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THE INDIVIDUALS THAT KEEP US POOR IN THE MIDST OF PLENTY

Vol. 4. No 41.

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Every Friday, 3d

# COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING?

## Making A Monkey Of Chamberlain

## A RIFT IN THE LUTE?

Melbourne "Herald" Warns R. G. Menzies

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# A RIFT IN THE LUTE

In a prominent position on the cable page of the Melbourne *Herald* last Friday appeared an article dealing with the future of Mr. R. G. Menzies, the Attorney-General, and the heir-presumptive to the position of Prime Minister of the Commonwealth. The article seems to us sufficiently significant to reprint it below.

## "CAREER RICH IN PROMISE AND ACHIEVEMENT"

"From Our Political Correspondent.

"CANBERRA, Friday. — Upon the European crisis the Attorney-General (Mr. Menzies) made the speech of the week. In that there is nothing extraordinary. Upon any subject in any week Mr. Menzies can make the best speech in the Commonwealth Parliament.

"And yet members of the United Australia Party in the House, and of the supporting organisations throughout Australia, are not at ease about Mr. Menzies as Deputy-Leader and future Prime Minister. Why?

"The Attorney-General is a remarkable man. He is outstanding in Australia, and, more than that, he has stood the supreme test of a Dominion leader—he has shone in inter-Empire and international company overseas.

"He has all the talents for public life. Standing over six feet, he has a striking presence. He is handsome. He has a beautiful, natural voice.

"He is trained, but not over trained, in oratory. He is eloquent, but not too eloquent. He has a brilliant mental endowment, a fine sense of humour, and a brilliant wit.

"He has in uncommon degree the capacity to become keenly interested in almost any subject.

Above all, he has great common sense, and, for a man of his speaking and conversational armoury, exceptional restraint.

"He is like Mr. Hughes, but unlike most sparkling talkers, a good listener.

"In Cabinet he has the reputation of sitting silent for an hour, and then intervening with a few incisive and often decisive sentences.

"All this, and still in political circles, Mr. Menzies' future is regarded as obscure and with some misgivings.

## "TRIUMPHANT PARADE.

"Perhaps it is that the plums have fallen with too much profusion upon Mr. Menzies, and that, because of his rare natural endowments, he has had to expend so little hard work in shaking the trees.

"After a triumphant, prize-laden parade through college and university, he found himself with a rapidly-growing practice immediately after he was called to the Bar.

"He swept upward in his profession to the congratulations of the Bench and the proud acclamations of his fellows.

"His political rise was almost as swift and even easier. After an initial defeat—he would probably remind you that Disraeli was in his youth, defeated three times—he entered the Victorian State House.

"First, as Honorary Minister, and next as Attorney-General and Minister for Railways, he was almost overnight recognised not only as the first speaker and debater in the House, but as an administrator of exceptional character and ability.

## "GOLDEN SALVER.

"When, in 1934, Mr. Latham passed on to the Chief Justiceship and his richly-earned G.C.M.G., the blue riband U.A.P. seat of Kooyong was handed to Mr. Menzies upon a golden salver, and with it, as everybody believed, the position of Attorney-General and deputy leadership of the party, with the glittering prize of Prime Ministership assured to him in the course of time.

"And Mr. Menzies' years still numbered only 39.

"At that stage a cloud fell over the hitherto serene blue sky of Mr. Menzies, at first small, but ominously expanding in the following four years.

"It appeared in the election figures for Kooyong in 1934, when he had to be content with a majority substantially below that enjoyed by Mr. Latham.

"It loomed almost to an eclipse in the elections in 1937, when the Attorney-General only scraped his way to a win which was in no sense a personal or political victory.

"But Mr. Menzies still has all the talents. If he wants the top in politics it is there if he will work for it.

## "STAY AT HOME.

"But, in the opinion of his multitude, of well-wishers, work he must and down amended ways. He has served Australia greatly in three trips overseas, but three trips in four years were, as his friends see it, too many.

"He must now stay at home in Australia for at least a few years. He should fling himself about the Commonwealth and make twenty times his personal contacts with electors.

"He should spend twenty week-ends a year in different electorates. He should cease to look upon so many of his public meetings and functions as sheer entertainments, with Mr. Menzies as the chief entertainer.

"Electors delight in some mirth, but, from a potential Prime Minister they prefer that the dominant note should be seriousness. They look for enlightenment and guidance.



R. G. MENZIES.

"If Mr. Menzies is one day to lead this country as most people sincerely hope that he will, he must face up to realities and work as others have worked for the position.

"Tragedy, indeed, if Mr. Menzies were to be remembered only as a dazzling promise in our national affairs."

## A Warning from Sir Keith Murdoch

It is a matter of widespread belief that the policy of the Commonwealth of Australia is either formulated by the *Herald*—that is to say, by Sir Keith Murdoch—or else that no serious step is taken in foreign or domestic policy unless it is first submitted to Sir Keith for approval, which amounts to the same thing.

There is, for instance, the famous story of the *Herald* reporter blue-pencilling one of Joe Lyons' speeches before delivery, and remarking to our Prime Minister: "I don't think Sir Keith would stand for that!" This may be purely fiction, but we are inclined to the belief that here, as elsewhere, the Press has a very large, and not too respectable a finger in the political pie. If this is so, then the article dealing with Mr. Robert G. Menzies has every appearance of being a public warning to him to toe the line, or take the consequences.

## Australia's First Dictator?

We believe the trouble to be that Mr. Menzies, as a result of both natural

tendencies and the contacts he has made abroad during his numerous jaunts at our expense, has conceived the idea that he would make an excellent dictator for Australia. That he has always cherished the ambition to be Prime Minister, is generally admitted, but close at hand observation of other famous M's—Mussolini and Moseley—appears to have inspired him with the will-to-power along Fascist lines.

## All the Qualifications

When one comes to examine Mr. R. G. Menzies (we forget what the G. stands for, but, according to Sir Keith, it should stand for Gallivant), one sees that all, or almost all, of the necessary qualifications for a dictator are present in his imposing person. He has ability, of that there is no doubt. He has the build of a Mussolini, and is ambitious, bumptious, and sufficiently ruthless in the pursuit of an objective. He is, in fact, just the sort of person who would not take kindly to dictation but would prefer to be the person dictating. Hence comes our suspicion that the *Herald* article was in the nature of a public warning that, if he does not defer to the power of the Press, he is likely to lose his blue riband seat, and, with it, the coveted post of Prime Minister.

## The "Herald" Could Do It

We have little doubt that the *Herald*, with all the influence it can wield, would be able to oust Menzies from Parliament if it wanted to. It was quite obviously the same paper that put Joseph Aloysius Lyons where he is, although few would be prepared to assert that he is either the best man for the position, or even that he is capable of filling it adequately. He is, no doubt, a good "Yes"-man, while his face, family, and his sensational somersault out of the Labour Party were, at the time, superb publicity stuff for a political stampede into a "National" Government. The elevation of "Honest Joe" to the position of first citizen of the Commonwealth was a good joke at the time, but its savour has begun to pall, and it has been expected for some time that he would be gently but firmly retired, to give way to some one more capable and more dignified. That "someone" has been generally expected to be R. G. Menzies, in view of the fact that he was given an easy entrance into Federal politics via the Kooyong seat, which was as easy as taking a stick of candy from a baby for anyone with the U.A.P. endorsement.

## Menzies v. Murdoch

If it has really come to a showdown between the Attorney-General and the *Herald*, subsequent events are likely to be both interesting and enlightening. Menzies has had the money swindle put up to him, and, little as we like him as a politician,

we consider his ability to be such that, if he decided to fight the money barons, he could make things highly uncomfortable for them.

No man of his intellectual attainments could fail to realise that our present woeful situation is due almost entirely to the fact that the money system is in need of a complete overhaul to make it accord with the present facts of production, productive capacity, and the displacement of labour by machinery. We believe that Mr. Menzies understands this, but that he does not, at the moment, feel obliged to espouse the cause of monetary reform. If, however, circumstances throw him in opposition to those who control the money system to our disadvantage, he may consider that the best means of hitting back is to throw his weight into the attack on the money and credit monopoly.

## Clutching at Straws?

Perhaps, in these musings, we are clutching at straws. In all probability, Sir Keith Murdoch's not-too-veiled warning will have the desired effect, and Mr. Menzies will stay at home for a while to woo the electors, and carry out the instructions of the *Herald* for the future. This will be the quickest and surest way to become a puppet Prime Minister, for all that that may be worth. If Menzies wants to be something more than that, he will have to buck the *Herald* in the way we have suggested; but that course will not necessarily result in success, and we fear that results are more important to him than the honour and glory which may come from an unsuccessful though valiant battle against the powers of darkness.

## A Good Sign

Whatever the outcome of this slight rift may be, it is a healthy sign to see that the financial monies are not having things all its own way. In the past, it has been very rare to find a politician who has had the courage to oppose bankers and rarer still to find one with brains and ability such as would make him a dangerous force in opposition. With the gradual spread of education in economics, and especially in that branch of economics which deals with the issue and the cancellation of money, the likelihood becomes greater and greater that one day, in the not too distant future, there will rise to prominence and power a politician of ability and integrity who will carry the fight against the money monopolists into our national Parliament. When that day arrives, it will mark the beginning of the end of the reign of orthodox finance, for where one leads, others will follow, particularly as the path which they are asked to tread will not be the difficult path where sound legislation is continually impeded by financial obstacles, but one where anything which is physically possible is financially possible.

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## THE WICKED STRIKER

By LEONORA POLKINGHORNE.

The recent coal strike brings to mind the fact that as long as I can remember anything, I have had the striker held up as one of the chief, if not the chief, enemies of society. He was invariably actuated by the worst motives, was always in the wrong, and enjoyed a sadistic satisfaction in the disorder, dislocation, and suffering his strike caused. The fact that he and his dependents were the worst sufferers did not alter this fact—it was merely pointed out that he was therefore a fool as well as a villain, and that there was nothing to be said for him at all. Always there was a severe "leader" in the daily press pointing out all these things, and urging these criminal maniacs to see the error of their ways before it was too late. The "Watchman," mentioning the coal strike each day, has taken the same line, more or less. He appeared to think that strikes are to be judged, not by something inherently wrong that needs adjusting, that when they occur it behoves the powers-that-be to find the reason for their recurrence, but that they are an annoying interruption to normal services, caused by the contumacy of irresponsible persons and to be judged by the annoyance and inconvenience they bring about. "As usual," he concludes magisterially, "it is the public that has to suffer."

