a grand income of money, but stop his income, and see how he fares. Without money he would starve, even though we had piles and piles of goods available for use. Notwithstanding this inescapable fact, he lends the Court and himself to practices which limit the quantity of money and automatically keep the community's standards restricted within the limits of that inadequate quantity of money.

#### Ability to Pay

Quite unblushingly he declares that the ability of the community to pay cannot be measured. If he means in goods, then he does not speak the truth. So far as goods are concerned, we are constantly sending great shiploads away to other countries who protest that they do not want them. We are also actually destroying goods in our own country because the producers cannot get a satisfactory "price" for them. In addition to this, we are restricting production in order to eliminate the "threat" of surpluses! In goods, we can pay anything that is physically possible. But if he meant that we cannot measure our ability to pay in money, then he also says what is not true. Everyone of the inhabitants of Australia knows full well what he can afford to pay, and the figures issued by the Statistician, as given above, show what the community can afford to pay. Other official figures have shown that our farmers are some millions of pounds in debt beyond the value of their assets or their incomes, and the Government budgets prove that, no matter how hard we work or how great the quantity of goods we produce, we go further and further into debt. From the point of view of finance, therefore, the community can afford NOTHING. It is head over heels in debt.

#### Not His Business

But as finance is only a symbol, and has no value at all in itself, it is no business of Chief Judge Dethridge whether sufficient money is available or not. That is the responsibility of the Parliament of the Commonwealth. It is his job to award the doctors and the workers generally a scale of remuneration which will give them access to production according to their merits. If the quantity of money is not sufficient for this, then the quantity must be increased, but that is not the Judge's affair. It would be the job of a statutory authority to see that our finances were regularly equated with our production.

#### Did the King Lie?

To say that the assertions of plenty are all assumption is to say that his Majesty King George V. lied when he told the World Monetary and Economic Conference in 1933 that there had been no diminution of "the vast resources of the world, but that, on the contrary, invention, discovery and organisation have multiplied these possibilities to such an extent that abundance of production has itself created new problems." Abundance of production! I prefer to believe the King.

#### Did the Prince of Wales Lie?

To say that plenty has never been proved is also to say that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales talked nonsense before the National Congress of the London Chamber of Commerce on Commercial Education. This is what he said:

"The depression and economic disturbance has been largely caused by maladjustment of distribution. The potential output is far greater than ever before. If all employable labour were employed for a reasonable number of hours per week, the world would have at its disposal a volume of commodities and services which would enable the entire population to live on a higher level of comfort and well-being than has ever been contemplated in the rosiest dreams of the social reformer. Our urgent task is to bring consumption and production into a proper relationship—not a simple, but quite possible, task."

Here again, I prefer to believe his Royal Highness, who, by speaking in that strain, made himself a menace to the finance dictators who were preventing the people from enjoying that higher level of comfort. No wonder they sought to crucify him!

#### Other Proof

If visible proof of this plenty both actual and potential is required, we have only to look at the remarkable developments during the last century, and, all being well we will do that next week. In the meantime, everyone should join with the work of bringing all sections of the community together to place the responsibility where it properly belongs—on the Federal Parliament, when "Dethridgeism" will mean nothing. Organisations working for this end are the U.E.A in Victoria and the United Democrats in South Australia.—Yours faithfully,  
BRUCE H. BROWN

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BOOKS

By W. BROWNLEY.

