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THE INDIVIDUALS THAT KEEP US POOR IN THE MIDST OF PLENTY

Vol. 4. No. 45.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1938.

Every Friday, 3d.

CABINETS WITHIN CABINETS A Step Nearer Dictatorship

A PEDAGOGUE PLUMPS FOR REGIMENTATION

Liquidating the Workingman

National Insurance Repeal Campaign Nears Success

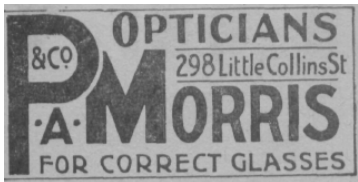
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PEDAGOGUE PLUMPS FOR REGIMENTATION

Militarism And The Old School Tie

"Our schools teach the morality of feudalism corrupted by commercialism, and hold up the military conqueror, the robber baron, and the profiteer as models of the illustrious and successful." Thus wrote Bernard Shaw in "Back to Methuselah," referring to the state of education in Great Britain.

Shaw has the happy knack of producing generalities which strike home, from time to time, with astonishing force. The statement quoted above was recalled to us on Saturday evening by a letter in the Melbourne *Herald*, printed over the name of S. R. Dickinson, Haileybury College, Brighton Beach.

Mr. Dickinson is, we fear, the principal of Haileybury College, and as such, has the duty of training the minds of a number of the future citizens of this country. If his method of training is as ill conceived as the letter referred to, then the prospect of the world being saved from itself by the beneficent effects of a liberal education, is even more remote than we had believed.

Defence the Duty of All?

The letter which Mr. Dickinson felt impelled to write has been headed "Defence of Our Land. Duty of All," and under that specious heading appears an astonishing example of how not to write letters to the papers. It is not sequential, it reeks with platitudes and prejudice, and, presumably, was printed solely because it supports the compulsory training against the voluntary system advocated by the Minister for Defence. In other words, it supports the policy of the robber barons who print the paper in which it appeared.

We care little what fanciful notions may fill the head of the writer of this letter, but we feel that we should draw attention to it, since it emanates from the head master of one of our educational institutions. It is difficult enough to educate the people in matters social and economic, without having the reactionary influence of masters upon their pupils to tend with, as well as the fact that modern education normally leaves severely alone any attempt to give students even a rudimentary knowledge of the things they must know to fit them for citizenship.

Inoffensive Generalisations

Professor J. H. Robinson, the gifted author of "The Mind in the Making," pointed out that teachers cannot be expected to explain to pupils the actual nature of business enterprise, as now practised. In his own words, "Courses in government, political economy, sociology and ethics confine themselves to inoffensive generalisations, harmless details of organisation, and the commonplaces of routine morality, for only in that way can they escape being controversial . . . Teachers are rarely able or inclined to explain our social life and its presuppositions with sufficient insight and honesty to produce any very important results. Even if they are tempted to tell the essential facts, they dare not do so for fear of losing their places, amid the applause of all the righteously minded."

What the Letter Said

Of course, there is no danger of losing their places if they are prepared to do what Bernard Shaw says, and teach the morality of

feudalism, corrupted by commercialism, and hold up the military conqueror and his commercial prototypes as persons to be imitated and approved.

Mr. Dickinson's letter began by quoting a remark by Mr. Thorby, to the effect that the voluntary system is inherent in the Australian nature, and that it should be regarded as a privilege, as well as an obligation, to belong to the militia.

Of this remark, Mr. Dickinson says "A statement as thin as this can only be regarded as the expression of a section in Parliament afraid of the reaction of the introduction of compulsory national training would cause to their election prospects."

Leaving aside the deplorable grammatical construction of the sentence with its misplaced "only" as well, the reasoning itself leaves much to be desired. We do not see how Mr. Thorby's remark can be regarded as "thin," except, perhaps because it does not find favour in Mr. Dickinson's jaundiced eyes. Furthermore, if there is any reasonable fear in Mr. Thorby's mind, or in the minds of the "section in Parliament" that reintroduction of compulsory training will not please the electors, or a sufficient body of electors, then Mr. Thorby and those who support his view are one hundred percent, justified in their adherence to the voluntary system. Surely it is the duty of a member of Parliament to carry out the will of the majority of the electors, who have placed him in Parliament to represent their interests. If not, then why go through the recurrent farce of Federal elections?

Time Honoured Tactics

Mr. Dickinson's next statement shows that he does not despise the most ancient of dialectic devices. He says, "No intelligent man believes that this just and valuable system was suspended for any other than political reasons . . . the appeasement of a certain class of elector."

These are time-honoured tactics in argument, although they should, by now, deceive no one. "All right thinking people," "No intelligent man," how often have we seen letter writers attempt to give, by the use of such prefaces, a spurious weight to their own private opinions? It is true that compulsory training, which may, or may not, have been "just and valuable," was suspended to appease a certain body of electors. These were the electors who disliked militarism, and were in the majority at the time of its suspension. This happened in 1930, when a Labour Government was in power. In the eight years that have elapsed since that date, there have been other Governments, which were not Labour Governments. If there had been any widespread desire for the reintroduction of compulsory training, there has surely been plenty of time to right what Mr. Dickinson appears to regard as a political wrong effected against the will of the majority of the electors of the Commonwealth.

Flitting from Flower to Flower

Like a butterfly, flitting joyously from flower to flower, our worthy educationalist proceeded to say, "Realisation that in modern warfare whole localities can be obliterated in a few hours caused whole populations in England recently to participate vigorously in measures of defence and security."

This is, we believe, perfectly correct, but does not seem to us to have any real bearing upon the question of whether compulsory training in Australia was rightly or wrongly suspended. It may have some slight bearing upon whether it is, or is not, advisable to adopt some universal security measures in Australia at the present time; but the training of soldiers in modern warfare is only one aspect of defensive measures. There are also the provision of protective measures of all kinds for the civil population, the building of strategic roads and railways, docks, and radio stations, the organisation of food and other supplies, the uninterrupted maintenance of essential services, the evacuation of the civil population from certain areas, the provision of decontamination services in case of gas attacks, and many other activities far removed from the squad drill and occasional musketry training given to trainees under the system of which Mr. Dickinson so deeply regrets the suspension.

Mr. Dickinson Unmasked?

After a peculiarly worded statement to the effect that "responsibility rests on every male of the population who is not a child or a senile pauper," Mr. Dickinson comes to the main point in his letter. He says, "If democracy means, in Australia, that the mass of the youth should shelter behind the few who are prepared to be shot on their behalf, *give me Fascism*, which calls all to the service of the State."

The italics are ours, for we feel that this desire on the part of a moderately prominent educationalist in Melbourne should be properly emphasised. We are quite well aware that the statement appears in a conditional sentence, but we are still amazed that Mr. Dickinson should have the effrontery to voice the sentiment at all. It will be noted that he does not use an expression such as "Fascism would be preferable," or other phrase which would not necessarily connote sympathy with Fascist ideals but instead, uses the words "give me Fascism." This suggests immediately that he is not only *not* opposed to Fascist ideals, but is even prepared to champion them to the extent of welcoming their installation in Australia in the place of the democratic ideals which are our national heritage.

This is, we submit, an attitude, which is subversive in nature, and wholly undesirable in the case of a person to whom is entrusted the initial training of future citizens of the Commonwealth. That any head master should hold those views privately is bad enough. How much worse is it, then, when he makes a public avowal; for statements of this kind may be expected to carry some weight with the ignorant, who attribute to the office of head master of a secondary school, a wisdom and an erudition which is not necessarily found in the holder for the time being of such an office.

Faulty Reasoning

The reasoning in the sentence which we have just quoted is, of course, perfectly ridiculous. The members of the voluntary militia become such because military training appeals to them. To suggest that they volunteer either with the desire or the idea of being shot on behalf of those who do not volunteer is the reasoning of an untrained child. If the volunteers dwelt for any length of

time upon the possibility of a painful death from gunshot wounds, they would pretty quickly resign. Those are the sort of things which happen to the other fellow, and never to oneself! To think otherwise would mean the negation of all enterprise of any kind, whether civil or military, in which there was the slightest element of personal danger.

Further Foolishness

Switching from defence to National Insurance . . . Mr. Dickinson apparently intended to have a field day in self-publicity . . . our pedagogue made an unfortunate statement. "In this land, where the number and burden of social service is continually mounting — old-age and invalid pensions, unemployment relief, free education to a high standard, and now, national insurance — is there to be no recognition by the recipients of what they are getting? Are these privileges not worth defending?"