## Why Not?

And why not? Is the "public" never to be shaken out of its apathy and indifference to the wrongs and injustices suffered by other parts of the community? A terrible thing, indeed, if the "public" is prevented from going to its holiday in the hills, has to pay more for its gas; have its sluggish mind taken for a moment from football matches, races, and picture shows to consider the case of such worms as miners asking to be saved from death by better provision for their safety, or for more hours in the fresh air above ground?

But the "Watchman" is indignant because the miners do not seek to have their grievances adjusted by the Arbitration Court, in which case "essential services" would go on interrupted, and all would be well—for the rest of us. I have yet to hear, however, of an Arbitration Court that challenged a system that is firmly opposed to higher standards of living and more leisure for the worker, or sought to explain why we must suffer cruel scarcity in an age of plenty. In my opinion, anything

that by dislocating business and causing a general upset drives the average person to a little reflection on these things is not such a bad thing as the "Watchman" seems to think. There are quite a number of people who are indifferent to the fact that a shoe pinches till they have to wear it.

The S.A. Advertiser, of course, ran true to form in deploring the unreasonable action of the miners, kindly pointing out to them (what they already knew) that they themselves would be the worst sufferers if it went on, as both the public and the employers could hold out much longer than they—and with a minimum of suffering, if any. The benevolent writer of this article appeared to be quite unconscious that he had touched here on the main point of the whole argument, and that is the tremendous inequality of the fight.

## Loaded Dice

He referred to the "outworn weapon" of the strike, but in effect admitted that it was the only weapon the workers knew, and a two-edged one at that. Yet, all those who are so shocked at the wickedness of the strikers always speak as though it was a fight on equal terms, and to be judged accordingly, though even in competitive sport we impose handicaps to equalise things for the weaker player. When there was a marine strike years ago happening at Christmas time, one heard disgust expressed at the unsportsmanlike conduct of the strikers in choosing a time when so many people were looking to go away on holiday trips. "Just fancy, striking at a time like this!" Well, one wonders how many of the strikers had enjoyed the opportunity of annual holiday trips, and whether they might not have argued that since the justice of the handicap was not allowed to them, it was up to them to take it when possible. In military warfare, it is usually considered quite the thing to attack at the weakest strategic point, so why not in industrial warfare?

The whole question then resolves to the plight of the economically dependent and the unethical nature of the struggle between him and the economically secure, for the former can live only by working, his income ceasing with his work, except when he draws from a communal fund (to which, of course, he must contribute when able)—the latter, at worst, merely sees his profits declining when the

## ON THE EVE OF BATTLE

## The Fight for Reform—and the Reformers

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

The break-up of civilisation has begun! The critical period in the history of our present civilisation, which those who were not too blind to see have drawn constant attention to, has developed. Some even think that we have left our fight too late, and as a Professor of International Affairs recently said to a group of University students, "the only thing for you to consider is what sort of a society you are going to build on the ruins." People have talked glibly of the present system being continued indefinitely, but every person who is not too cowardly and drugged to face the stark realities knows that this is pragmatically impossible.

workman ceases to work for him. As it is the economically secure who make the laws and see that they are carried out, it naturally follows that the striker is always represented in the press and among the comfortable as always wrong, and the employer always right, and the general public are induced to take the same point of view by the inconveniences they suffer when a strike is on, and are easily cajoled into the belief that they are the principal (and innocent) sufferers. Newspapers never point out that in a democratic country the public which allows non-distribution of wealth to continue unchecked is not innocent, but distinctly culpable—since if it does not bestir itself in the matter it is clear that those in control of the system never will and that the victims are too cruelly handicapped.

## Women and Workers

The position is much the same with women. Economically dependent, a woman has but one weapon to fight life with, her sexure, and she has been forced into exploiting that for the instinct of self-preservation is strong, and for that she has been condemned in song and story just as the labourer is condemned as a fractious trouble-making person who "upsets things." If both these sections of society were content to suffer their disabilities without using these crude weapons, society would bless them; the patient Griselda and the British workman would both be honoured as their "country's pride." The slave-like "virtues" are always those that are most commended by the slave-owners.

## The Critical Hour

Nearly twenty years ago one of the world's greatest students of social and economic affairs foresaw the present critical position. Speaking of this crisis, he said: "The position will be tremendous in its importance. A comparatively short period will probably serve to decide whether we are to master the mighty economic and social machine that we have created, or whether it is to master us; and during that period a small impetus from a body of men who know what to do and how to do it may make the difference between yet one more retreat into the Dark Ages, or the emergence into the full light of a day of such splendour as we can at present only envisage dimly. It is this necessity for the recognition of the psychological moment, and the fitting to that moment of appropriate action, which should be present in the minds of that small minority which is seized of the gravity of present times."

## A Further Warning

This same thinker at a famous address delivered at Southampton in 1935 was even more definite as to the approaching crisis, and stated the fate of humanity would possibly be decided within the following five years.

At the conclusion of this address, he said: "If you allow this thing to go on passively, you will be regimented through various stages until we arrive at an effective dictatorship in which nothing can be done, and we shall be hurried by the inevitable results into either another world war, which is looming up very fast at the present time, or one long series of revolts and ultimate chaos . . . The game will not wait. It will take one direction or another, at the very longest, within the next five years. That is not merely my view, it is the view of many people who hold widely divergent views from mine, and perhaps we agree only on that. The fate of the world for the next four or five hundred years will be settled probably within the next five years." Other leading thinkers, such as H. G. Wells, have also been calling repeated attention to the catastrophe which threatens to overwhelm humanity. That catastrophe loomed like a nightmare in the mind of man two weeks ago. It seemed as if nothing could stay the smash, but—

## We Have a Breathing Space

After that awful period of crisis in which the whole nation faced reality has come the reaction—soporifics in the nature of prayers of thanksgiving have been handed out to the populace, who, with a smug complacent sigh, have sunk back into the lethargy from which they are too damned lazy to rise—unless they are kicked. And out of the welter of confused discussion with which we have been deluged lately, arises the ghastly fact that the onward march to destruction has been speeded up. Why?

Because the causes of war still remain; a gang of soul-less vampires, who, drunk and crazed with their control of the financial system, threaten the destruction of the whole of civilisation—even if that destruction means the collapse of the very system which has enslaved man so long. And now that war has been temporarily averted, what do these alleged leaders such as Chamberlain do? Are they now starting to expose the causes of war? Most emphatically not. They now arm for "defence." Australia is to do the same. And the great free, independent Australian public

(Continued on page 5.)

## OPEN LETTER TO ARCHBISHOP HEAD

The Very Rev. Dr. Head,  
Archbishop of Melbourne.  
Your Grace, —

You do say such dreadful things. For a long time now, connoisseurs of the less intellectual forms of farce have automatically glanced at F. W. Melbourne's antics in the front pages of the Melbourne "Sun" before turning to Mr. Melbourne's in the middle.

So we expected from you some bluster—vulgar, perhaps, but funny—to cover up Victoria's deplorable rejection of you and your "Yes"-men last week-end.

And we have got it. At a time when the very existence of the Christian religion is being menaced, you soothe your battered dignity by charging into print with a frenzied, ranting scream against a great Christian Church in general, and in particular against—of all people—the Christian Brothers, the servants, not only of Christ, but of education, the self-sacrificing teachers of the sons of the poor.

We are not interested in ecclesiastical squabbles. If you have a real grievance, and a real answer to rival views then let your able clergy express them, and your own wireless session broadcast them. But your offensive roar in Tuesday's press contained nothing so mundane as a few particulars—unless one counts a mysterious chain letter, concocted by some coy, anonymous forger, with an insufficient appreciation of the value of plausibility.

Only last week, we understand, when you were declaring open certain vagrant gates, and were deploring the pranks which had been played, there

came following a succession of taxi-drivers, four stalwart constables in search of "a man called Head, who was creating a disturbance at the University." To judge from your latest outburst, creating disturbances is a habit of which you should cure yourself.

But, before casting your speech into its inevitable place among the stale, forgotten figments of bigotry and spleen, we must expose your attempt to curry favour with the Jewish-controlled popular press.

We repeat what we have said before: that Australian Jews are entitled to complete freedom, so long as they are loyal to British law. Unlike you, Dr. Head, Australians make no distinctions of creed or of race among their fellow-citizens.

But this new flood of aliens is another matter. Australia is not going to be made the rubbish-heap for all the world's unwanted deportees.

Yet you say, "We must be more ready to open our doors" to alien Jews. To how many needy AUSTRALIANS have you opened your doors at Bishopscourt?

To-day we are in the throes of a vital struggle against the international money power; yet you seek to stir up sectarian differences within our own nation, and to bring in an alien horde, largely composed of advocates of Marxism, which aims at destroying British liberty and justice.

Divert your energy to fighting the financial causes of our nation's distress, like so many gentlemen, clergy and laymen, in your own Church; and you will, at last, render a true service to the Empire, to Australia, and to

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(Continued from page 2.)

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(Continued on page 7)

## Making a Monkey of Chamberlain

That Hitler is a good business man must be apparent by now. Who else could have made a book like "Mein Kampf" into a best-seller? As a piece of slick salesmanship, the promotion of that hysterical mouthing into a national bible could not be bettered outside America, the home of hokum.

The same acumen is noticeable in the negotiations with Neville Chamberlain over the Czech crisis. The agreement for occupation of Sudetenland by zones and plebiscites seemed on first sight to be reasonable and workable—that is, apart altogether from the dubious manner in which the agreement was obtained. The first four zones took in the areas which were admittedly peopled by a majority of Germans; but the announcement of the limits of the fifth zone is a different proposition altogether. In area, it is far greater than the other four combined, while it includes almost every district in which Hitler at Godesberg demanded that a plebiscite should be taken.