Readers have, doubtless, at different times, joined in discussions regarding the dozen or so books which they would select were they compelled to make a limited choice when going on a long and, possibly, lonely trip—say to the South Pole. And they have, doubtless, at some time, also read long lists of the books which "should" be read. And the strange thing is that the two lists don't agree. Apparently, most people don't, when driven to it, read the books which "should" be read, but the books which they believe will give them pleasure and entertainment. One's limited supply of books on the hypothetical journey would be chosen for the author's ability to please and divert one's attention. The group of "necessary" books is those which are considered necessary for the development of an appreciation of literature as an art in itself. Both groups are leisure groups—food for literary satisfaction and entertainment—not books to be a guide along the path of life. They are lights for the leisured, not highways for the harassed and hurried. Though of great interest and use in themselves, they are of little use to the person who has little time to spare for reading, and who would prefer his reading not as a means of escaping from reality, but as a high road to reality. He wants his books to show him the way to solve life's problems: to show him what is wrong with the world and how to set it right. Dreams of fair women and the castles of Kublai Khan are all right in their way, and the loves and hates of heroes and heroines long since dead may still stir the human breast, but they don't put any bread into the mouths of the hungry or clothes upon the backs of the destitute. They are a luxury which the ordinary person cannot afford. The real problems of life are too urgent and pressing for sensible persons to waste time upon imagined problems of fictitious men and women.

First Things First

The book list of the ordinary, serious person will, therefore, tend to be utilitarian, rather than cultural and artistic. He will take up the attitude of Wm. Morris and Ruskin, who, though their whole souls craved and enjoyed art and beauty, put these things aside to solve the bread and butter problems of society. In fact, it is mainly such as these—this Brotherhood of the Order of Moses, who, seeing strange, burning bushes, put aside their shepherding, literature, engineering, art, etc., to preach the new gospels of the bush—who have written most of the truly useful books of the world. As we scan our list we shall find that most of

the names are of those who have left their main interest in life to study the cause of the evils surrounding them. And we shall see that our books are rather levers, by which we can raise earth's evils to the light of day, than hammocks in which we can bask in the sunshine.

Up to date, Critical and Constructive

Our book list must be up to date. By that I don't mean the books must be hot from the presses, but that they must not be out of date. They must not be flogging dead horses. Don Quixote is delightful as a satire, but one would hardly read it for profit. Chivalry is so dead that to still further flog it is only to raise sympathy in the breast of the reader. Likewise, a great deal of the books on economics are obsolete. They are either advocating or condemning a kind of capitalism which is as dead as Cervantes.

Secondly, the books must be constructive as well as critical. "As well as," I said, not "instead of," for adequate criticism is necessary if we are ever to have virile creation. In fact, the history of progress is really but the sequence of criticism, creation; criticism, creation; and so on.

Confronted with a variety of forms of government, and a diversity of customs, the early Greek thinkers posed the opposition of the Law of Nature to the Conventionality of Law, a challenge and criticism which the Roman Juris-consults wielded as a constructive instrument when they identified (even if erroneously) the Law of Nature and the Law of Nations. The idea again became an instrument of criticism in the hands of Rousseau, and we are only beginning to see a way of identifying or correlating Civil Law with Natural Law. As yet, most law is arbitrary fiat; but, as the Law of Nature is more fully understood, law will lose its sanctions and beget more inducements.

The Critics and the Rebels

Every era arrives at a stage where its failure to attain unto its ideals brings forth critics and rebels. Athens, failing to live up to its creed, produced rebels in Socrates, Plato, Euripides, and others. Modern "democracy" produced its first critics and rebels in Carlyle, Ruskin, Wm., Morris and Tennyson. The early rosy dawn of Victorianism ended in lowering dusk, the hopes and expectations vanished. The reality was shabby, mean and unrighteous. Listen to the disappointment of Tennyson,

in *Locksley Hall Fifty Years Afterwards*:

"Gone the cry of, 'Forward, Forward, lost within the growing gloom;  
Lost, or only heard in silence,  
from the silence of a tomb."

"Half the marvels of my morning, triumphs over time and space, Staled by frequency, shrunk by usage, into commonest commonplace."

Forward! rang the voices then, and of the many mine was one;  
Let us hush this cry of 'Forward!' till ten thousand years have gone."