We said "unfortunate" because this sentence shows Mr. Dickinson to be ignorant of even the rudiments of politics and economics. Does he imagine that the people do not pay over and over again for these pensions, relief, education and insurance, which he has the impertinence to call privileges? Has he any conception of the proportion of the income of these "recipients of privileges" which is filched from them in the most insidious way by our system of indirect taxation? It is a popular fallacy among those who pay direct taxes, like land and income tax, that they, and they alone, are carrying the burden of social services which the State dare not withhold from the aged and the needy. But the wharf labourer who buys a sixpenny packet of cigarettes pays threepence halfpenny in taxation to the Government, just as the secondary school head master who buys a similar packet. Sales tax, likewise, falls equally upon the man of little income as upon him whose income is large . . . equally, that is to say, as far as the amount or the rate are concerned, but most unequally when we consider the ease or the difficulty with which the burden of taxation is borne!

Physician, Heal Thyself!

There is more in Mr. Dickinson's letter which is deserving of stringent comment. There is, for instance, the rather pathetic belief which he holds, that universal training improves the moral and physical stamina of the trainees. This is, at best, an uninformed and pious hope. The broken and haphazard nature of the type of military training under the system as it existed in Australia before its suspension was such as not to exercise any appreciable effect upon the physical stamina of the trainees. As to their moral stamina, it is probable that, if anything, this suffered a setback.

Upon mature consideration however, we have decided that this writer of letters to the papers is beyond redemption. If he were astray on minor points only, we might consider it worthwhile trying to educate him upon those matters of which he shows a lamentable ignorance. We tender him instead, the following advice: that holding the views which he does, and occupying the position which he holds, he should exercise discretion and restraint in the statements and opinions which he proffers for consideration by the general public. One can, with an effort, suffer fools gladly, but the less vocal they are, the more gladly.

LIQUIDATING THE WORKINGMAN

By D. OMINIE.

Big Business, stepping to the tune called by "Sane Finance," tends more and more towards mechanisation. The corollary is the abolition of work; progressive growth of unemployment figures is inevitable under the circumstances.

The Argus of November 3 reports a luncheon address to the Rotary Club, by Mr. Ernest Bate, chief engineer of the State Electricity Commission, the chairman of the day being the chairman of the Commission, Mr. G. G. Jobbins.

Eliminating Labour

Mr. Bate, we are told, disclosed "hitherto unrevealed strategies" in the construction of the £6,183,000 Kiewa Valley hydro-electric scheme. He stated that "the Kiewa project would be *parsimonious in labour operations*" (our italics). "This was done for economy, and to give the maximum freedom from disturbance in times of industrial unrest. The plan would be operated by remote control, and it would be possible, by electrical methods, to control any particular function of the plant."

No doubt, the members of the Rotary Club warmly applauded these statements. The feeling of satisfaction induced by a hearty luncheon is favourable to a friendly reception of such an announcement.

Applause—With Reservations

We can join in the applause — with reservations. The scientists and engineers who have made such marvellous things possible are worthy of applause.

But we cannot applaud a financial system that takes from men the right to earn an honest livelihood without providing an adequate compensation. It is good that machines can do the work which was formerly done by men. It is altogether wrong that the displaced men should be thrown on the scrap heap to face the appalling prospect of starvation for themselves and their families.

We have read of Hell being abolished by Act of Parliament. The process is simple: you just pass the resolution shut your eyes, and—the nuisance exists no longer.

Abolishing the Labourers

Big Business has, at the instigation, or under the pressure, of its "remote control" (not so

very remote, of course), resolved that labour shall be abolished. It is costly, and might be "an inconvenience in times of industrial unrest."

But why not do the job thoroughly, and *abolish the labourer?*

Of course, the whole tendency of industrialism is in that direction. The labourer is being abolished by the simple process of starving him to death—unless he prefers a quicker way out. Frequently he does!

Heritage Withheld

The marvellous machines being installed in big industrial concerns represent the present "climax," if one may apply the term to a development probably still far from its ultimate peak, of a long series of inventions adapted by engineers and scientists to the saving of hard labour. Many, if not all, of the basic inventions have long since become *the inheritance of the people* through the lapsing of patent rights.

But they have been *cornered by the few to the impoverishment of the many.*

The preposterous nature of the filching of the rights of the people is brought home with more than usual force when a State instrumentality is the agency that boasts of its strategy in keeping men from a means of livelihood.

The same Commission has an electrical contrivance at Yalourn, whereby a whole train, controlled by one man working gadgets on a "dashboard," removes its "permanent" way into a new position.

Goods Without Consumers

Incidentally, one wonders why the products of such organisations are marketed at such high prices.

Does Big Business ever pause to consider the logical conclusion to its system of eliminating the workingman from its "sorry scheme of things"? Will they still produce goods when there are *no consumers left* to buy them?

There is one more point in the report of Mr Bate's Rotary address that is worth mention-

ing. It is this: — "It would be unwise to have all the State's power resources concentrated, and, *in the event of the country being attacked* the remote series of stations at Kiewa would offer considerable advantages in enabling the nation to carry on."

War Without Men?

In the event of the country being attacked, will the Commission and other branches of Big Business adhere to the policy of being "parsimonious in labour operations"?

How will the country carry on when it has deprived itself of the material which formerly constituted its labour power? Or are these expected to hang on to life in order to be on hand when the mythical enemy materialises? Is it expected that they can resist the pangs of

The Gem of the Week

Discussing the proposal to introduce the wearing by men in office hours of "open-neck" shirts, etc., the "Argus" (4/11/38) reports the manager of a city bank as saying that personally he would not mind if members of his staff came to work in their tennis "shorts," but he wondered what customers would think. "THEY MIGHT TAKE THEIR OVERDRAFTS ELSEWHERE", he said!

Such cynical candour is unusual. But is it not rather "rubbing it in"?

hunger and the terrors of insecurity for such a reason? Is it fair to demand such altruism from those who have been deprived of all human rights by a vicious system of financial control?

Alternatives

By all means let the machine do the job. But let us restore to man his share in the national inheritance by giving him, *as a right*, a national dividend, and so enabling him to employ profitably the leisure enforced by the widespread adoption of mechanisation in industry.

Otherwise, it will be more merciful to divert some of the 165,000 volts which the double-circuit line will transmit from the Kiewa to Melbourne, and use it for sending into oblivion the despairing souls which are doomed by an atrocious system to misery and despair.

NATIONAL INSURANCE REPEAL

Fairfield

An enthusiastic group of citizens held a very successful street meeting in Station-street, Fairfield, on Friday night last. A trestle table, chairs, pens and ink and hurricane lamps were provided to enable citizens to sign the form-letter of individual demand for the repeal of the Act. A good number of people remained to hear the Act explained by Mr. F. C. Paice and other speakers. Afterwards many signed the letters and left the cost of postage, etc., with the group. Others signed the letters before Mr. Paice spoke, and passed on, evidently *already* satisfied that the Act is not wanted. Several people left their names and addresses, and expressed their willingness to help in the campaign, while others purchased small parcels of letters to distribute among friends and workmates. Donations amounting to 10/4 were also received.

This type of protest meeting should commend itself to others anxious to bring about the repeal of this Act. They are very effective, and cost little to arrange. No time should be lost in doing all possible in this fight against oppression, as, commencing next week, the powers that be are going to use agents, and radio in an intensive drive to persuade people to join approved societies immediately. Hurrying them up to implement an Act that 90 per cent. of them do not want! We should urge people not to be stampeded by this drive, as they are not compelled to join before January 2, 1939.

The Fairfield group announces that it is holding another open air meeting in Station-street, Fairfield, to-night (Friday), and invites all interested to come along and help.

Ballarat

The Ballarat group of citizens working for repeal reports that the movement is going ahead like a bush fire, and that they are finding great difficulty in keeping up with the demand for the form letters. A local printer has now agreed to supply them at a loss to himself. Physical and financial support is being offered from many quarters. The effect of the public meeting in the City Hall on October 25 is already observed, as a local paper reports that at a meeting of the branch of the A.N.A. one of the officers reported that since that public meeting he is having increasing difficulty in enrolling new members for National Insurance, while another member gave notice of his intention to move at the next meeting, "That no more money be spent on National Insurance by the branch."

Ballarat group has made arrangements for Mr. F. C. Paice to address another large meeting at Ballarat on Sunday, November 20, at 3 p.m., probably in a picture theatre.

Doctors Favour Repeal

The October issue of *The General Practitioner* devotes five pages to the subject. "The People Demand the Repeal of the N.H.I. Act" and "The Birth and Growth of a New Movement," being the headlines.

In the article doctors (who, by the way, are definitely against the Act) are urged to help the movement for repeal. Already a reprint of the article has appeared in the *Mordialloc City News* of November 4. It is certain that more papers will follow suit, and that very soon we may see doctors collectively declaring themselves against this iniquitous measure.

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MELBOURNE Cont.)

(Continued from page 2.)

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OPEN LETTER TO A NEW CABINET MINISTER

Honorary Brigadier G. A. Street.
Minister for Defence,
Canberra.