There is a well-known French expression about going back a step in order to make a better leap, and it is now obvious that this was the course pursued by Hitler at the Munich conference. With every appearance of making real concessions, at the request of Mr. Chamberlain, he has now so dominated the international commission at Berlin that the demarcation of the fifth zone has given him more booty than he had originally asked for.

What could be more patent a subterfuge than to rely upon the *Austrian census* of 1910, in order to establish the areas containing more than 50 per cent. Germans? It is only a degree less ridiculous than to estimate current British wealth by reference to the *Domesday Book*! By this subtle method, Polika, with its valuable powder works, and a population of 5819 Czechs and 149 Germans, is solemnly declared to be within the zone as being predominantly German! Worse than that is the most recent report that even the generous limits of the fifth zone have been exceeded by the army of occupation. In response to protests, the Czechs have received the bland reply that the inhabitants *invited* the invaders to occupy the towns!

If now the Czechs curse the names berlain and Daladier who shall blame them? The fact is that a very dirty game was played at

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Godesberg and Munich, and with the usual result, that we, having touched pitch, have come out well and truly defiled. We have consented to bring pressure to bear on Czechoslovakia to force the acceptance of a settlement that is distinguishable from highway robbery only by the smarmy way in which it has been effected.

Chamberlain may rant of having saved the world from Armageddon, and of having secured peace in our time. What he has secured, at the price of a nation's shame, is a respite, and nothing more. When war eventually comes, it cannot but be more violent and more bloody, and with the ultimate result more disadvantageously in doubt than it would have been had he not averted it by sacrificing the gallant Czechs.

We are loath to believe that the British Prime Minister has conscientiously and deliberately misled the people of Czechoslovakia. If he has, then no censure of ours could be adequate to the enormity of his offence against them. It is, in all conscience, bad enough for Hitler to have made a monkey of Chamberlain, without having also made of him a villain and a cheat. What we know is that, despite the applause of the unthinking, he has come out of the sorry business with little credit. This is plain, in view of the recent disclosures over the fifth zone. The most gracious thing that he can now do is to accept a peerage as a reward for his incompetence, and from the obscurity of a backbench in the House of Lords ponder upon the verdict which posterity may deliver in regard to his stewardship.

## Compulsory Military Training

It is reported from Canberra that the Federal Cabinet is contemplating the early re-introduction of compulsory military training in Australia. In view of the recent happenings in Europe, Ministers feel that some such step as this is necessary, and that the electorate is "overwhelmingly in favour of maximum defence precautions." At least, that is the way the Melbourne *Herald* puts it.

The legal position with regard to this matter appears to be that compulsory training can be re-introduced by the issue of a proclamation, as it was only suspended in 1930, and not abolished. Therefore, if the Cabinet so decides, it will have the proclamation issued, and the gory head of militarism will again be reared in our midst.

Training insofar as it promotes health and fitness, is he commended, but need that training be "military"? That is the first question to be considered. The second is whether the Cabinet can be morally justified in deciding, on their present knowledge and means of knowledge (if any), that the several million people of Australia want the re-introduction of military training, and the basis upon which they want it re-introduced.

Eight years ago the people were desirous that it should be suspended. Upon what sources of information will the members of the Cabinet rely if they come to the conclusion, in private conclave, that the people are now anxious to reverse their 1930 decision?

We say that it will be highly improper to re-introduce compulsory training on the pre-1930 or any other basis, by simply issuing a proclamation for the purpose. The matter should be thoroughly ventilated in the House, and the feelings and will of the people be gauged in the proper

## FASTIN'

### Dubb and Son Meet the Parson

By VIVIAN PUGH, in "The New World."

*Dubb and his son, Horace, are strolling round the sideshows at the agricultural show when they meet the Rev. James Fudge.*

*Horace:* Dad, do you know what I been thinkin'?

*Dubb:* No. I didn't know yer did anything in that line; but, uv course, there's always 'ope, 'Orace. Well, wot 'ave yer been thinkin'?

*Horace:* I was thinkin' that if the fat lady, wot eats ten pounds of food a day, wos ter marry the fastin' man, wot only eats one meal in twenty days, wot would the children be?

*Dubb:* Blankly miracles, I reckon. Now, look here, 'Orace. If yer must think, then why not try something like pumpkins ter think about. Fat lady and fastin' man, me foot! Why, a man wot can live on one meal in twenty days would be a darned fool ter take on a job of feedin' a woman wot eats ten pounds a day.

*Horace:* Hi! Look. Dad! There's a lot of gents goin' in ter see the fastin' man.

*Dubb:* Yeah. I'll bet a dollar they are bankers investigatin' the possibilities of breedin' a race of fastin' people.

*Horace:* Fer-th-luv-a mike, wot for?

*Dubb:* Well, if they can't make depressions stop the people eatin' they must create a race wot will fit in better with the depressions. If Mo-amid won't go to the mountains it's the mountains' turn ter move.

*Horace:* Shucks, they can never do that. Yer see, Dad, the 'uman autonomy (that means the stomick an' other gadgets inside a bloke) is like our truck, it must 'ave a certain amount of benzine afore it will work.

*Dubb:* Wot? The stomick?  
*Horace:* No, no: the truck. Yer know that if a truck don't 'ave enough benzine it go.

*Dubb:* I know ONE flamin' truck wot won't go when its GOT enough benzine, too.

*Horace:* Yeah, I know that: but the autonomy of our truck is worn out, an' that—

*Dubb:* We wos talkin' about fastin', so leave trucks an' farmin' be fer one day.

*Horace:* Why do they call it fastin', Dad?

*Dubb:* I think it comes from a Latin word, "fast." It means the faster yer starve the sooner yer gets ter 'Eaven or 'Ell, accordin' to yer merits. Accidents is another form of fastin', only it's faster.

*Horace:* Gee, Dad! Yer must 'ave done a lot of readin' in yer time.

*Dubb:* Well, I've read everything from match-box labels to 'Ansards. an' I prefer the labels every time. Match-box labels WILL admit there's brimstone inside, but 'Ansards ain't so confidential like.

*Horace:* Hi, Dad! There's Pason Fudge comin' this way.

*Dubb:* Struth, so it is! Now, remember. 'Orace. we ain't got no small change on us.

way. We have had enough and more than enough of this practice of deciding important and even vital questions away from Parliament by Ministers who are not and cannot reasonably be alleged to be, acquainted with the views of the people at the time of the decision. It was in that manner that the Duke of Windsor was handed a pass-out check before most people properly realised what it was all about. In the same way, the Czechs were disposed of in our name, and we were presented, just as they, with a *fait accompli* in the best Hitlerian style.

It is time that this practice was stopped, and those responsible for its adoption reprimanded for the assumption of an authority which it has never been intended that they should wield.

*Horace:* O.K.. Dad!

*Fudge:* Well, bless my soul, if it isn't Mr. Dubb and Horace! How do you do?

*Dubb:* G'day, Mr. Fudge!

*Horace:* 'Ave yer seen the tattooed lady, Mr. Fudge?

*Dubb:* 'Orace! If Mr. Fudge wants ter look at pictures, 'e don't go the way of the flesh ter see 'em.

*Horace:* Well, wot's the difference between 'er and' the fastin' man? They . . .

*Dubb:* Mr. Fudge, me an' 'Orace 'ave been 'avin' a discourse on fastin'.

*Fudge:* How interesting.

*Horace:* Yeah. Don't that fastin' man look thin?

*Fudge:* Yes, poor fellow. It's wonderful how some people earn a living.

*Horace:* Ain't it? The longer 'e works the less 'e eats, an' the longer 'e eats the less 'e works.

*Fudge:* Isn't it a wonderful show, Mr. Dubb?

*Dubb:* Yeah. It's wonderful in lots of ways. There's a lot of fastin' people payin' ter see one fastin' man. If we ain't all crazy, then I'm born a 'undred years afore me time.

*Fudge:* I don't quite follow you, Mr. Dubb.

*Dubb:* Look at Mrs. Jackson with her five kids over there. Just look at their pinched faces. Just you look at them thin legs, and the worried look on their faces. Children wot ought ter be rompin' an' laughin', lookin' more like old-age pensioners. I don't want ter pay ter see a fastin' man when I can see a lot of fastin' children fer nothin' and grown-ups, fer that matter.

*Fudge:* But the Jackson children were always thin, more or less.

*Dubb:* Yeah. 'Cos their father wos always out of work, more or less.

*Fudge:* I must ask my ladies' committee to call on them and take along a few provisions.

*Dubb:* That's all very fine in its way, but wot's the use of puttin' a poultice on a cancer when its needs a knife ter cut it out?

*Fudge:* Unfortunately, I haven't the power to use the knife, but I can, at least, ease the pain.

*Dubb:* Yeah, and keep the cancer in existence. Did it ever strike yer, Mr. Fudge, that somebody's gotta tackle the cause of this 'ere poverty?

*Fudge:* Yes, of course; but my mission in life is to work for a change of heart. If we could only change these poor people's hearts, what a better world it would be!

*Dubb:* It's surprising what a lot of responsibilities are dumped behind this "change-of-heart" business. Fer two thousand years we been tryin' ter change people's 'earts, but we still got starvation an' bloodshed. Why? 'Cos we been tryin' ter change the 'earts of the wrong people. We been tryin' ter change the 'earts of the people wot are sufferin' the poverty an' bloodshed, instead of the 'earts of the people who is causin' the sufferin'.

*Fudge:* While I am prepared to admit that, what can we do about it?

*Dubb:* Start preachin' at the financiers who are preventin' Gawd's bounteous provisions from reachin' people. Start raisin' yer voice against them financial gamblers, an' urge the people ter do the same.

*Fudge:* You don't understand my position. Mr. Dubb. My mission is not to preach AGAINST anyone, but to teach them brotherly love. I should not hate, revile, or urge force against any man, however much he might have sinned.

*Dubb:* Ah, well, I might be wrong. P'raps Jesus wos wrong, too, when 'E took up a whip an' slashed the money changers out of the temple. P'raps 'E wos wrong when 'E abused the Pharisees for robbin' the poor widows of their 'ouses. P'raps that was why they drove 'Im out of the church which 'E never entered again. I'm beginnin'

ter think that me an' Jesus is purty bad sinners, according to yer religion, an' yer can thank Gawd, Mr. Fudge, that you ain't as I am.