Shaw and Wells

And, far from abating, the criticism grew. Shaw, in the Third Act of *Man and Superman*, probably indicted the age as poignantly as has ever been done, while, in *Major Barbara*, he showed the prime evil of all others to be poverty. Of course, he is now as obsolete as the dodo, as is H. G. Wells, also, but they did fine work as critics. They have gone the way of the primeval creatures of "whom Wells so loves to write—overlaid by a flood of abundance which they cannot properly perceive or understand. They are still groping about trying to find a world of scarcity to which their ideas fit, but that world has already become history, and the only way they can fit their theories to reality is by digging into the past. The present rejects them, and the future knows no place for them.

It is one thing to see through the Conventionality of Law and Civilisation; it is quite another thing to perceive Natural Law. Few have done it, and it is they who never "date." Carlyle, to a degree, and Ruskin certainly saw through convention to reality. It is for this reason that *Past and Present* and *Unto This Last* are more up to date than many of the economic treatises bearing this year's date. But in their day they were despised and rejected.

Difficulties of Pioneers

One of the obstacles confronting a pioneer in thought is that he has to employ words and expressions which are unsatisfactory vehicles of his thought. He has to use a set of symbols which express different set of ideas from those he wishes to expound. In some of the sciences he is at liberty to invent new expressions and new symbols, but, generally, the innovator in thought is compelled to use tools which are inappropriate for his purpose. Mystics have attempted to explain in ordinary language the emotions they have experienced when they felt in unison with the Infinite. To mystics they are understandable; to the hard-boiled they are deranged. It is for this reason that all pioneers have been declared either mad or unintelligible (or both). They shed their light on men's darkness and men comprehend it not, having become so used to nocturnal habits of thought that they are lost in the light of day.

Douglas and Einstein

As the writer who has been most unfairly charged with obscurity and delusions, I would cite Major C. H. Douglas. Not only is Douglas lucid; he is a stylist. The real difficulty is not with his writings, but with the reader's "eyesight." Douglas writes in the light of the day of plenty; so many read with eyes accustomed to the night of scarcity. He faces the rising sun—they the setting moon.

Not only does the average reader assume poverty as the natural condition of the bulk of mankind, but he unwittingly accepts all the moral and ethical values derived from poverty, until he is shown their obsolescence. It is similar to the problem confronting students of Einstein. Einstein holds that the natural plane of movement of

any body is curved, but, unless he be very careful, the average student will assume it is straight. He has been taught it is straight. His physics, geometry and astronomy assume it is straight, and so long as he is held by these ideas he will never understand Einstein.

\* \* \*

In a future article I shall review in detail that small group of books which I consider the ordinary person needs to light his way in life's darkness.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LIQUOR AND POVERTY

Sir,—In reply to the letter by "C.S.B." on the case for prohibition. I think the crux of this matter is clearly indicated in the latter part of the second paragraph of his letter, where he states:—"It speaks for itself that in the dense slum areas more public houses and wine shops exist, on a population basis, than elsewhere." This points to the fact that in areas where "the heel of poverty" is a little less grinding than in these so-called slum areas there is much less necessity for prohibition.

The U.E.A., in striving for a more intelligent democracy, is endeavouring to free humanity rather than further restrict it, and is far more likely to be successful by adopting this attitude. The U.E.A. knows that the greatest menace of civilisation is the reformer, well meaning or otherwise, whose aim is to force humanity into his idea of Utopia, or what he considers is, or will be, good for them.

Our arch oppressors, "the Money Monopolists," are idealists of this nature, and anyone can see the results of their efforts at coercing a world, struggling for freedom, into a mould of their making. I wish that all the obviously sincere efforts of the "No Licence" advocates could be maintained and diverted into the fight for economic security for all, and I am sure that they would be well repaid, when our object is attained, to find that, in a surprisingly short time, the evil they so rightly deplore would have shrunk to such a very small proportion of the population that there would be little, if any, necessity for any kind of restrictive measures to finally banish it once and for all.