Sir,

If the public could have glimpsed behind the scenes at Canberra during the past few weeks, what a different impression everyone would have of your elevation to the Ministry. Wire-pulling, plotting, discord and distrust have had a great gallop indeed. Lyons is dreadfully shaken; Menzies is watching like a tiger ready to spring; Micawber Page is waiting, while Thorby is sore and resentful. White has downed tools, and, of course war-time Prime Minister Hughes still has ambitions. Others are prepared to fall in behind a fresh leader. The national business of Australia has been suspended during all this futile scramble.

Consistent in the conspiracy of gulling and distracting the population, while the taxing machine robs us all, the press has used you as the star in the re-formed Cabinet. Your legal training, business, ability, military record and sporting propensities are quoted to show the foundation upon which there exists a wonderful capacity to administer the Defence Department. Another section of the press eulogises you as a successful grazier which makes us suspect you are to be given the responsibility of introducing Compulsory Military Training.

The incompetence of Farmer Thorby accelerated the necessity of hoisting you (or someone else) into the Defence portfolio, but just why the papers should see in your qualifications the ingredients of a successful Minister for War is obscure. You are a good party man, and probably a good farmer, and if

any other portfolio had been vacant the press would have stressed your unique suitability for it. For instance, if the financial magnates, who control Parliament, had so directed, the dailies could have disclosed that you possessed: —

- I. Leadership to equip you to be Prime Minister.
- II. Commercial Ability to equip you to be Minister of Commerce.
- III. Legal Qualifications to equip you to be Attorney-General.
- IV. Panning Knowledge to equip you to be Minister for the Interior.
- V. Experience Outside Australia to equip you to be Minister for External Affairs.
- VI. Business Capacity to equip you to be Minister for Customs.
- VII. Athletic Record to equip you to be Minister for Health.
- VIII. Financial Sagacity to equip you to be Treasurer.

— and so forth.

This, of course, is all part of the discredited and degraded party game calculated to frustrate the will of the people and to keep the people in subjection to a handful of financiers. The campaign exposing it all is going on apace, and you, as an Australian, have an opportunity of doing something for the nation instead of for the anti-social forces behind the stage. Let us hope you will not fall a victim to the cheap flattery of the press, and that, unlike Menzies and so many more, you will try to represent THE PEOPLE. Remember that your job is to strive towards ensuring, for all, more ECONOMIC SECURITY WITH PERSONAL LIBERTY.

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Cabinets Within Cabinets

The latest development at Canberra is the announcement that there is to be an Inner Cabinet and an Outer Cabinet. The Inner Cabinet will consist of Lyons, Earle Page, Menzies, Hughes, Casey, Thorby, and the new Minister for Defence, Mr. Street. This group will decide matters of policy in separate conclave, and communicate them to the outer group, the members of which will be expected to accept the decisions and take part of the responsibility for them.

This segregation of the sheep from the goats in the Cabinet has not met with universal approval, as the Minister for Customs (and for Book Censorship), Mr. White, has tendered his resignation, which Mr. Lyons has accepted with acrimony.

This delegation of the reins of authority to the Seven Just Men brings this otherwise pleasant realm of ours a step nearer to the Fascist dictatorship which has been on the cards for some time. The Murdoch Press still continues to criticise Mr. Lyons and all his works, but Koala Joe has come out in the light as a strong, if fairly silent, man, and seems prepared to resist and to ignore the fulminations of the *Herald* and its Special Correspondents and leader writers. In this he is being aided and abetted by Mr. Menzies, who appears, for the moment, to have abandoned his claim to the Prime Ministership in name, for the position of Prime Minister in fact.

The Melbourne *Herald* reports that during the tense scene which developed in the House when Mr. White resigned, "Mr. Menzies sat beside Mr. Lyons at the table and had a long and earnest conversation with him." This suggests that Mr. Menzies has cast himself for the role of the wily Iago to Mr. Lyons' Othello; but if the pair of them think that the Australian people will consent to be the obedient Desdemona and suffer a restriction in the supply of air as well as of

money, they may be surprised.

There is almost the same satisfaction in being the power behind the throne as in occupying the throne itself. If this is the course which has commended itself to Mr. Menzies that merely shows that he is a man of some perspicacity as well as of brain. A dictator may hold his position by strength of purpose and ability alone, but the possession of these qualities is as nothing to the faculty of inspiring loyalty and liking amongst one's adherents. It is in this way that Lenin, Hitler, and Mussolini won to power, and the last two have remained so long where they are.

Casting a critical eye upon Mr. Menzies as a candidate for the position of Dictator of the Commonwealth, we are able to admit his possession of strength of purpose and ability. When, however, we come to the question of his personal popularity, particularly with the common herd who are expected to make whoopee when the Panjandrum passes by, we find him to be weighed in the balance and found ponderous, but wanting.

No doubt he realises this, and has therefore entered into the unholy alliance with Lyons in order to effect his purpose. This is all very well from his point of view, but we regard this formation of an Inner Cabinet with the utmost disfavour. It is not only highly undemocratic, but potentially of the greatest danger to the welfare of the Australian people. The Council of Seven is little more than a Council of One, for Lyons is a cipher, Earle Page and Hughes are definitely back numbers, Thorby is, the sort of man who will cheerfully announce that our ridiculous defences are almost, if not quite, perfect, thereby showing a woeful irresponsibility; Street is inexperienced in political skulduggery, and Casey is only a watchdog for the financial ring.

This leaves Robert G. Menzies to make the shots for Lyons to fire. If, he need pay any attention to any of the others in the Inner ring, it will be to Casey, as the representative of the Money Monopoly. That he has little to fear from the Monopoly, so long as he just plays the Dictator in the Hitler manner, must be plain to all who have any knowledge of how Hitler attained in the position of Chancellor of the German Reich at a time when his party was on the wane. So long as the monopoly of credit is left undisturbed, Casey will not object to any moves which Menzies may make towards a Fascist regime. In fact, under Fascism, that particular form of control which has been designated "pyramidal" obtains in a most convenient form for the monopolists. Where control of a country is centred in one man or a limited group, it is necessary to control only that one man, or that limited group, in order to gain virtual control over the whole country.

For once, we are in accord with the Murdoch Press in its opposition to the latest Federal development. Why Sir Keith should oppose it we do not know, but we feel sure that the present Cabinet reshuffle is inimical to the best interests of the people, and that the sooner it is frustrated the better for everybody.

ERIC BUTLER STIRS THE RIVERINA

Excellent Results Achieved

Eric Butler continues to set an example which must serve as an inspiration to all reformers throughout Australia. In a campaign which is pioneering new territory he has, with the aid of Mr. Norman Rolls, achieved great results. Two magnificent addresses in Narrandera, one of the most important towns of the Riverina, have aroused the whole district. Wonderful publicity has been given his Criterion Hall address, which has been described by one political enthusiast as recalling memories of the late Alfred Deakin.

200 Attend Criterion Hall, Narrandera

With only a week to organise the town for this meeting, Mr. Rolls and Eric showed what can be done with tenacity and hard work. Although Narrandera is new ground, and considered apathetic, the meeting in the Criterion Hall was described by leading citizens as being the biggest and most representative meeting seen in Narrandera for years. Leading businessmen, clergymen, doctors and solicitors were present in an audience of 200, which, in spite of a sultry night, listened to an address of over 1½ hours, which was described as an amazing feat of concentration and memory. The present wheat and wool position was dealt with, and National Insurance was given some very drastic criticism. Those present were hugely impressed, judging by the great enthusiasm displayed. As a result of the meeting one local doctor has arranged to get 3000 of the National Insurance Repeal letters printed himself (and distributed). Many inquiries were made after the meeting for literature and information. Friday and Saturday kept Mr. Rolls and Eric very busy meeting leading citizens who were present at the meeting. Many new readers of the *New Times* were signed up and the general opinion was that another meeting early in the New Year would attract a record attendance. Practically all the leading citizens including the Mayor have expressed great interest in the Campaign, so this important town has now been opened up successfully. One of the local clergymen, who will be a valuable acquisition to the movement, has expressed his intention of putting the Campaign before his study class.

Big Open Air Meeting

Arrangements were made for Eric to address an open-air meeting on Saturday night, November 5, as Saturday is late shopping night in Narrandera. A big audience of farmers and townspeople listened to another fighting address, which brought dozens of inquiries in connection with the Campaign. Literature and copies of the *New Times* were in great demand, so Eric and Mr. Rolls were kept to a late hour dealing with inquiries. One farmer took a supply of specimen copies of *New Times*, with the expressed intention of starting a group out in his area. This is real action. Narrandera is well on the map and the Campaign has aroused the whole district.