*Fudge:* Dear me, if I didn't know that you were of sober habits, Mr. Dubb, I—er—I—er—

*Dubb:* Go on, say it! You'd think I was drunk. That's just wot the rich men said ter Jesus when 'E broke the laws of the church ter 'elp the poor. They said 'E wos drunk, an' they murdered 'Im in the end, but YOU needn't worry, Mr. Fudge, the rich men won't murder you, nor drive yer out of the church, as long as yer keen on tryin' ter change the 'earts of the poor people, an' not call the *financiers* bad names, as Jesus did. 'Ipocrites an' generation of vipers 'E called 'em, an' other things, too. No, no! Leave the strong language to Jesus an' me, an' you will be let live in comfort.

*Fudge:* Now, just a minute, Mr. Dubb. My lengthy studies of the Scriptures lead me to—

*Dubb:* Pardon me, but I ain't interested in YOUR studies of the Scriptures. I do me own studyin', an' thinkin', too. My point is that Gawd 'ave provided enough fer every man, woman, an' child wot is, or ever will be, born inter this world, but there are millions of 'em 'ungry, an' you know why, but you are too respectable ter tackle the usury mongers an' whip 'em out.

*Horace:* Dad, I think we better get back ter the subject of fastin'. Yer look like gettin' 'ot under the collar.

*Fudge:* Well, I've enjoyed a very pleasant conversation, Mr. Dubb, but I really must move around a bit and speak to other friends. I would also like to see a little more of the show.

*Dubb:* Yeah. Yer better take a look at the tattooed lady, the mid-gets, the man born without arms or legs, the 'alf-naked girls wrestlin' with men. See the stunted, distorted, an' 'idiotic freaks on show fer a livin'. All of it the product of the present Gawdless financial system. Then go ter the other side of the show grounds an' see the abundant display of produce, idle men, an' machinery wot can produce more. You 'ave it all in this show, Mr. Fudge. On the one side, 'uman destitution an' degradation, poverty an' 'unger. On the other side, an abundance an' the means of producin' more untold wealth. Then go into a church an' apologise ter Gawd for failin' ter raise yer voice against it. Then preach against the blasphemy of the financiers in throwin' Gawd's plenteous gifts back in 'Is face.

*Horace:* Heck, Dad! You ain't 'alf gettin' wild.

*Dubb:* Who, me? Wild, me foot! I'm as cool as a flamin' cucumber.

*Horace:* Yeah. A roasted one.

*Dubb:* Well, if there's anything I dislike it's weakness, especially in the knees. An' I object ter Christianity bein' slandered from the pulpit or anywhere else.

*Horace:* Yeah, but 'old yer blanky horses! Mr. Fudge ain't ter blame fer all the poverty. Anybody would think 'e wos a blinkin' banker by the way you are rousin' on 'im. 'E ain't no more glad ter see the people sufferin' than you are.

*Dubb:* What do yer mean by that, 'Orace?

*Fudge:* It's quite all right, Horace. Your Dad is not so far off the mark. Human destitution and depravity on the one side of the show, and God's gifts in abundance—untouchable—on the other. I think I'll change my mind and go home. I have an idea that I can prepare a different kind of sermon for next Sunday. Good-bye, both, and thanks for the sermon.

*Dubb:* Good-bye, Mr. Fudge! Do yer know, 'Orace, I think that man is goin' ter be very unpopular with the bankers afore long.

*Horace:* Cripes, you ain't 'alf a bloomin' talker, you ain't!

*Dubb:* Who is?

*Horace:* You ain't.

*Dubb:* Ain't wot?

*Horace:* Oh, never mind. Come on. Let's go an' get something ter eat. I ain't got the 'eart ter look at any of them side shows now.

*Dubb:* Well, 'Orace, I'm glad that  
(Continued bottom of next column.)

## BOOKS

By W. BROWNLEY.

"The Republic of Plato" (Dent's "Everyman," 3/3).

Messrs. Dent & Sons Ltd. are to be congratulated upon presenting a new translation and an excellent introduction to "Plato's Republic," by Prof. Lindsay. And readers should avail themselves of this translation, not because of any stupid reverence for antiquity or the classics, but because this book, more than any other, indicates how ancient and reactionary are many social theories held by many to be most modern.

### Only Two Social Theories

It also brings into relief the fact that throughout history there have been only two social theories—the theories of authority and of freedom. Because of inability to understand the meaning of freedom, most persons who champion individual freedom can never free their minds from the belief that it is possible only at the price of social regimentation.

Freedom is imagined under a variety of manifestations — national freedom, social freedom, artistic freedom, religious freedom, political freedom, economic freedom, personal freedom, and so on. And it is imagined that, in order to secure and retain one kind of freedom—say, national freedom—it is necessary to forego other kinds—say, political, personal and religious freedoms. Few persons believe that it is possible to secure all kinds of liberty at the same time. In order to obtain national freedom, the huge proportion of Germans, Italians, Turks, Russians and many others have been prepared to part with all semblance of political liberty. Nearer home, we have been prepared to sacrifice political and personal liberty in a vain attempt to secure economic security and freedom. We have regimented and regulated one section of the community after another in an abortive attempt to free other sections of the

community, only to end by giving liberty to none and bringing ourselves nearer and nearer to the Authoritarian or Servile State.

### Moving in Circles

We have prided ourselves that we were progressing when we were only going round in circles. What are Socialist, Communist and Fascist ideals, but a state of society in which every person and section sacrifices his or her interests in the alleged interest of his or her neighbour? The beneficiary or beneficiaries are always abstractions. No individual person benefits from this equality of sacrifice. No heart rejoices in the use of benefits nobly forgone by others. The whole gospel of equality of sacrifice is only a system of mutual, vicarious, moral and personal cannibalism.

And that is the idea which dominates the ideology of so-called Democracies and so-called Totalitarian States alike.

And is it new? Does it offer any chance of an escape from bondage? Let us see. The idea of a kind of social organisation, in which every person has his place and duties, is not new, either as an idea or a reality. Evidence suggests that ancient Egypt was of this order, but whether this was really so cannot, probably, be finally settled. But that it was so in Peru admits of no doubt, and many Socialists consider Peru as an ideal worth striving for. Readers who are not conversant with the state of affairs in Peru before the advent of the Spaniards are referred to W. H. Prescott's delightful study, "The History of the Conquest of Peru." And if readers don't see the outlines of Peru and Egypt peeping through the social structures of the modern world, I shall be surprised.

### New Light?

But, the reader will ask, what's this to do with Plato? Well, everything. In his "Republic," Plato depicted as a desirable state of society just such a social structure as is depicted by Prescott and is lauded by most reformers and Utopians. His "Republic" is not original in its social lay out. Many of his seemingly original institutions were realities in Egypt, Sparta and Crete. Readers of Plutarch's "Life of Lycurgus," soon realise how little claim to originality there is in so much that seems unique. But that is no charge against Plato. I bring it forward only as a charge against ourselves. Either ancient Egypt, pre-Columbian Peru and Plato are thoroughly up to date or we are—I was going to say antiquated—but an idea to be true need not have been first enunciated in the twentieth century. How many scientific ideas which have proved so fertile in the last couple of hundred years—such as the atomic theory—were first rudimentarily enunciated in ancient Greece! A social theory is not modern because it was enunciated in our generation, or antiquated because it began its peregrinations in ancient Greece or Egypt. An idea is right only if it is true and progressive, only if it throws new light on a fundamental truth.

Now the question is, did Plato throw any new light on fundamental truth, or did he only ornament an ancient error with the brilliance of his intellect?

### Plato and His Generation

In order to answer that question it is necessary to know something about the man and his generation. Born 427 B.C., he entered life a year or so after the death of Pericles. As he waxed, the glory of Athens waned. The overthrow of Persia had killed what slight hope there ever may have been of a united Greece. From the day of his birth till his twenty-fifth year the country was torn asunder by the Peloponnesian War, in which Athens eventually went down. As the war progressed, moral rectitude succumbed to opportunism. In a fight for life, everything which hindered victory was thrown aside. Pericles was dead. Socrates had been executed. Euripides had been banished. Every voice which had been raised for honesty and fair dealings had been stilled by the mob, whose one god was brute force. And not only was brute force elevated into a military necessity, it was given philosophic sanction. Bernhardt and the German militarists, who perverted the theory of evolution for their own ends, had their counterparts in Greece, who perverted the theory of Natural Law in the interests of brutality and barbarity.

Life literally rocked on its base. Is it any wonder that the young Plato sought solid ground on which to rest his feet and solid truth in which to rest his mind? So this was the end of scientific speculation? This was the triumph of democracy? No wonder his master—Socrates—had thrown aside all scientific speculations on the nature of matter and the world, and had devoted himself to the question of social life. Of what use was poetry? Was Greece any better because Aeschylus and others had invented the drama? Did it matter whether air, fire or water were the fundamental elements? Not a bit. But it did matter whether right prevailed and justice ruled. So he cut with poetry and donned the mantle of the philosopher.

### Seeking Stability

Space forbids a recounting of his journeyings, his marvellous escape from slavery, and his long life of teaching in Athens. The important fact of his life is that he imagined that he had found in the study of mathematics, which he learned from the Pythagoreans, an abiding certainty in life's increasing change and turmoil. The truths of arithmetic held true whether tyrants ruled or nations raged. Was there an inner truth of life which remained unaffected by the endless tumult of existence? His teacher, Socrates, had shown him the abiding worth of justice. His problem was now how to make justice the fixed point of social gravity that the rules of mathematics were in figures. And that is the problem of the "Republic." What are the truths of social organisation which remain true under any form of society?

Don't think I am going to tell you all about the "Republic." You must read it for yourself. All I am going to do is give you a yardstick by which to judge the work.

### Inducement or Compulsion?

Plato saw that society could be successful only if there were co-operative effort, but he never saw how co-operation could be induced without compulsion. His ideal was static. Everyone in his place and everyone kept there—by "necessary lies" or compulsion, as the case demanded. Education was

to be uniform and restricted to certain subjects. The individual was not to unfold himself for his own development, but was to be permitted to expand only to an allotted degree, within an appointed mould. So far and no further. Not democracy, but the rule of Philosopher Kings was to be the political organisation. The plan and purpose of his society was not to produce a social organisation in which the individual would be free from the coercion of others or unable himself to coerce others, but one in which everyone would be coerced in what would be called "the common good." He wrongly assumed that society was an organism, and that centralisation of power was a natural condition. As a consequence, everything was subordinated to the interests of organisation.