I am quite convinced that once given, and assured of, absolute economic security, this allegedly frail, though nebulous, thing termed human nature, would rise in all its strength and beauty, and man would appear as he is—"the noblest work of God."—Yours, etc.,

J. F. S. PHIDDIAN, El wood, Vic.

SANE FINANCE LEAGUE

Sir,—With a fellow-Social Creditor I attended a branch meeting of the A.N.A. recently to hear a talk by a lecturer of the above league, and my object in writing this is to pass on the advisability to Social Crediters of attending these lectures by the Sane Finance League at A.N.A. branches, whose meetings are open to the public at all times. Our presence at this meeting certainly threw a spanner in the works as far as this champion of the present bungling system was concerned. Here are a few of his gems:

(1) If all the products of the country were made available to the people their standard of living would rise only 15 per cent.  
(2) As the trading banks hold 310 millions in deposits, and advances are 276 millions, it was proof that banks do not create credit.

He was certainly a happy hunting ground at question time, but he was clever enough, in true party politician style, to say a lot of words that meant nothing.

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(Continued from page 8.)

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Dear Sir,  
Having at long last learned the details of the National Health and Pension Insurance Act, I have arrived at the definite conclusion that this Act will mean a drastic lowering of the already low standard of living of the majority of the people of Australia by the very fact of reducing their weekly income. I am therefore taking this opportunity of telling you, as my representative in Parliament, that I resent having this imposed upon me without the electors first being consulted by referendum; and I am determined that if you, as my representative, fail to do your utmost to have this undemocratic measure repealed, I will do all in my power to cause you to be replaced at the next elections by a representative who will truly represent the wishes of his electors. Yours faithfully,

(Name).....  
(Address).....  
....., 1938.  
\* \* \*

Below is a list of Federal electorates in Victoria and the corresponding M.H.Rs.

Parliament House, Canberra, is sufficient address

- BALACLAVA .. White, T. W.
- BALLARAT . . . . . Pollard, R. T.
- BATMAN..... Brennan, F.
- BENDIGO..... Rankin, G. J.
- BOURKE . . . Blackburn, M. M.
- CORANGAMITE . . Street, G.
- CORIO..... Casey, R. G.
- DEAKIN . . . Hutchinson, W. J.
- FAWKNER..... Holt, H. E.
- FLINDERS . . . Fairbairn, J. V.
- GIPPSLAND . . . Paterson, T.
- HENTY..... Gullett, Sir H.
- INDI..... McEwen, J. S.
- KOONYONG . . . . . Menzies, R. G.
- MARIBYRNONG

Drakeford, A. S.  
MELBOURNE

- Maloney, Dr. W. R.
- MELB. PORTS Holloway, E. J.
- WANNON . . . Scholfield, T. H.
- WIMMERA . . . . . Wilson, A. T.
- YARRA..... Scullin, J. H.

**ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES VICTORIA**

**ERIC BUTLER.** - Eric arrived back from the Riverina on Monday, and was obviously benefited from his "working holiday." He reports that good organising in the country at the present time would get tremendous results. With this end in view he is preparing to get away again as soon as arrangements can be made. He is keen to get into the wheat and wool areas, with a view to capitalising the present downward trend of prices.

As reported in last week's issue, Eric was to broadcast over 2QN, Deniliquin (incorrectly stated as 2KM). This address was received with widespread interest, and undoubtedly brought the message of the Campaign to hundreds who had never heard of it. Owing to terrible weather conditions, the public meeting in the Lyceum Theatre was not as well attended as was expected. In spite of this, a good audience listened with keen interest, and, as a local report states, was impressed with "the fluency and masterly marshalling of facts by the speaker, who spoke for over two hours, held his audience throughout, and never once referred to notes." A large number of questions indicated keen enthusiasm, and tentative arrangements have been made for another big meeting in four weeks' time. Eric expects a record attendance.

**MELBOURNE FORUM.** - Eric Butler will speak at the Melbourne Forum, Unitarian Church, Grey-street, East Melbourne, on Sunday afternoon, October 23. His Subject will be: "Peace—And the Social Order." We have received many inquiries as to when Eric would be speaking again in Melbourne, and as he will be returning to the country as soon as possible, this will be his next address. This will be a special address, and friends and supporters are asked to go along and make it a success.