Future Activities

Eric informs us in a letter received on Monday that he and Mr. Rolls have had to rearrange their original programme. They intend to have two meetings in Coolamon this week. This town is also new ground, but they are very confident that they can establish the Campaign as in Narrandera. At the end of the week they will return to Griffith and Leeton, where Eric expects to address several big meetings before returning to Melbourne about November 22. It is very likely that Eric will give a talk on "Democracy" over the local station at Griffith on Sunday morning, November 20. This is a result of the large number of inquiries which have

been made as to when Eric would be speaking again.

This address will probably be sponsored by the Barellan traders, many who missed Eric at Barellan expressing a very keen desire to hear his message. The meetings at Griffith and Leeton will be on the Repeal of the National Insurance Act. Although he intended to have several meetings on the way back to Melbourne, Eric now finds that this will be

POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF NATIONAL INSURANCE Electors Show Their Power

We have it on good authority that there is every possibility that the putting into effect of the National Insurance Act, against which Electoral Campaigners and others have fought so consistently, will be postponed for twelve months. During that period it is anticipated that Cabinet will endeavour to put a new face on the old plan.

However, lest those who are working for the repeal of the Act should feel that the battle is over, we must point out the fact that now, more than ever, with victory in sight, it will be necessary to throw their full weight into the campaign in order to hammer home the now established fact that the people CAN be the rulers of Australia, and that our elected representatives in Canberra are there to do as they are told.

Some of the Federal members who took the trouble to answer those who sent them letters demanding the repeal of the Bill, replied to the effect that they did not intend to take orders from electors. Notable among the offenders was Mr. Casey, Federal Treasurer and member for Corio, who announced in the House that he would not take any notice of the letters. Mr. Casey's seat is, therefore, definitely unsafe as a result and he will probably be defeated at the next election.

impossible. He is, apparently, working about sixteen hours a day and seven days a week at present, but is showing that results can be achieved. We wish him all the best. Mr. Rolls is to be complimented on the very fine assistance he is giving Eric. Eric expresses great admiration for his publicity work. Further reports will be published as we get them.

AUSTRALIAN MILLIONAIRES

Speaking in the Senate, Senator Lamp, a Tasmanian Labor representative, held, regarding the defence of Australia, that "those who have wealth and property to defend should be compelled to contribute an amount over and above ordinary taxes." He gave the following list of "Australia's wealthy citizens, and the wealth they own or control": —

Baillieu Family, £68 millions; John Grice, £20 millions; James Burns, £12 millions; G. J. Cohen, £11¼ millions; R. W. Gillespie, £14½ millions; Sir Lennon Raws, £9¾ millions; Sir Kelso King, £11 millions; W. A. Watt, £11 millions; A. Stewart, £10 millions; R. C. Mears, £8 millions; Howard Smith, £7 millions; H. R. Lysaght, £7 millions; Sir James Elder, £7½ millions; J. L. Downer, £7¼ millions; C. Templeton, £7¾ millions; F. J. Smith, £8 millions; Sir Hugh Denison, £6½ millions; Sir David Gordon, £6¾ millions; E. R. Knox, £10½ millions; J. Ashton, £7¾ millions.

The accuracy of the statement was questioned, but Senator Lamp contended that the wealth was "owned or controlled" by the parties mentioned.

PHOTOGRAPHING DEBT

Ask a photographer if he can take a portrait of debt, and he will wonder what you are talking about, but, nevertheless, debt is being photographed. It is not suggested that anyone is likely to want to have a likeness of the National Debt framed in the home, or a portrait of one's overdraft to hang over the bed, but it may soon be possible to see actual photographs of ledger entries, and we shall be able to attach a photo, of its share of the National Debt on every baby's birth certificate—Certain banks are having each day's ledger entries photographed. It would be interesting to watch the actual changing of a £1 into a franc, or its flirtation with a dollar! And to see the "dark clouds" of a financial crisis on the horizon with all the £'s taking fright and a whole flock of capital winging its way out of the country. One day we may see a newsreel record of banks making money!

We may be shown harrowing scenes of the £ suffering from inflation and being deflated, or the process of reflation when the financial experts do not know whether inflation or deflation should be applied. There will be flickers in the film when the velocity of circulation reaches a certain speed, and pictures showing money going round backwards as the economists think it goes.

Pictures of the money market will show piles and piles of £s. Some will be easy and cheap. Some will be tight and difficult. And, tucked away in cellars, will be bankers busily rubbing the notes with bars of gold to give them a gold backing.

—Social Credit, London.

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ADELAIDE AND CIVIC PRIDE

By LEONORA POLKINGHORNE.

What, generally speaking, does civic pride connote? Is it not pride in that which chiefly impresses a visitor—good buildings, clean, wide streets; trees, gardens, statues, and monuments? These are the things that cause the citizen to swell his chest, and use such well-worn phrases as "garden city," "queen of the south," "our fair city," and, alas! if it is Adelaide, "the city of culture." Why alas? Because when Foster Fraser, himself not a man of culture and hardly capable of judging, used that unfortunate phrase in referring to Adelaide, every citizen pinned it on as an eternal decoration, and henceforth made no great struggle after culture. Why strive for something one has already attained? He could hardly have done us a worse disservice.

No Slums?

Of course, it is better to keep on making a city beautiful than to be always talking about how beautiful it is, and it might be just as well to remember that "the gods see everywhere." Statues and fine buildings are all very well, but adequate housing for the poor is better. The platform orator, who uses the above phrases *ad nauseam* mention this. If such an unpleasant matter is mentioned by anyone, it is met by the bland assurance: "There are no slums in Adelaide." What liars social workers must be! When they talk about ramshackle houses without proper sanitation, neither gas nor electricity, with three to four adults of mixed sexes sleeping in one bed, what are they talking about? When we push this question, we are told that no place is a slum where the people are clean.

"No Need to Bother!"

The tiniest house, though it posses but one blanket (if any), the children have rickets, the rain comes through the roof and white ants are busy, cannot be a slum dwelling, it seems, if the housewife does her duty. If she has a well-tended geranium on the window-sill, it quite definitely passes

out of the slum class, and, that being so, we need not bother about it. So it is a pity that every Sunday, around mid-day, parsons and social workers, to whom the A.B.C. allows a "This Week's Good Cause" talk, keep on harping about such homes. There are many, many places, called courts, I believe, quite near the busiest centres, where rows and rows of tiny houses—exactly alike, equally depressing, all attached, without an inch of ground in front, the small verandah abutting on the side-street and a pocket handkerchief backyard—are occupied by families of the poor. Here children abound, their only playground the small street. It is true that they are mostly surprisingly clean, and quite frequently aspire to the social dignity of an aspidistra or two, and one can be sure that the children are called Clarence, Rupert, Dawn and Shirley. Fine names are the only things that are cheap, except aspidistras. (This is what has driven the "classes" to present Bill, Peter, Susan and Jane at the baptismal font.) It is quite possible that even such places as the above do not disturb the civic pride of many conservative citizens. They will proudly point to the clean window sill and the aspidistra!

Effect of Lay-Out

Another thing Adelaide people are never weary of saying is Adelaide is well laid out, and I fear, they have continued to say it even after a caustic person from Melbourne remarked that "it ought to be—it had been dead long enough." It is a mile square, and surrounded by parklands. This mathematical precision has its effects on the citizens. They are prim, conservative, and strictly limited. There have been Adelaide citizens (I have heard them myself) who have declared that they had no wish to travel or behold any other city. Why should they? It might not be tidy.

Parliament House

To return to civic pride. The South Australian Premier, now

soon to be happily translated to the Federal sphere (if he is not effectively opposed), told us that if we did not approve of the additions to Parliament House; we had no civic pride. It was a mere detail that the original structure was still unpaid for (financially speaking), and that we were still paying interest on the debt. Anyone who mentioned that would be lacking in civic pride! Sir Langdon Bonython, called the "grand old man," because, having amassed a considerable fortune through the *Advertiser*, and being in his 92nd year, is disbursing large pieces of it (after all, why pay large death dues?), gave £150,000 towards it, and the Premier patriotically declared at once that he (that is, of course, the taxpayers) would donate another £100,000.

Statues

Another form of civic pride expresses itself in statues and monuments. How many of these are a just cause for civic pride? Is that of the Australian soldier on a rearing horse, to commemorate the Boer War, one? Though a spirited piece of work, and commanding the best view in the city, overlooking the river, the Cresswell Gardens, and the cathedral, can we say we really wish to remember that episode with pride? Then the statue of Bobby Burns, though it, doubtless, expresses the patriotic feelings (for Scotland) of many our Presbyterians, against whom he directed his verses, "to the unco' guid," is a deplorable piece of work, and *not* add to the beauty of the city. Anyway, did not Mrs. Harlow, wife of the American professor now visiting us, say, with wonder: "Why do you people say you are Welsh or Scotch or Irish? Why are you not content with being just Australians?" So we must rule out "Bobby" as a cause for civic pride. Colonel Light is all right. It was he who laid out the city, in spite of much opposition; he is a just expression of civic pride. Queen Victoria? As a woman who handled a big job, I would be inclined to say yes, if there had not been the conspicuous absence of any statue of Catherine Helen Spence. Aesthetically, we could not admit either of them, as C.H.S. was just another tubby little woman, but if

to commemorate her life, spent in public service of the city, why surely!