Just as a goodly quantity of "necessary lies" were essential to the "Republic," so an amount of deliberate distortion of the ideas of those with whom he differed was essential to his teaching. Had Plato taken as much trouble to understand the teachings of the Sophists as he expended on demolishing those who had misconstrued them, he might have given the world something fundamentally true. The Sophists were better employed pointing out that society should be based on a joint stock basis than was Plato building his gaol.

They were right in stressing decentralisation, while he was wrong in stressing centralisation. But let us not blame him. Rather let us blame ourselves that we are still taken in by the same faulty assump-

tions, and that, despite the repeated failure of a centralised form of society, we are more bent than ever on building up a society even more centralised than that envisaged in the "Republic."

### Tyranny of Utopia

The simple test of the naturalness of a social organisation is whether you, as a person, would care to live in it. If you, as an ordinary person, would not, then it is an unnatural one (against human nature). And no matter how stimulating the "Republic" may mentally be, no matter how interesting it may seem, I am quite sure that the ordinary reader would very soon find it nothing less than a gaol, did he have to live therein.

One thing above all others that Plato's "Republic" should teach us is that we don't want Utopias. Everything may be neat and in order in them, they may or may not be peaceful, and the food may or may not be good. But they are not the natural form of society for natural people.

Instead of being cramped within any restrictive "Republic" or Utopia, we need a free society, which will allow us to freely develop our full capacities in such a way that our so doing won't prevent other persons freely developing theirs.

C. H. Douglas offers Social Credit as an escape from Utopia. If you would understand just what this means, read the "Republic."

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

## ON THE EVE OF BATTLE

(Continued from page 3.)

have shown their alleged fighting tradition by doing nothing—and they will apparently do nothing until another crisis raises them out of their apathy. That crisis is right here now. Our overseas markets have collapsed, and it will, no doubt, come as a very nasty shock to read that our wool cheque for the first quarter of 1938 was £2,000,000 less than for the same period last year. And the only thing that can force the price of wheat up a few pence per bushel is the threat of drought. How the bankers must be hoping that the drought will continue! Internationally, the position from now on is going to stagger from crisis to crisis—while nationally we can either make up our minds to do something right now—or lose the opportunity of ever doing anything at all. The period mentioned earlier in this article has arrived. The breathing space achieved at the present time, however, is like sitting on top of a volcano—the same disruptive forces are bubbling underneath, and at any moment may blow the lid off the whole structure.

### "Those Who Know What to Do"

That means YOU. The stark reality of the position is that we know there is nothing—absolutely nothing—which stands between humanity and certain disaster except a drastic alteration of the present swindling, privately controlled money system. This, therefore, pins responsibility upon

those who know—and no argument advanced can relieve those persons who understand from playing an active part in this crucial fight. Some people appear to think that the change will come by merely talking about it. It can only be done by action. The present time is not one for armchair reformers—we are long past that stage—it is one in which we must pursue more vigorous tactics, tactics which call for courage and a full responsibility to the fight we are engaged in. Those in the front line of this fight need your active co-operation—not mere lip service. Do something—and do it now. The *New Times* is your spearhead in the fight. *Are you pushing it?* Are you pulling your weight financially, or do you plead that you cannot afford it. Well, perhaps you are not very interested in saving humanity, but, remember, the fight is now reaching the life and death stage, with death well to the front. Time is the essential factor, and it is fast running out. This is not a parlour hobby that we are engaged in, as some people seem to think, something to be toyed around with when you feel like it. It is war—a ruthless uncompromising war against a pitiless torturing system which will beat you unless you beat it. Nothing can alter that fact. This being the case, let us drop the cloak of hypocritical respectability with which we have clothed ourselves far too long, and fight to win—as we *must* win.

somebody's gettin' a change of 'eart, anyway.

*Horace:* Ain't it funny, Dad, Mr. Fudge didn't sting us fer a donation.

*Dubb:* Yeah. I reckon 'e ain't so interested in the financial side of religion as 'e used ter be. Now, let's see. We was talkin' about fastin'...

*Horace:* We wos, but we ain't now. The subject now is eatin'.

*Dubb:* Yeah. That's wot the fastin' man will be discussin' as soon as the crowd is gone.

*Horace:* Do yer think so?

*Dubb:* Course I do. It's only a fake. Why, that bloke couldn't live fer twenty days on one meal. If 'e could, 'e'd make a bloomin' dairy farmer.

*Horace:* Oh, heck! Look, Dad, there's Mum goin' in ter see the fastin' man.

*Dubb:* Yeah. It's Mum all right. 'Orace, if she gets any ideas from that fastin' man, the future prospects of our autonomys ain't goin' be too bright.

*Horace:* You've said it. We'd be like the prodigal son—we'd be eatin' 'usks of the swine.

*Dubb:* I don't like your idea of the Scriptures any more than Mr. Fudge's. They both seem underdone ter me.

*Horace:* Wot I say. Dad, is this: It don't matter whether you are a Methodist, Catholic, or a crooner, religion is wot good you'll do for others when they do you.

*Dubb:* Now, don't start bein' a fool again 'Orace. Croonin' ain't a religion it's a complaint—the sort of thing wot goes in one ear an' breaks out all over yer.

*Horace:* 'Ere's a match, if that's wot you're lookin' for.

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## NATIONAL INSURANCE IS A MENACE

(2)

### The Act Should Be Repealed

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H. BROWN.

Sir,—Last week it was pointed out that this National Insurance business is entirely a matter of finance, and NOT a matter of insuring that we shall have an adequacy of the necessities of life when we get older, or proper care and attention when we get sick. No effort is being made to store up food against a possible (?) famine or other emergency, or even to see that there will be a sufficiency of doctors and nurses—to say nothing of hospitals and drugs—to meet the needs of the sick in the years to come. All the efforts are designed to force the lower-paid workers and the undernourished sections to go without money they should be using to-day so that they may be assured of a little to spend at some other time. It is a MONEY measure pure and simple, and NOT a Health or Pension measure.

#### The Familiar Mark

Before considering the effects of this NIP Act ("nip" in the true sense of the word, too!), it may be interesting to call to mind some of its antecedent circumstances. When it was first seriously mooted we were told how it had been adopted in several other countries, particularly in England, and that this in itself was striking evidence of its popularity and benefit to the people. And how innocently some of us swallowed it! Some of those who are now going round the country lecturing on the provisions of the Act still swallow the idea that, because they have it in England, it must be good for Australia. On the same principle, depressions must be good for us because they are made to apply to other countries also. Thoughtful people are not so easily misled these days, and, in view of the world-wide basis on which the banking system is organised, this very circumstance is an occasion for suspicion. Students of the financial octopus know that it is part of the plan of its controllers to get people thinking of other parts of the world instead of their own, and that insurance is part of the deflationary mechanism of the world-wide banking system by which it can recall and more easily control the uses to which incomes shall be put. It is only natural, therefore, that as International Finance proceeds to establish its central banks in one country after another it should also seek to install the deflationary mechanism of National Insurance. This helps it to keep the masses from getting their proper share of what they produce, because under such schemes the workers must regularly forego part of their wages without being consulted regarding the uses to which such funds shall be devoted. That is a matter for the banks to arrange, as we shall see and is a further means of keeping the nation chained to the existing fraudulent money system.

#### Can More Be Bought With Less?

Now it stands to reason that people cannot buy more goods if we give them less money. Indeed, unless there is a corresponding reduction in prices, they cannot buy AS MANY goods. In the case under consideration, however, the sellers will be forced to RAISE the prices, because otherwise they would have higher expenditure on a smaller turnover. Consider the position for yourself. The workers will receive less in their pay envelopes, and will thus have LESS to spend on goods. The amount deducted will be forwarded to the insurance office and so the employer will have to enter it in his books as having been paid to the worker. There will, therefore, be no reduction in costs of running the business, and it will be impossible for him to REDUCE prices. That would be bad enough for the worker if it

could be left at that. But the employer has also to make a payment to the insurance office on his own account for every employee, and this extra payment must be entered in his books as additional costs, which means that he must INCREASE his prices, or, in the case of farmers, go closer to bankruptcy. Even that is not all. On top of reduced incomes for workers and greater costs for producers, the Government will make a substantial payment from taxation receipts, which means still further costs on industry and still further depletion of the people's buying power. It is, therefore, obvious that instead of falling, prices must rise. In simple words, it means that what is now priced at £4 will be increased to £4/3/-, but instead of having £4 to spend the worker will have only £3/18/6!

#### Tariff Board Wakes Up

Even the Tariff Board has woken up to this, and its latest report, which is featured to-day (Saturday, October 8) in the *Adelaide Advertiser*, calls pointed attention to it. Several extracts are given, with these striking headlines: "RISING COSTS OF PRODUCTION. EFFECT OF NATIONAL INSURANCE. TARIFF BOARD WARNING." I quote one paragraph as follows: "The report, which was submitted to the Federal Parliament in Canberra yesterday, states that it is feared that, in addition to the conditions which have already contributed to the rise in production costs, the inauguration of the National Insurance scheme next year will further aggravate the position." The Board also refers to the "bitter experience" of the past, in which improvement in conditions so far as the community is concerned, through increases in the selling prices of commodities. This bitter experience is inevitable under the silly system of finance to which we so foolishly stick, and "insurance" is a silly part of that silly system.

#### Sir Earle Page's Part

This warning from the Tariff Board brings to mind what Dr. Earle Page (as he then was) had said at the Sydney Show in 1935. He was acting as Prime Minister at the time and it is a strange coincidence that he is acting in the same capacity again now. No man in Australia has been a more faithful tool of the Credit Monopoly, and it was no surprise to see his name figuring in the "Honours" List. So far as the banks are concerned, he earned the honour, but in all the years he has been identified with the Federal Parliament in an influential capacity, he has accomplished absolutely nothing of real benefit to the people in general or to the farmers in particular.