**CANTERBURY MEETING.** - The meeting at Canterbury on Tuesday night, the 20th of September, was another link in the powerful chain that the campaign is building up in Kooyong. Both addresses, given respectively by Dr. Dale and Eric Butler, were received with interest and enthusiasm. A resolution to the sitting member, as well as another to the daily press, was carried unanimously. A group meeting of all those interested took place at the home of Mrs. MacKenzie, 18 Highfield-road, Canterbury. Reports of future activities and progress will be published as they come to hand.

**NATIONAL INSURANCE REPEAL.** - - The campaign for the repeal of the National Insurance Bill is rapidly gathering strength, and demands for more letter-forms similar to the one published in last week's issue indicate tremendous enthusiasm. Pressure politics is at last becoming a very strong weapon, and members of Parliament can expect a very lively time from now on. All those who desire to help are asked to get in touch with the U.E.A. immediately.

**HAWTHORN.** - Group meetings are taking place regularly at the home of Mrs. Allsop, 26 Grove-road, Hawthorn. All supporters in this area are asked to attend. Next meeting on Tuesday evening, October 4.

**KEW.** - Group meetings take place regularly at the home of Mrs. Webbe, 5 Eglinton-street, Kew, every Wednesday evening. All supporters are asked to come along and help further the campaign.

**FRANKSTON.** - The first public meeting at this centre will take place on October 14. Dr. John Dale will be the principal speaker. We have not yet received the names of the other speakers.

**YOUTH SECTION:** The next public meeting of the youth section will take place at Caulfield on October 6. The meeting is to be held in the Recreation Hall. Further details of activities will be published as they come to hand.

**SPEAKERS' CLASS.** - All those interested in this class are asked to note that the next meeting will take place at the U.E.A. rooms next Wednesday evening, September 28.

**BENDIGO.** - The movement in Bendigo has already borne fruit in the increased sales reported of the *New Times*. A vigorous campaign has already been initiated by the zealous workers, and a second meeting will take place on Wednesday next, September 28, at which the principal business to be transacted is the division of the city into groups, each controlled by one of the original foundation members. This breaking up into groups will continue until the whole city is honeycombed with small groups, each directed by a "sub-leader"; the "sub-leaders" meeting in conference from time to time to generally control the Bendigo movement.

It is hoped that arrangements can be made soon for a visit from Eric Butler.

**WEST AUSTRALIA**

**MOVEMENT FOR THE REPEAL OF NATIONAL INSURANCE BILL.** - The movement formed in Perth for the repeal of the National Insurance Bill is meeting with excellent response, both from the public and other organisations. Madame Mira Louise, food scientist and psychologist, has linked forces with the movement, and is giving it full publicity over the air every week. She intends to set all her clientele working on the repeal as soon as possible. The Wheatgrowers' Union is giving every support, and is

fully alive to the implications of the Bill. The Dominion League, Henry George League and the "Open Forum" are also linked together in opposing this "legalised robbery." During past weeks the committee has been busy laying the foundations for vigorous action, and it is confident that as soon as the preliminary work is finalised it will not be long before the movement becomes a real force for democracy. To assist it finance is required. If you do not like National Insurance, it is your duty to yourself and your family to support it with all the means in your power. Forward subscriptions to hon. secretary, Mr. James Kelly, Room 31, Bon Marche Buildings, Barrack-street, Perth.

**ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN CONVENTION.** - - If you are going to attend this convention, write headquarters immediately. It will be held in the Advance Business College rooms, 33 Bon Marche Buildings, Barrack-street, Perth, on October 8, at 11 a.m. Make it a glorious rally, which will mark an historic step in the history of the campaign. For further information, write to the Director, Mr. V. J. Dury, as soon as possible. Listen-in to further announcements over the air.