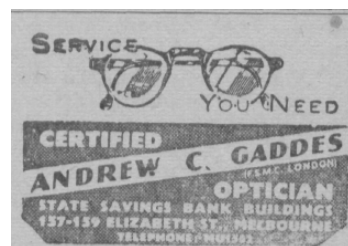
Then we have King Edward VII. Why? Well, clearly, because he was King of England. Must we, then, continue to have statues of the Kings of England? Apparently not, for you will not find in "fair Adelaide" any statue of Edward VIII. Nor are you likely to at any future time. Was it because the seventh had a better moral and intellectual record? Well! He had a beautiful wife, and a family, a happiness denied to his successor, Edward, and had little excuse (except his stupid bringing-up) for his frequent lapses, but neither the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, nor any canon or rural dean was ever heard to denounce his doings from the pulpit. Strange, isn't it? As for intellect, did you ever hear the story of how he rushed up to Gladstone with a copy of "Barrabas," Miss Corelli's masterpiece, and urged him to read it, as it "was the finest book he had ever read"? Gladstone firmly declined to waste his time on that noble work. Edward VII was never in Australia, but there he stands, an embodiment of what Britishers are supposed to be like. Neither he nor his royal mother are represented as smiling—Victoria looks as though she was saying, "We are not amused." Well, neither are we. Our statues are not amusing, nor elevating, nor aesthetic.

War Memorial

The war memorial on North Terrace is a blot, even if perpetuating a ghastly war were not in itself a horrible mistake. When Baden-Powell was shown it, after a silence: "I wonder what the unemployed think of it!" That is just the point. We do not mind increasing our debt to the private banks so that we may exhibit in concrete form our stupidities, our prejudices, our ignorance, our jingoism, but when it is suggested that the un-employed need to be clothed, one hears such remarks as: "Did you ever hear the like? We feed them, and now they actually think we ought to clothe them." I am not saying this at random. It was actually said to me.

Real Civic Pride

Adelaide is lovely. Owing to lucid intervals on the part of the Fathers, it has parks and gardens, but how about a civic pride that would embrace well-nourished, well-clad, well-educated, happy children in those places where children most abound (i.e., the poor quarters); "workmen's cottages" that have space, comfort, modern conveniences, gardens, and enough space for the children to play in (heaven knows, Australians should not lack space—it is one of the things we have to a degree that older countries lack, as we are so often told)? How about a *real* standard of living, and cease prattling about the one that does not exist, except in the speeches of our political misrepresentatives? But, apparently, we prefer to let the Money Monopoly dictate these things to us. Break that power, and we need not even glare at a new Parliament House.



If built by Australian workmen with Australian materials, financed, interest free and debt free it would indeed be an occasion for civic pride; but, financed by a heavy, interest-bearing debt, while the original building, under the same system, is still unpaid for, while "there is no money" for slum clearance, more outback schools, etc., etc., there is more occasion for shame than pride.

FINANCING DEFENCE

"Like my colleagues on this side of the chamber, I am concerned about profiteering in connection with defence supplies. Honourable Senators will remember that when we were discussing proposals for increased taxes to meet additional defence expenditure, I pointed out that it was unnecessary to increase either the sales tax or the income tax, and I referred to a source of wealth which, so far, has not been tapped; I refer to the credit of the nation. If there is one thing for which the national credit should be used, it is the defence of the nation. Honourable Senators will recollect that I drew attention to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Monetary and Banking Systems that the credit of the nation should be utilised for national purposes. I maintain that the only way in which we can adequately defend this country is by utilising the credit of the nation to that end. My proposal seems already to have borne fruit, for yesterday's *Sydney Morning Herald* contained the following paragraph:

"Following his broadcast last night on the new issues confronting Australia as a result of the change in the international situation, the New South Wales Premier (Mr. Stevens) motored to Canberra to discuss the question with the Acting Prime Minister (Sir Earle Page). Main points in the discussion will be: A new monetary policy to meet the new conditions."

—Senator Richard Darcey, on Appropriation Bill; Senate, Oct. 14.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

AN APPRECIATION

Sir,—As a reader of the *New Times* since its inception, and a keen follower of the activities of the U.E.A., I have at last had the pleasure of hearing that well-known youth, Eric Butler.

Sitting at the back of a large audience in the Riverina, I was not only carried away with his dynamic personality and oratory, but was also able to note the inspired effect upon an audience which sat practically dumbfounded by his eloquence and positively convincing message.

Having myself canvassed practically every business and professional man, as well as many farmers, in that particular district, I can assure you that these people were not only satisfied that the objective is right, but that the campaign is deserving of the interest and support of each and every thinking member of the community.

Although I have heard many speakers on the E.C., I regard Eric Butler's lucid explanation as outstanding. I sincerely hope that reform workers in any other parts of Australia which he may visit in the future will give him the assistance and encouragement which he so thoroughly deserves.

Wishing the *New Times* and its campaign continued and increasing success.—Yours, etc., NORMAN F. ROLLS, Riverina District Organiser, Social Credit Movement of N.S.W. Narrandera, N.S.W.

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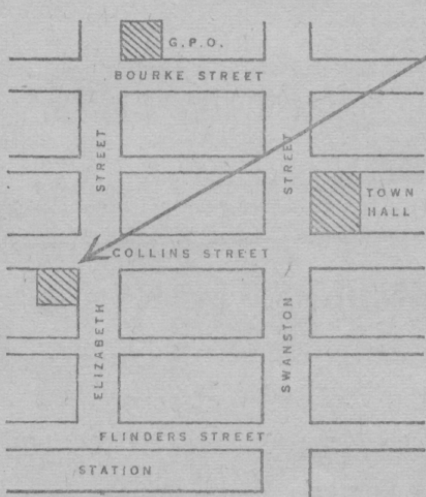
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NATIONAL INSURANCE IS A MENACE

No. 6.

The Act Should Be Repealed

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H. BROWN.

Sir,—

Since the commencement of this series of letters on National Insurance we have seen that the introduction of the scheme in Australia will menace our liberty, our security, our democracy, and our living; also that it will increase taxation, lower our incomes, and intensify the already extensive poverty.

It has been shown that it was not wanted by the public, by a majority of the members of Parliament, or by the many societies which will be called upon to administer it; that it was bludgeoned through Parliament at the dictation of the financial money system; that all finance required for insurance can be provided by the Commonwealth Bank without charge; that while goods will rot because workers will not have the money to buy them, an increasing number of producers will find themselves forced into bankruptcy; that the design of the scheme is to keep the masses short of money; that it is intended to divert our attention from the true CAUSE of the satanic condition of widespread poverty in the midst of actual and potential abundance; that workers will have to pay higher prices with smaller incomes; that no proposal has been made to liberate Australian families from the necessity of fighting each other for an inadequate share of an insufficient supply of money; that, instead, the scheme will transfer the financial burden of old-age and invalid pensions from the Budget to the pockets of the people on small incomes; that the scheme will not alter the fact that the state of "prosperity" in the community is governed, and will continue to be governed, by the bank rate, over which the Government exercises no control; that we will continue to be at the mercy of the bankers; that sacrifices by the workers have been demanded by the controllers of the banking system; that the 90 per cent. of the people who are interested in 16 per cent of Australia's wealth will be required to surrender more of their portion to the 10 per cent, who already control 84 per cent.; that counting our "blessings," as advised by Mr. Casey, will not fill our empty stomachs; and that a similar scheme in England has not only failed to provide security for the people, but has actually brought about a worsening of the living conditions and produced a C3, instead of an A1, population.

The Use of the Funds

After that summary it should hardly be necessary to say anything further on the subject. It has been proved that the scheme is a menace, and that it would be in the best interests of the Australian people to insist upon the repeal of the Act.

But there was one other aspect which was referred to in an earlier letter, but not commented upon specifically. It was this: "The deflationary mechanism of National Insurance helps the banking system 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, is a matter for the banks to arrange, as we shall see."

Circular from the Bank of New South Wales

In March last the Bank of New South Wales issued a special circular dealing with "Social Services and Social Insurance." After reading that circular carefully it is easy to understand the bank's part in the current political intrigue to secure greater control of the Government of the Commonwealth. Not only was it behind Sir Frederick Stewart in his agitation for the introduction of the scheme, but now is concerning itself with how the insurance funds should be used.