#### Destruction of Commonwealth Bank

He was a member of the Bruce-Page Administration of 1924-1927, which, at the bidding of the private banks, deliberately destroyed an institution which had stood between Australia and ruin during the war, and would have performed a like service in times of peace. That institution was the Commonwealth Bank, and every citizen should read the pamphlet on the subject by Mr. D. J. Amos, F.A.I.S., of Adelaide. In this pamphlet it is clearly shown that the private banks at present control both the Commonwealth Bank and the Commonwealth Savings Bank by means of the directorates appointed by them, and can use both their funds and their credit for the benefit of themselves. They see to it that the funds and the credit of these institutions are never used for any purposes which may interfere with the profits or the policy of the private banks, and that their policy, whatever it may

be, becomes the policy of the Government of the Commonwealth. National Insurance will NOT interfere with their profits or policy, and Sir Earle Page is an ideal man for them to have as a member of the Government to help their interests along.

#### Positive Speech But Negative Action

On the occasion referred to, he said this: "The way out of the depression is to be found in positive action only—that is, by an expansion of the demand rather than by further restriction of the supply." When I read that I had hopes that at long last he had seen the light and was about to do something sensible, but he failed us then, as he had always failed us before. After stating such an obvious truth that when we have millions undernourished it is far more important to expand the demand than to restrict the supply, he proceeded immediately to advocate restriction through rationalising production and marketing and establishing National Insurance, as had been done in England.

#### Contrary to Reason

It is difficult to believe that a medical man who is often called upon to examine other people could himself act so contrary to reason as to admit that restriction of output removed the plenty instead of the poverty and then proceed to recommend the very thing that would deny the people sufficient buying power and inevitably bring about a fall in the demand. And he did that despite the fact that that was the very policy foisted on the people of the United Kingdom by the Bank of England (a private institution controlled by aliens) with disastrous results. Commenting on that particular speech by Dr. Page, the *New Economics* wrote as follows:

"Has Dr. Page never considered industry as a distributor of income, in fact the sole distributor of income, to the community? Has he never thought of industry also as a manufactory of costs which must be charged into price, and that, insofar as rationalisation is effective in reducing costs it does so by reducing the amount of income distributed by industry to the community? It must surely be clear to even the meanest intelligence that the only true solution of our problems can come from a dispassionate and thorough appreciation of the relation of cost-creation and income-distribution under the present system of industrial and financial organisation. Rationalisation must lead to a diminution of income, and, consequently, to further restriction of production, unless, of course, a large part of that production is to be exported in return for nothing. This avenue of escape, which was open to the larger countries in the nineteenth century, has now and forever been closed, as every nation is endeavouring to export more than it imports, and so far export to other planets has proved impracticable.

#### Never Discuss the Cause

"Dr. Page has also committed the blunder of alleging that no profit can arise from discussing the CAUSES of the continuance of the depression, because 'Australia, acting alone, can play but little part in their correction.' To his mind, the problem is one big world problem, and in all likelihood if we could but export to the moon we would shortly hear him braving of a 'one big two-world problem.' to be solved only by combined action of the two planets in solemn conclave.

"Politicians in every country of the world are excusing lack of thought and action in precisely the same words. Monetary systems, nevertheless, are purely domestic matters, and if each economic unit will but put its own house in order the whole muddle will be cleared up. It is utter nonsense to say that Australia can do nothing to cure her domestic deficiency of purchasing power, or to take steps to bridge the gap between income and prices which exists in Australia. Is she would only do so, she could snap her fingers at the rest of the world."

#### Negotiations with the Moon?

Students of the realities of the situation will agree with that comment. There you have a good example of the bankers' game of keeping the eyes of the people on the distant horizon, instead of on the conditions round about them. Sir Earle has just returned from yet another trip abroad looking for markets which do not exist on this earth. His public statements on the subject so far have made no reference to negotiations with the Moon, but it can be assumed on the best authority that these are in such a delicate position that a premature announcement might cause serious unfavourable repercussions. He is anxious to succeed with the Moon, because the other planets are so much further away, and transport difficulties might arise. Moon money will do if only he can get at it.

#### Not a Matter of Snapping Fingers

If Australia did adjust the purchasing power deficiency within her own borders, it would not be a matter of snapping her fingers at the rest of the world, but would be a matter of informing the others how she did it, for they would then all wish to do the same. An expansion of the demand will take place ONLY when money is made available to the people with which to buy, AND NOT BEFORE! It doesn't matter whether the people are in America, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, or anywhere else. They cannot buy unless they have money, and any scheme, whether we call it insurance or some other fancy name, which takes away part of the people's incomes must inevitably lead to a contraction of the demand. That comes about because the schemes are only concerned with juggling an inadequate supply of money, and with diverting wages from their proper function of liquidating industrial costs through the cancellation of prices. And prices can only be properly cancelled when the goods have been SOLD.

#### Can't or Won't

All this seems so obvious as not to need any emphasis, and yet the men in high places either can't or won't recognise it. It is only when incomes are being augmented by heavy programmes of Government works that we can have even the semblance of satisfactory business activity and expanding demand. When Governments ceased going further into debt for this purpose between 1929 and 1931 we had the greatest distress in our history, and the slight improvement in trading conditions since 1932 is due absolutely to the fact that the Governments resumed going into debt to the banks and have continued to go further into debt regularly each year since. Notwithstanding this inescapable fact, of which Dr. Page and all the other "leaders" must be fully aware, the Federal Government, instead of exercising its clear powers under the Constitution and inaugurating a system of national finance which would ensure the regular distribution of ample purchasing power without increasing the public debt or adding to the burden of interest, is lending itself to schemes which can only make the general position worse by further limiting the quantity of buying power distributed, by increasing the national debt and its interest burden, by imposing higher and higher taxation, and by regimenting us to a lower and lower standard of living.

#### Enter Mr. R. G. Casey

Almost immediately after Dr. Page had played his marionette part for High Finance, whose policy is scarcity for the people, Mr. R. G. Casey, then Acting Federal Treasurer, spoke to the ladies of the Australian Women's National League. To be exact, it was on April 26, 1935, and he took the occasion to make a confession and utter a warning as follows:

"The way the pensions bill is increasing is giving me a great deal of anxiety. If it goes on as it is now it will mean extra taxation."

So it was the pensions "bill" that troubled him, not the health of the people or the fact that, without the slightest difficulty, we can produce all that our aged folk can eat and wear. We have to "pay" for it. Pay what and pay whom? The questions which naturally arise are these: From whom does the bill come? Why should the payment of pensions require taxation? And how will the National Insurance scheme alter that situation? That aspect and Mr. Casey's attitude must be left for consideration next week.

—Yours faithfully,  
BRUCE H. BROWN.

#### HAVE YOU SENT THIS LETTER TO YOUR FEDERAL MEMBER?

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 wished 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.  
KOOYONG . . . . . Menzies, R. G.  
MARIBYRNONG . . . . . Drakeford, A.  
S. MELBOURNE . . . . . Maloney, Dr. W. R.  
MELB. PORTS . . . . . Holloway, E. J.  
WANNON . . . . . Scholfield, T. H.  
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## IS MODERN MAN GROWING MORE INTELLIGENT?

By ROBERT LYND, in "John O' London's Weekly."

When I think of the vast amount of serious reading that is being done nowadays, I sometimes begin to feel optimistic and to believe that—in democratic countries, at least—the world is becoming more and more intelligent. Many of the books that have had the biggest circulations in recent years have been books about foreign politics; and this suggests that the ordinary Englishman is taking a profounder interest in serious matters than he ever did before. I am sure that the ordinary Englishman to-day is immeasurably more curious about Europe than his grandfather was. This may be explained by the fact that his grandfather was separated from Europe by an impassable stretch of salt water, whereas he has been brought dangerously close to Europe by the invention of the aeroplane. What happened in Prague was a matter of only academic interest to the Victorian; what happens in Prague may be a matter of vital—and, indeed, of mortal—interest to the Englishman of to-day. This is true; but, even so, the Englishman ought to be becoming more intelligent as a result of this widening of his interests.

### Wisdom on the Air

Wireless, too, one would think, must have done something to increase the level of intelligence. A great part of the programmes of the B.B.C. is devoted to entertainment—some of it entertainment that excruciates those who are not entertained by it—but, mingled with the frivolity and the dancebands, there are features that spread light into every cottage and tenement that can afford the annual 10/- licence. The cottager in the most remote countryside has been converted by wireless into the neighbour and auditor of the leading men of the day on the leading subjects of the day. He has heard talk such as his fathers never heard on politics, economics, science, and literature. I do not know what proportion of Englishmen listen to the talks on the wireless, but, even if only a minority do so, it must be a fairly large one—large enough to give grounds for the belief that an interest in serious things is increasing.

Many people contend that the world is becoming more frivolous; but perhaps they are misled by the fact that more people to-day than ever before can afford the means of frivolous enjoyment. The cinema, for example, has brought brainless amusement within reach even of people on the dole. Whether the people who go to the cinema would have had more intellectual interests if the cinema had never been invented, however, is doubtful. Many of them would have been merely loafing at street-corners.

### Creating a New Public

M. Georges Duhamel is terrified of the popularity of the cinema and wireless because he thinks they are weaning the modern man from the habit of serious reading. I think it is equally possible that they are creating a new public, still primitive in its tastes, for the arts. These cinema-goers and dance-band enthusiasts are not the decadent grandchildren of highly intelligent grandparents. They are merely a generation who has found a means of pleasure of which their grandparents did not even dream. Apart from this, the love of frivolous entertainment is not a mark of unintelligence. Some of the most intelligent men alive are devotees of the detective story and the crossword puzzle. It is only the complete absorption in frivolity that destroys the mind; and, when this occurs, there is, as a rule, no mind to destroy.

Some people point to the popular newspaper as evidence of the decline of general intelligence. These people are

usually dreamers who imagine that the old-fashioned newspaper was an organ of episcopal dignity, written in beautiful prose, and concerned only with giving its readers a truthful account of the most important happenings of the day, and an inspired commentary on them. I do not wish to deny the virtues of some of the old newspapers; but there were others that were blackguardly, untruthful, and in the main dull. Some of them filled their pages with long reports of unreadable speeches and ill-written descriptions of flower shows. Some of them were utterly unscrupulous in suppressing an opponent's case or even his correction of a mis-statement.