**BROADCASTING.** - - From the number of letters expressing appreciation and interest in the talks given over Stations 6AM and 6PM, it is evident that they

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Are YOU one of that majority?

£1 million would not be of any practical benefit if received over a million years! It is the rate of flow that counts.

are giving satisfaction. If, however, these broadcasts are to continue, it needs more than words of appreciation, and we suggest that if you are in agreement with the spirit of the talks, you will readily realise it is your duty to forward financial support which you can afford. There are many who cannot afford to give much, but if you only send sixpence a month it will help to defray the costs. The Campaign Director hopes to be able to sign up for a long session. Will you help to do so by contributing? All the readers of this paper must become actionists if they desire to change the existing order. To just read this and do nothing is criminal, because knowing how disastrous the system is, it lays a double obligation on you to assist to the point of sacrifice. An old age pensioner sent in 10/- the other week, and he apologised because he could not afford more. What an old age pensioner can do, our readers can also do, if they desire to. Every little helps. *Do not forget.*

**CITIZENS' RIGHTS LEAGUE** is another League that has come into being to demand, as its name suggests, the preservation and extension of the democratic rights of the man in the street. This new movement is interesting to Electoral Campaigners because it aims at organising the people into a body of opinion to act in association in demanding a certain result; in doing this they should have every encouragement. We urge all Campaigners to get behind this movement, because it is an excellent opportunity to spread the technique of the E.C.

**WHEATGROWERS' DELEGATES AT E.C. MEETING.** - Recently, the usual Thursday evening meeting had the pleasure of the attendance of a

goodly number of wheatgrowers, who were in Perth as delegates to the annual conference of their association.

Mr. R. Rushton was the speaker, and Mr. V. J. Dury was in the chair. Mr. Rushton's address took the form of a simple lecture on the faults of the present system and the remedy. The lecture was enthusiastically received, and Mr. Rushton was warmly congratulated upon his talk and the way it was given.

The meeting greatly cheered up all Campaigners present, for it showed that the primary producers are not only alive to the fundamental trouble, but also understand the Electoral Campaign to be the remedy for that trouble, and are prepared to use it.

That they are also prepared to support the Campaign in a practical way was well demonstrated when one farmer suggested that a number of them get together and each present the Movement with 12 fleeces, and by thus making up a number of bales of wool, contribute to the funds, when in many cases the cash could not be afforded. This idea quickly caught on, and quite a good number of farmers will now assist the Movement in this manner.

Should any farmer who was not present at that meeting feel that he could assist the Movement in this way, he should write to H.Q. and let them know of the fact.

Further contributions from wheatgrowers are: Merredin Zone Council and N. Lake Grace, 10/- each.

**BLAMING GREED**

By Wm. ALLEN WHITE.

"To give the common man a larger share in the prosperity of human enterprise, it is probably not necessary nor practicable to assume that the average man is being denied his share entirely by reason of the greed of others. Let us say that to make men more generous, more neighbourly, more peaceful and happier, the average man must have more consuming power.

"He can't be good, speaking in terms of social morality, if he is pinched and starved and wizened. The tyrannies of Europe have proved the common man living under tyranny remains pinched and starved and wizened. Their national economy is failing."

How shall we democratise the machines man has made? White asked.

"I know no formula to take the greedy sand out of the bearings. But it is there. It must come out. . . . Human nature changes only when the pressure of greed is lifted—only when men generally can afford to be neighbourly and decent in their relations with one another without seeing their families suffer."

**SHORTAGE OF RAW MATERIAL? OF WILLING LABOUR? OF BUILDING KNOWLEDGE?**

"So acute is the shortage of beds in Melbourne's public hospitals that three of the four institutions advised Civil Ambulance officials at the week-end that no accommodation could be found for accident victims.

"The present shortage of accommodation is a continuation of the burdensome position with which Melbourne hospitals have been contending for some years. At every public hospital there is a long waiting list of medical patients."

--Melbourne "Herald," September 19.

**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 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 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?

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