And that is not all, for, according to the particulars published on October 28 by the *Century*, a Sydney weekly, the same bank is out to secure the financial control of Australia. That particular issue of the *Century* is worth keeping, and every responsible member of the community should endeavour to obtain a copy.

What Can We "Afford"?

But before noticing the intrigue itself, perhaps it would be in better sequence if we noticed the attitude of the bank on the subject of National Insurance funds. A few quotations from the circular will make that clear.

"How far the community can afford to go (in removing the grudges of the individual citizens against the social system) is determined by its efficiency, and is always limited by the amount which should be set aside for future capital replacements and improvements... there will always be anxieties as to the demoralising effect on the individual of too much assistance."

Two things stand out in connection with this. The first is that, according to these people who dictate the Government's policy, everything must depend on what we can "afford" in terms of money, and the amount we can afford is determined by the producers of money—the private banks.

Demoralisation

The second is that, apparently, Jesus set the world a frightful example by going about doing good, healing the sick, helping the needy, and showing kindness to everyone. His actions must have been more demoralising than our terrible slums and the bank-imposed conditions under which we kill one another in the struggle for money. Jesus told us to overcome evil with good, and the evil of slums and the like can only be overcome by giving people access to the things which provide the opposite conditions. Access to things is gained only through money. Notwithstanding what Jesus said, the banks (which control most of the churches through DEBT) impose the policy of a chronic shortage of money, apparently with the intention of saving the people from demoralisation by making their living conditions more difficult. It is not a question of how much food or clothes we can produce, but how much "money" we can afford, and the people who produce the food and the clothes have no say at all in the production of the money! That is kindly left to the bankers, who decide what we can "afford."

Collect More Than is Paid Back

"If an insurance scheme is to work satisfactorily it is essential that income should balance or be somewhat in excess of expenditure."

What the bank means by the term "satisfactory" has not been explained. From the point of view of the poor people on low incomes, no scheme that takes more from them than it pays back to them can possibly be satisfactory. Hence we have confirmation from the bank itself of our earlier statement that insurance benefits no one but the banking system.

"The best group, or insurance unit, is the whole community. But, even with so large a unit, risks maturing in any one period may vary and it is advisable to build up a reserve fund by paying out in benefits a little less than is received in contribution or premiums."

There you have still further confirmation of the statement that the scheme under examination is not intended as a benefit to the community at all. It is intended only to help the banks in maintaining the delusion that the quantity of money

must be strictly limited, and that every community effort must be governed by what we can "afford" in terms of money—i.e., by what the bankers provide.

The Real Reason

"The economic advantage of social insurance is that it relieves the Government of raising a large part of the necessary funds through the general budget. . . . Social insurance also permits a levelling of expenditure between prosperity and depression."

Here we have confirmation from the bank itself of our other statement that the purpose of the scheme is entirely financial—i.e., to relieve the bankers from having the liability of pensions included in the national budget. It also confirms the fact that the scheme is intended to cloak the swindle of what is called the trade cycle, in which the banks expand and contract the volume of credit money according to their liquid position. A "levelling of expenditure between prosperity and depression" would divert attention from the CAUSE of depressions and thus shield the banker from the growing volume of indignant criticism.

The Appropriate Level

After describing the system in England the bank finished with this comment: "The effect of this scheme is to provide economic security for a large number of persons at a level appropriate to their particular standard of living."

Those who read last week's letter will know what a failure the whole thing has actually been in that country, but the mentality of the advocates of the scheme is eloquently portrayed in the last part of the sentence quoted—i.e., "at a level appropriate to their particular standard of living." That is to say, a man who ordinarily receives a wage of £4 would be maintained at a level appropriate to his standard of living if he is paid £1 a week for part of the time he may be in need! If he is on the breadline at £4 a week in good health, what distance below that supposedly minimum line will he be at £1 a week in bad health? But that, nevertheless, will be his appropriate level! The bank points with approval to the Queensland scheme, under which a man with a wife and EIGHT children may receive as much as £2/17/- a week. How, I wonder, would Sir Alfred Davidson care to provide for *ten* human beings on *that* income? It is probable that one of his pets entails a greater expenditure than that.

Protection for a Strained Budget

In regard to the utilisation of funds, the bank lays it down that the Commission must not be permitted to undertake relief projects, but rather should subsidise Federal, State, or municipal Governments to embark on public works, using insured unemployed. The idea is that the Commission should make good the loss "inevitably associated with public works undertaken for the relief of unemployment, rather than as a paying proposition. . . . Thus far more work could be provided in a time of crisis than the resources of a strained budget usually permit."

Everything, you see, must be determined on the basis of financial profit, and we must relieve the tension on a strained budget. You can almost see the budget wobbling. The poor thing is only a printed statement, but whatever would we do without it? All would be chaotic, and potatoes would no longer grow in the ground!

What If Contributions Run Out?

"Operations under the scheme would have to be on a purely actuarial basis. That is to say, disbursements should never exceed revenue. . . . Men can be kept on insurance benefit only as long as their contributions warrant it."

If you lose your employment and cannot keep up your contributions then that is your bad luck, and you would have to fall back on "pure relief by State authorities." The same old dark-age idea. Everything must depend on the amount of money, instead

of the amount of money being determined by the production of the community and the needs of its people. If money runs out then we lay down and die, even though there may be heaps of food all round us, with plenty of pens and ink to still write figures in books. It is all so absurd, and yet we are expected to have respect for the highly-placed individuals who utter such rubbish.

This Civilisation Must Be Preserved

The special circular ends on this beautiful note: "Social security is essential if we are to preserve our civilisation. But that security can be purchased only by immediate sacrifice and by careful planning."

The question that naturally arises from this is: From whom is the security to be purchased, and what exactly is to be sacrificed in order to make the purchase? Is the employee to go without food when there is plenty of it? If so, why? Is he to go without clothes when the manufacturers of clothes are crying out for customers? If so, why? Is he to go without proper shelter when there is plenty of land to build on and plenty of materials for building houses? If so, why? Is he to go without the ordinary amenities of life when these are being produced in great abundance? If so, why? Or is it that he must go without the costless tickets called money which give him claim to all these things? If so, WHY?

Obscurantism

Lord Horder, in his recent book, entitled "Obscurantism," says: "It is a confusion to think that we can separate the health of the body from the health of the mind. It is an obscurant notion that we can make a nation fit without some attention to the amenities of life."

Yet here we have leading members of the community advocating a scheme which will make it impossible for the people to obtain at all any of the amenities referred to. Nothing whatever is said by these "leaders" about the necessity for distributing the wages of the machines we are using. The espousers of the insurance scheme are well aware that machines not only cut off the work which hitherto has been the employee's only means of securing income, but make no contribution at all towards the purchase and consumption of things they produce without labour. The obvious necessity is to *monetise machine production*, and the monetisation must be carried out by a statutory Commonwealth authority, on behalf of the nation as a whole, not on behalf of the banks. This will necessitate an *increase* in the volume of buying power, *not* a mere re-distribution of a totally inadequate quantity, as is contemplated by the insurance idea.

Better Off Without It

It is, therefore, as clear as the daylight that National Insurance is NOT intended as a benefit to the workers of Australia, and that, consequently, the workers will be better off without it. It is also perfectly clear that financial interests alone are likely to receive advantage from the provisions of the Act, which in itself is an adequate reason for organising opposition to it. In addition to these considerations, the latest reports regarding the intriguing that is going on behind the political scene places a further obligation on responsible members of the community to take a stand in the interests of the good government of this wonderful country. Further comment in this respect must wait until next week. —Yours faithfully, BRUCE H. BROWN.

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

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We are frequently asked: "What can I do?" Well, you can introduce the "New Times" to your friends, to people interested in reform and, whenever the opportunity presents itself, to strangers.

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The "New Times" is fighting YOUR fight. Will you help it to do so more effectively?

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TOPICAL TITBITS FROM THE NEWS

By "LEXICON."

"The symbol of our regeneration is our new army and our new defence forces. It is either the best soldier or no soldier at all. Because I love peace I have done whatever I could to give us all the arms and all the defensive forces that will help the nation to prevent others from forcing war on us." So spake Hitler to his people the other day.

It is pleasing to know that there is such happy agreement between would-be-dictator Menzies and his mentor.

Which brings us to the subject of the new *Argus* serial, "Fools' Harvest."

"If war came to Australia—what then?" asks the *Argus* in its introduction to the story. We are more interested in the question, "If peace came to Australia—what then?"

When all is said and done, the unfortunate who was reported in the Melbourne *Herald* of November 7 to have died of malnutrition might have preferred to have died of lack of co-ordination of defence

—it's not so slow and painful.