### A Platform for Genius

The new newspaper was brought into existence to appeal to a new public whom the old newspaper would have bored. Its faults have been conspicuous, but it must be counted to it for virtue, I think, that it has provided a platform from which men of genius, like Mr. Bernard Shaw, Mr. H. G. Wells, and Arnold Bennett, could address the general public, such as did not exist in the days of the Victorian newspaper. Like wireless, the popular newspaper is a mixture of frivolity and seriousness; and, though it may be less dignified in appearance, and may dabble in such nonsense as astrology, I think that it may be even less the enemy of intelligence than its Victorian predecessor.

There is no need, then, to be pessimistic about the modern development of the newspaper any more than about such modern inventions as wireless and the cinema. None of them, so far as can be seen, has prevented the increase of serious reading. Science has become as popular as foreign politics; and the young swallow books on economics as though they were sweetmeats. It may be thought that the Victorians were more serious because they were more orthodox in their religion; but books on religious subjects seem to have as large a circulation today as ever. If reading serious books could raise the general level of intelligence, the present ought to be one of the most intelligent generations in the history of the world.

### Do Books Sharpen Wits?

There are sceptics, however, who doubt whether human beings grow much more intelligent through reading. I have heard it seriously argued that some of the illiterate Irish peasants of the last century were more intelligent than many an educated townsman. They had long memories and a fund of tradition that supplied the place of literature, and their illiteracy certainly did not result in any lack of quick-wittedness. At the same time, it is obvious that the man who can read has sources of information, accumulations of facts, at his disposal which give him an enormous advantage over the illiterate in coming to an intelligent conclusion about a thousand things. He is a man who has come into a fortune of knowledge, and a fortune of knowledge is no more to be despised than a fortune of money.

It all depends, of course, on the use it is put to. Reading does not of itself make an unintelligent man intelligent. It is merely an aid to the intelligent to become more intelligent. There are gluttonous readers who seem to get little from books except mental indigestion. Pope has written satirically of

*The bookful blockhead ignorantly read,*

*With loads of learned lumber in his head.*

And there have been bookish men who would, I fancy, have been unable to read. Reading turns some

men into pedants; it turns others into dogmatists confidently repeating opinions on great questions which they have never thought out for themselves. A book that influences the generation in which it appears may be simply a bogus Bible, making converts to false teaching. Such books appeal not to the intelligence, but to the desire for some kind of faith. A friend of mine maintains that it is because of the decline of orthodox religion that more and more people are turning to books in search of something in which to believe.

### The Search for Truth

This, however, is not necessarily a sign of unintelligence. A search for a faith may also be a search for truth; and I cannot help thinking that an earnest desire for truth is a characteristic of a growing number of modern men and women. Truth about man's place in the universe, truth about his duties to his fellows, truth about forms of government and their influence on human happiness—curiosity about all these is widespread, and, if human beings have

lost some, of their old confident beliefs, they are at least more open-minded in their approach to knowledge than they used to be.

More and more people, for example, are eager to read good books about Russian Communism, whether they praise it or condemn it. They are anxious to read the German case and the Italian case as well as the case against Fascism in Germany and Italy. They want to hear both sides about psycho-analysis, the relations of the sexes, and a score of other matters that have disturbed modern thought.

It is this open-mindedness—the open-mindedness, not of indifferent people, but of exceptionally serious people—which is, to my mind, the surest sign of the growth of intelligence. The world is as yet a long way from being intelligent, but it seems to me that in the democratic countries there are a greater number of intelligent men and women than there were a generation or two generations ago, and that because of them we can afford an occasional indulgence in optimism about the future of civilisation.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A READER'S IMPRESSIONS OF NEW ZEALAND

Sir,—Having spent six weeks observing conditions, talking to people, and listening to politicians, it occurred to me that the readers of the *New Times* would be interested to hear an Australian's impressions of New Zealand.

The unemployment problem seems to be solved; there is a big demand for tradesmen, especially carpenters, and many employers are offering above the award rates of pay.

The cost of living is about the same as in Australia, and railway fares are much cheaper.

The people generally are alive to the political question, and politics is the general topic of conversation amongst the ordinary people—just as horses, football, and cricket are subjects which appeal most to the ordinary Australian.

Just now, the election campaign is in full swing.

Broadcasting of election speeches is carried on every night, and every election meeting is packed to overflowing. They are like the picture shows in Melbourne on Saturday night, if you don't get there before 7.30 you don't get in.

Mr. Savage has addressed audiences of 8000 on two occasions so far, and he gets a very attentive and enthusiastic hearing.

It would do a social creditor's heart good to listen to some of the speeches of the Labor candidates. It is a common thing to hear them give expression to statements such as the following:—

"Money should be the servant, and not the master, of man"; "consumer credits are just as important as producer credits"; "consumption is the end of production"; and, "while we have the materials and labour available, no works will be held up for want of money."

I have had the pleasure of meeting and having a long discussion with the Rev. A. John Greenwood, who is a great social creditor and prominent reformer.

Mr. Greenwood, who broadcasts every Sunday night along social credit lines, was the leader of the clergy who took a prominent part, previous to the last elections, in rousing the people to demand a change in their economic conditions.

He knows Mr. Savage personally, and has great faith in him as a man and a leader.

Mr. Greenwood told me that he approached the Prime Minister on the question of not carrying out his promises in regard to the reform of the money system.

Mr. Savage replied that every promise that he made will be carried out, "Only give me time," he says. "It is impossible to go any faster, and to attempt to complete so radical a change in so short a time would probably lead to disaster."

Mr. Greenwood says that they have made a very good start by taking over the Reserve Bank, which is being used at the present time to finance the housing scheme by a new issue of money.

The next step after the elections will be the taking over of the Bank of New Zealand, which is the largest trading bank here. That might appear to be the mere transferring of the administration, but, after having lived in New Zealand for a time, one can see the effect of the changed policy.

The mere fact of issuing new money, to equate with the labour and materials available (although not debt free, but at a very low rate of interest), is the first step along the line of monetary reform.

Mr. Greenwood, who is very well informed, believes that the Government will be returned, although, perhaps, with a reduced majority, owing to the reactionary forces at work, and that Mr. W. Nash, Minister of Finance, who is rather orthodox, will probably be replaced by a man more progressive in his ideas on money.

There are 26 straight out monetary reformers in the Government at present, and quite a few more who are sympathetic. But, whatever the view of social creditors in Australia on the efforts of the Savage Government, it is admitted here by all reformers that New Zealand has made more progress during the last three years than in any other period in her history, and that she is leading the world in humanitarian social legislation.

With three more years of Labor Government, the people will never go back to the old regime, and even now, New Zealand is a good place to live in—although Mr. Savage says that they have only made a beginning. Yours etc.,

HUGH ROSE  
79 Parnell Road,  
Auckland, N.Z.  
(Letters to the Editor cont. on next page.)

## New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

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(Continued from page 3.)  
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## SENATOR DARCEY ENLIGHTENS THE SENATE

Extracts From His Speech on the Supply Bill, September 26, 1938

"Before I proceed to discuss the fundamentals of banking, I remind honourable Senators of the aphorism that 'Finance is government, and government is finance,' because I maintain that the present framework of finance is quite unsound and totally unfitted to the needs of modern production."

"The Australian banking system is founded on the English system. Some people, who do not understand the British banking system, are very proud of it."

"It is rather strange that this great banking institution (Bank of England) was started by a Scotchman, William Patterson, during the reign of a Dutchman, William of Orange, and that the most comprehensive work upon it was written by a Greek, Andreas Desarades, in French. Perhaps this explains, in some way, the international character of the bank to-day."

"The author of the article on banking in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Mr. Hartley Withers, has declared that the banks not only create credit, but create it out of nothing."

"It cannot be denied that the taxpayers of this country are paying millions of pounds in interest to the banks, but our Governments have never received any actual money from them. In these circumstances, it is high time to reform the banking system of the country, with the object of bringing it more into line with present-day requirements. We ought, for example, to be able to call upon the Commonwealth Government to use the national credit for national defence."

"Some time ago I listened to a lecture given by Professor Giblin on Australia's export trade, in which he said that it was the disastrous drop of prices in 1929 which ruined the primary producers of Australia. At the end of his lecture I asked him to tell the meeting what brought about the disastrous drop in prices, and he replied that it would take all night to explain that point. With the permission of the chairman, I then quoted Gustav Cassel, a world authority on economics, who said that it was the concerted action on the part of the banks in the re-

striction of credit, dictated by high finance, which brought about the disastrous drop in prices in 1929, and which ruined not only the primary producers of Australia, but also the producers of the world. That authority added that the banks, having deliberately created the depression, could lift it whenever they wished. The monopoly at present enjoyed by trading banks has been going on for 200 years, and I have no hesitation in saying that this monopoly is the cause of all economic trouble in the world to-day."

"To-day the nations are armed to the teeth, prepared to clutch at one another's throat, but, in contrast, we find that international high finance works in the greatest amity. There is no argument between Great Britain, the United States of America, and France as to how much they should lend for re-armament. It is the wrong use of money power that is responsible for the international unrest which now exists, and I believe that war would have broken out long before this had it not been for the fact that the people who made their money out of the last war fear that they will be in greater danger from air raids than were the men in the first-line trenches during 1914-18. The present armaments racket could not have started but for the credits created by the banks. Put that power into the hands of the people, who do not want war, and the peace of the world will be assured."

"When the last Commonwealth loan was over-subscribed, I asked how much had been subscribed by the banks, and the reply I received was that by arrangement with the banks that information could not be disclosed. It is bank-created money and on that we are paying interest. The world to-day is suffering from money disease, and the symptoms of that disease are continuous borrowing and high taxation, in order to pay the interest bill. Yet the Government, if it desired to do so, could issue through the Commonwealth Bank millions of pounds by way of loan, free of interest. Thousands of people have been advocating this policy for the last four or five years, and I suggest that in the interests of Australia we should adopt such a policy. We should not go abroad for our loans."