The dismissal of three hundred temporary postal employees may not cause some of us any very grave concern; after all, we're not postal employees, temporary or otherwise; but the trouble is that it only takes a hundred dismissals on a similar scale to bring about an unemployed roll of thirty thousand. That is not a very great number when one says it quickly, and, as the good book says, "the poor are always with us"; but the trouble is that unless we do something to stop the rot, there is the somewhat thought-provoking possibility that we may find ourselves with the poor.

Already large numbers of young people who, while the memory of the 1914-1918 affair, have vivid recollections of the 1929-1933 struggle—People versus Privilege, an engagement in which the people were defeated—are forming themselves into a defence force. This youth army, however, is not so much concerned with defending Australia's shores against an invasion of hostile forces as

in defending their own homes against the invasion of poverty.

CASEY HITS THE OWL HOOT TRAIL.

Witnessing Federal Treasurer Casey's debut as film star, one was surprised to note that he had not apparently become the idol of the crowd. Playing lead in "Robbery Under Arms" or "The Insurance Ramp," he was treated as the villain rather than the hero of the piece, the film-minded of Melbourne's suburbia greeting his shadow with that type of applause known in America as the "Rasberry." Had he appeared on a stage instead of a screen, he would have been hooted off.

"The British Cabinet has decided to spend a thousand million pounds on planes for defence," says the *Argus* independent cable service. "It is believed," the report goes on to say, "that this programme could not be regarded by other countries as an excuse for a new arms race, nor could it adversely affect, it is thought, the efforts being made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Chamberlain) to ensure peace."

Of course not; the world will understand that the planes are being built to amuse the kiddies.

The daily press is busy trying to persuade us that the New Zealand financial outlook is gloomy. We in Australia, it may be pointed out are in the happy position of still holding the confidence of international banking. If we continue at the present rate of progress, it is highly probable that, still maintaining the present happy relations with the money interests, with wars and rumours of wars, depressions and booms, and all the other by-products of the system, we will owe anything up to two hundred thousand million in fifty years' time. Poor old New Zealand, however, having put itself beyond the pale, will have missed all the fun, and, of course, the interest.

It was a nice gesture on the part of Mr. Lyons to create another portfolio in order that Mr. Thorby should be allowed to remain a member of the Cabinet. After all, Thorby isn't a bad fellow, even though inefficient, and it seems rather hard to deprive a man of his job when he means well. It would be a nice gesture on the part of Mr. Lyons if he, could carry on with the good work and maintain the employment of the excellent fellows who are about to be dismissed from the postal service. It is quite probable that a fair proportion of the men thus benefited may be useful as well as well-meaning.

FASCISM OR COMMUNISM?

"A Chinaman's Choice"

The following matter is an editorial from the Chicago fortnightly, "Ken," of October 6. We republish it, not as a free advertisement for that journal, but because it brings to our readers a fragment of current American opinion, it is well expressed, and, as far as it goes, it coincides with the attitude of this paper.

Ken yields to nobody in its hatred of war. Because Fascism leads inevitably to war, *Ken* is its sworn enemy. This point needs no labouring. Everybody ought to know now that *Ken* is against Fascism.

But the Communists are also against Fascism. Yet *Ken* yields to nobody in its hatred of Communism. This point ought not to need elaboration either. There is nothing paradoxical about such a position. It is extremely logical. But in these days, when the Fascists see red wherever they see opposition and the Communists scream "Cossack" at everyone who won't let them call him Comrade, even such an obvious thing as *Ken's* anti-Fascist and anti-Communist policy can stand elucidation.

So here, in simple logic, it is. Things equal to the same thing are equal to each other. As diseases of democracy, Communism and Fascism are both fatal afflictions. To the democratic body politic, Communism is tuberculosis and Fascism is cancer. True, they are different diseases, with different symptoms. You may even argue that, when they strike at a democracy, one of them is curable, whereas a cure for the other has yet to be discovered. But the patient Democracy, is dead by the time either one of them has run its course. They ravage the body in different ways, but either way Democracy is just as dead, once it has succumbed to either one of them.

Now nobody in his right mind would try to tell you that you can't fight T.B. without encouraging cancer. Nor will you find anyone to-day who will tell you that, assuming you have neither tuberculosis nor cancer, you must choose between them to-morrow. Yet you will meet plenty of people here in free America who will loudly insist that you can't be anti-Fascist without being pro-Communist.

Well, that's a Chinaman's choice, and free-born Americans don't have to take it.

What if the two gangs are poison to each other? Must we knuckle down to one just because it fights the other? What if we'd rather not have gang rule at all?

What if the Communists do hate the Fascists? Does that preempt the privilege for the rest of us?

A few years ago in Chicago there were two gangs, led by Al Capone and Bugs Moran, that fought each other tooth and nail, or, rather, rod and pineapple. Three million Chicagoans hated both gangs, and all they stood for. It would have been no more silly to tell those millions of law-abiding citizens that they couldn't disapprove of Capone without approving of Moran (since the two happened to be dedicated at the time to a hearty effort to rub each other out) than it is to-day to try to impose upon ordinary Americans a choice between White and Red sympathies.

Nor was anybody fool enough at that time to suggest that Government men who got after Capone were motivated in doing so by a desire to help Bugs Moran. Yet there are more than a few grown-ups, of full adult size physically, walking around loose in America to-day who insist that a harsh word about J. Capone Stalin is a kind word for A. Bugs Hitler.

Look at the Dies Committee. When it casts a weather eye on the activities of the Bunds it is quickly tagged a "Communist" manifestation of New Deal radicalism. But when it turns to take a whiff of anything rotten on the Left, as a committee investigating un-American activities has both a right and a duty to do, yells go up to high

heaven about "Red-baiting" reactionaries. (The Communists did a good job, by the way, when they made up that term of "Red-baiting"—they make it sound like something two degrees worse than mother-beating. Who knows where they dug up that phrase, anyway, and just what does it mean?) American Democracy stands for individual freedom within laws that safeguard individual rights, for individual ownership and enjoyment of goods and property acquired without theft, for free ex-pression of opinions and beliefs, both political and religious, and the right to express disagreement without being considered guilty of disloyalty. Whatever threatens these things is un-American. Can any Stalinist say with a straight face that these liberties have fared any better in Russia than in Germany?

A plague, then of both houses. *Ken* is opposed to Fascism. It is no less opposed to Communism. We wish there were some way we could make that clear.

NEW ZEALAND

"Our informative press has been strangely uninformative concerning the economic situation in New Zealand. Therefore, it is hard to find out what is taking place in Maori Land.

"However, the voice of the people can be trusted. If we seek a world providing the greatest good for the greatest number, we must realise that it will be brought into being by the voice of the populace as against, shall we say, the voice of capitalist and the ruling classes.

"It is a fairly safe bet that the people of New Zealand are satisfied that their extreme Labor regime is progressing along the right lines for the bulk of them. The drastic banking proposals which were a feature of the policy evidently met with popular support.

"The Government's overwhelming majority at the recent New Zealand poll speaks for itself. It now remains for the Ministry to work out their proposals in practice.

"There is no doubt that urgent and drastic revision of our financial outlook is necessary. In a world of plenty there should be no want. Although this seems terribly trite, it is a hard fact that the solution of this problem is the only possible way towards durable peace.

"Go to it, New Zealand; a little experimenting will be well worth while."

—Mack's *Home Journal*, Melbourne, October 24.

CROOKS AND ROOKS

Behind prison bars a chess tournament has been played between prison visitors and convicts. At one match a banker was playing against a master forger. There is nothing novel in the fact. Both create the means of payment out of nothing, and the master forger has always been in competition with the banker, but at a disadvantage. The banker has a licence, or assumes he has a licence, to mint money, while the forger has no licence whatsoever, and has to be even more discreet how he works than does the professional money-maker. It is general acceptance by the public which gives the commodity of either gentleman any value. As a matter of fact, the forger may do less actual harm to the community than the banker. The banker accounts his commodity as debt to be repaid to him at interest, but the forger does not want to see his money again.

--"T.H.S.," in Social Credit

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 3.)

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OPPORTUNITY

Several readers have enquired for older back numbers of the "New Times" which contain many brilliant articles by the founder and late editor, Tom Moore. We propose to make available limited quantities on request and payment of freight (which should accompany request). These copies may also be obtained by calling personally at the "New Times" office.

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ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

VICTORIA

Under the heading, "Short Cut to Utopia," there was an interesting contribution by an American correspondent in the *Herald*, Monday November 6, editorial. In it is given a concrete example of the success of Electoral Campaign tactics: Signatures of voters to the number of 789,104 were obtained in the State of California demanding that the "Thirty Dollars Every Thursday" plan be placed on the ballot. *It was*. The plan is also made the issue in the States of Arkansas, North Dakota, and Washington. Professor Irving Fisher, of the Yale University, is said to be the inspirer of the plan which is designed to provide 30 dollars every week to all persons over fifty years.