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.—(Continued)

#### LIQUOR AND POVERTY

Sir,—Mr. Hawkins' letter on *The Liquor Trade and Poverty* (*New Times*, October 7, 1938) reminds one of Mill's observation—"He who knows only his own side of the case knows little of that." Mr. Hawkins has discovered "that hotels are thickest where people are poorest," and not only does the Liquor Trade exist in the midst of poverty, but largely because of poverty."

It is hard to reconcile these very obvious facts with his conviction that "the Licensed Liquor Trade is the greatest single cause of poverty in our midst." If hotels are thickest where people are poorest, and the hotel trade is the greatest single cause of poverty it seems reasonable to suppose that well-to-do areas have been converted into slums by the hotels, or that, before the building of the numerous hotels in West Melbourne, that locality had been named Toorak.

Conversely, the opulence of modern Toorak must be due to the scarcity of licensed houses—and what a harvest of shekels awaits the Liquor Trade there, had the Liquor Barons but the shrewdness to realise the opport-

unity of abandoning the poverty-stricken areas and of shifting the hotels to richer fields!

Being a little envious of the advantages associated with living in Toorak, I hope that Mr. Hawkins' revelations and my comments will not prompt the Liquor Trade to exploit and ultimately reduce the wealthier areas to poverty.—Yours, etc.,

"TOORAKS FOR ALL."  
Hobart, Tas.

#### MEETING AT BALWYN

Sir,—I am directed by the Executive of the Kooyong Campaign for the Abolition of Poverty to advise you that a public meeting in furtherance of our campaign will be held in Balwyn Hall (in Balwyn Road, near Whitehorse Road) on Monday, October 17, at 8 p.m.

Mr. A. C. Fryer will act as chairman, and Rev. Dixon Tracey, of the Legion of Christian Youth will be the chief speaker. A great deal of effort has been put into organising this meeting, and it is expected to draw an enthusiastic crowd.—Yours etc.,

Kew, Vic.

C. ELLIS.

## ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

### VICTORIA

**NATIONAL INSURANCE.**—The Campaign for the Repeal of the Act is gaining momentum hourly. New cells of activity form each day. Parcels of letter-forms have entered Myer's and Kodak's, for example, to-day; tomorrow parcels will enter other institutions. Orders arrive for letter-forms from distant parts of the State. It's going off like a packet of crackers—jumping from one to another. Keep them jumping. The will of the people must prevail.

Mr. F. Paice, the originator of the Campaign in Victoria, has offered to address meetings, within physical limits of his health, and requests applicants for his services to give ample notice to allow him to fix dates.

**NATIONAL INSURANCE BOOKLET.**—A comprehensive booklet on the Act has been compiled by Mr. Paice, and is now available, at a charge of 2d., to cover cost of production. Apply for copies to A. G. O'Callaghan, Room 1, Beehive Buildings, 94 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, or to U.E.A. Rooms.

**ERIC BUTLER.**—Eric is indefatigable. He writes from Waragul, Gippsland, saying that things are humming in Gippsland, and that he is too busy to write a report this week, but will send in a full account for next week's *New Times*. He was anticipating a good meeting at Garfield, and had arranged to address a meeting at Bunyip on Thursday, October 20.

**FRANKSTON** is to have a public meeting this (Friday) evening, October 14. Dr. Dale will speak, and Mr. Parker, the organiser of the meeting, will explain the Campaign to the audience. Frankston is fortunate in having a real live man to work the district.

**U.E.A. YOUTH SECTION** held a meeting in the Rooms, McEwan House, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Little Collins Street, on Thursday evening, the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**U.E.A. GROUPS**, please send in reports of activities.

**GROUCH HOUR** at 3 UZ, Monday evenings, 840, should be made use of Apply to the station for permission to tell the world that your particular grouch is that poverty persists in a land of plenty, and that you want others to join you in demanding of the Government that poverty be abolished.

**LETTERS TO PAPERS** are appearing occasionally, but not quite so frequently as they were some time ago. They reach a lot of people, so keep at it. Don't be disheartened if you are knocked back. Give the editor a little "blarney"—it generally does the trick. Send in a barrage on National Insurance, and, if publication is refused, a form-letter will be circulated, along with the one for repeal, that will make editors bite the end off their pens when signed letter-forms arrive in thousands.

**"NEW TIMES" DISTRIBUTION.**—Back numbers are available for free distribution. They make a super-leaflet. Why not call into the *New Times* office and get a bundle. Put them in letter boxes, hand them out at sports grounds, or to patrons of picture-shows. That is a simple job for anyone looking for a way of doing something.

**U.E.A. FUNDS.**—How is the Movement carrying on for funds? Only a disgracefully small number of persons can answer the question. How does your conscience react to the question?

**SOCIAL EVENINGS.**—The social evening held in a private home recently in Box Hill was an outstanding success, and should be an inspiration for people in other suburbs to follow. Many attending the evening were innocent of reform ideas, but received the seed in such a manner that they were un-

aware that it had been planted. Merry and gay was the evening, but in some of the games was hidden the germ of a new thought. And a small levy resulted in providing one week's rent for Head Office.

**NEXT GET TOGETHER** meeting, Wednesday evening, October 26, 8 o'clock, in the Rooms.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**NATIONAL INSURANCE REPEAL.**—A conference of delegates from the United Democrats and other organisations was held at the former's rooms, 17 Waymouth Street, Adelaide, on Thursday, October 13, to deal with the matter of National Insurance, the latest step taken by the Federal Government towards ultimate Fascist-Dictatorship. It is expected, as a result of this conference, soon to be busy arranging meetings demanding a repeal of the Act. This effort is going to prove a drain on the movement's financial resources, but the work must go on. This is an occasion when many old friends and supporters could rally round, and thus help in the great fight for Democracy and economic freedom.

**WOMEN'S DIVISION.**—On Wednesday, October 19, the monthly luncheon will be held at 1 p.m., when the speaker will be Mr. W. Macgillivray, M.P.. Men are cordially invited.

**RALLY.**—All members and friends are urged to be present at the Campaign Rooms, 17 Waymouth Street, at 8 p.m., on Saturday, October 15 (to-morrow). The President, Mr. Finn, will be in the chair. A good, instructive evening is promised to be followed by supper and collection.

**SEMAPHORE PARK.**—A public meeting will be held in the Baptist Church, under the auspices of the Society working for a Christian Social Order. The speakers will be Rev. C. D. Brock and Mr. Bruce Brown. Tuesday, October 18, at 8 p.m.

### WEST AUSTRALIA

**M.V. KOOLINDA GROUP.** The secretary, Mr. Dave Byer reports continued enthusiastic activity by this group. At a special meeting Mr. T. Sims was appointed delegate to the Campaign convention.

Many admirers of Mr. Byers' untiring activity in the cause of social justice and economic security for all Australians have repeatedly asked him to stand for Parliament as their representative, but, because he is steadfast in his belief in the futility of party politics, he has declined the honour. On this occasion he has taken the opportunity of the offer to circulate a letter explaining just why he has refused, and thus has turned the situation to good account for the purpose of advertising the Electoral Campaign and its principles to the people in the Fremantle Electorate. It is a pity other prospective candidates were not brave or honest enough to follow his worthy example. Few these days resist on principle the opportunity to stand for Parliament.

**GERALDTON.**—Geraldton Group is still alive and active in this fight to abolish poverty. This is well indicated from the report of Mr. J. S. Rooke, Secretary of Geraldton Group. The Director of Finance thanks members of this Group for their contributions.

**A GARDEN PARTY** will be held in the first week in December in the grounds of Mr. and Mrs. Robinson's home, at 150 Suburban Road, South Perth. Saleable goods, such as fancywork, sweets, cakes, novelties, etc., will be required for this occasion. The exact date of the Garden Party will be announced in a later issue.

**LANTERN LECTURES.**—An innovation that has proved successful at Thursday evening lectures is the introduction of lantern slides, illustrating the subject under discussion. An endeavour will be made to extend the illustrated talks to the suburbs. Any interested in this matter, please let H.Q. know.

## THEIR MASTER'S VOICE

### Mr. Holloway Attacks Supply Bill

Stating that the Government was making no attempt to tackle social evils, and that private banking institutions were squeezing the people like an orange, Mr. E. J. Holloway, M.H.R., made a spirited attack on the Supply Bill in the House of Representatives.

"I had hoped that, with all the reports issued from time to time by various medical officers—notably, Dr. Dale in Melbourne, and other eminent gentlemen in other capital cities, pointing out the large percentage of children attending school poorly clad and ill-fed, the necessity for the supply of milk to children of school age and younger children; the mass groups of people occupying hovels unfit for human habitation, and the resultant menace to the health of the community—all things of which we should be ashamed—some attempt would be made in the Bill now before the House to tackle these very pressing problems," he said.

"Having regard to the continuance of these evils, I can understand why there is such an organised silence among honourable members on the other side of the House in respect of this Bill.

"The Banking and Monetary Commission, conservative as it was, reported that during the period of crisis from which the country recently emerged this Government neglected its duty by not realising further credit in order to endeavour to stabilise the situation and lift the country out of the depression, instead of pushing it further down by false economy and deflation. It said that in such a crisis unorthodox methods should be adopted. The people of this country naturally expected that heavy demands would be made upon them to meet the extraordinary expenditure associated with the new defence

plans of the Government, but there is a growing volume of public opinion against the Government's policy of raising money to meet this extraordinary defence expenditure.

"A group of very sound, scholarly, and intellectual people in this country believes that the Government should tap its own resources and utilise its own credit through the Commonwealth Bank, in association with the Commonwealth Treasury, in order to provide the credits necessary to meet this increased defence expenditure.

"Surely there is nothing radical, nothing revolutionary in that proposal, which I absolutely endorse and advocate. This Government will not do that, although some Ministers think that it should do so. I know that some members and supporters of the Government, who study monetary problems in small groups, agree with this proposal; but the policy of the Government is not determined altogether by its members.

"It is determined by those who dominate the private banking institutions of this and other countries. Those people will not depart a fraction from the orthodox methods of raising money by loan and paying interest thereon. They believe in squeezing the people just as we squeeze an orange. I am hoping for the day when they will refuse to be squeezed any longer." (Our Italics.)