The purpose of the Electoral Campaign in Australia is to mobilise the electoral vote to instruct members of Parliament to re-present in Parliament the electors' DEMANDS "That Poverty be Banished from This Land of Plenty." The Campaign is a people's movement. It is not concerned with any *Party, Sect or Ism*. The Elector's Demand and Undertaking form is the instrument of the elector's expression. It is the elector's first job to sign the form and—this is very important—see that his friends also sign forms. The individual elector's part in this unique Campaign is to spread the idea. YOU are the Campaign. There are no privates in the army working for the Abolition of Poverty. Each elector is the Commander-in-Chief of his own actions. Get busy.

The United Electors of Australia, 5th Floor, McEwan House, Little Collins Street, Melbourne, phone, MU 2834, will give you all the assistance it can.

"TONGALA.—Mr. Russell and his energetic Group held a meeting at Tongala on Thursday evening, November 3. Mr. Heatley, of Melbourne assisted on the platform and reports that the idea of the Campaign was readily accepted. At 2 a.m. Mr. Heatley was aroused from his bed to give further detailed explanations to an enthusiastic group. Tongala decided to run a series of Heckle Hour meetings, which keep the interest of the community alive. Arrangements are being made to be in attendance at 3UZ Grouch Hour during its transmission from the Shepparton station.

FRANKSTON held a Group meeting on Tuesday evening last, at which eighteen members were present. Good progress was made. It was proposed to approach the Youth Section to bring their Platform Team to address a public meeting at Frankston. The

Tongala Heckle Hour idea was thought to be good, and it was decided to start a series in Frankston. Consideration was given to assisting Head Office with finance. Mr. Parker is working up the Frankston Group to be a real force. He will journey to Collingwood next Sunday, November 13, to address the Collingwood Men's Fellowship, Sackville Street, at 3 p.m.

WARRAGUL.—The Postal Department has transferred Mr. Warlow to Lakes Entrance. Mr. Warlow's unremitting work in the Warragul district has consolidated the Group's position. Although we sympathise with Warragul reformers over their loss, we can't help being pleased that a good man is entering a field which will be greatly helped by his experience and energy.

BENTLEIGH expects a successful meeting on Tuesday evening, November 15, to be held in the Church of England Hall, Mavho Street, Bentleigh. Dr. Dale and Mr. F. Paice will be the speakers.

BENDIGO is losing its president, Mr. Lazarus. Frankston is the lucky district to gain, at Bendigo's expense. Mr. Lazarus has laid the foundations of a strong Group in Bendigo. It will be carried on under the guidance of Mr. Crombie, who wishes it to be announced that the Group will meet every Friday evening at his home, 70 Casey Street, Bendigo.

NATIONAL INSURANCE.—Repeal meetings will be held at Ballarat and Heidelberg on November 20 and November 22 respectively.

3UZ GROUCH HOUR.—Members of Brighton Youth Section got in good work at last Monday's session. The session provides a first class medium for free propaganda. The station is arranging to alternate the session with country transmission. Country supporters should inquire whether their local station is included in the programme, and, if so, make use of it.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

N.I.R.A.—The will of the people must prevail in a democracy. Therefore the first step for the members of the National Insurance Repeal Association was to make experimental contacts to ascertain the probable will of the majority. This work meant individual approach—the group contact or public meeting would not be exact enough from the scientific and democratic point of view. The result has been definite proof that a very great majority of employers and employees want the N.I.P. Act repealed.

So the desire that this Act be repealed is a democratic and reasonable one. It is therefore couched as a *demand*, and not as a request or petition.

The next step will be a public meeting in the *Adelaide Town Hall* on Tuesday, November 29, at 8 p.m. This will be the first step towards publicity and a general membership. We are sure that every interested person will attend to express his will *unitedly*, and to learn the part he or she can play in this campaign.

Remember, if you join the N.I.R.A., you have voluntarily enlisted in an army which is at war with members of the Federal Parliament—a war by the people to get Political Democracy—i.e., control by the people over their Parliamentary representatives and institutions. It is every elector's war; so be a man (or a woman), and play your part by enlisting and doing your job, in order to get what you want, DEFENCE FINANCE.

H.Q. is very gratified at the "repeat orders" for the letters to Federal M.P.'s, demanding that National Credit be used to finance the defence programme, without interest or taxation, as indicated by the Royal Commission on Banking. Have you sent your letter? Have your neighbours and friends heard about it or seen it? It is up to you.

CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ORDER.—The following information is supplied by the Hon. Sec., C.S.O.:

The public are urged to come and pack the Town Hall on Thursday, November 17, at 8 p.m., when the C.S.O. executive will report to the public the refusal of a majority of the State Parliament to receive a deputation to state the case for the abolition of the ration system and the substitution of useful employment at award rates or payment of the "basic wage" to all unemployed workers. The C.S.O. will ask for democratic direction from the public concerning more definite pressure for this objective.

On Sunday, November 27, at 8 p.m., a service of Repentance and a Corporate Call to Social Action will be held in the Adelaide Town Hall. This service will be unique; it should appeal to all well-intentioned and serious-minded Christians—and there must be many such—and should prove a clarion call to each individual present to press unremittingly for the general and generous distribution of the plenty that abounds. What is possible for the common good is obviously of the Will of God.

WOMEN'S DIVISION.—Members of the women's division are arranging a card evening to be held at the Campaign Rooms, 17 Waymouth-street, Adelaide, on Saturday, November 19, at 8 o'clock. Their object is to give you what you want, and to get what they want (funds). You may play bridge, five hundred, euchre or monopoly. Supper provided. Collection.

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON.—The next luncheon will be held at the Campaign Rooms on Wednesday, November 16, at 1 p.m. Men welcome to the address. Luncheon optional; charge, 1/-.

WEST AUSTRALIA

GARDEN PARTY.—The Ladies' Committee has decided that a Garden Party will be held on Saturday, December 3, at Mr. and Mrs. Robinson's home, 150 Suburban Road, South Perth. H.Q. is asking all Campaigners to help this drive for funds so as to enable Headquarters to carry on the work of the campaign more efficiently. Produce of all descriptions is required, besides dressed dolls, fancy work, vegetables, etc. Games, competitions, and other attractions also will make the

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT BENALLA

Address by Dr. John Dale

A big crowd assembled on Sunday afternoon, October 30, at the Memorial Hall to hear an address by Dr. John Dale, Health Officer for the City of Melbourne, under the auspices of the Benalla branch of the United Electors of Australia.

The following extracts are from the report in the *Benalla Standard* of November 1:

Mr. S. C. Layton presided. The chairman, introducing Dr. Dale, said that the meeting was sponsored by the Benalla branch of the United Electors of Australia. He had a deep conviction that no citizen-to-day could lead a Robinson Crusoe existence, but had to be vitally concerned not only with collective security, but collective prosperity.

Dr. Dale said he understood that there was a group of people in Benalla who considered that the present state of affairs was extremely unsatisfactory. Our Western civilisation was in a very precarious position, and had just postponed a war by the skin of its teeth. No one was under any misapprehension as to what war would mean, and that it would send them deep down into the pit.

Who is Boss?

"Who was boss in this country?", Dr. Dale asked. Australia still had democracy, and he for one did not want to go Fascist, nor did he want Communism; but he wanted to see democracy operating. It was not the hand that rocked the cradle which ruled the world, but the hand which held the money bags. You must have money to live. Who controlled the supplies of money? Was it Government? No. If the Government was asked for money to attend to children's teeth they would be told they had no money; but in war time it was different—all the money that was needed was available.

Fear and Poverty

The outstanding things in the world to-day were the existence of fear and poverty in an age of plenty. For the first time in history there was a surplus of food, clothing and building materials: the essentials of life. This had been brought about by the amazing development of science. In the depths of the recent depression everything a human being needed was available in plenty, yet people had to tighten their belts to live. There was really no occasion to go without. If supplies happened to be short in one particular place, there was plenty in other parts of the world, and transport was cheap. Yet in the richest countries of the world children were going without the essentials of health.

The British Dominions and America were the richest countries in the world, but in them there were tens of thousands of children without the necessities to properly build their bodies. The medical profession was largely to blame, because it had only just started to talk about this phase of the matter. Without the necessary materials, babies could not develop, just as a building could not be erected without the proper materials. Many thousands of our children in Australia are suffering from deficiency, which made them susceptible to disease.

In Australia there are thousands of people not getting a sufficient diet, Dr. Dale said. A very large proportion of the people in Melbourne were miserably fed, in an age of over-production, when they did not know what to do with the food produced.

Due to Science

Wealth came from the earth and was worked on with the aid of science. The people who owned the land drew a share, by virtue of their ownership; but the land was no more productive as such. The people who

fun. All gifts can be sent to Mrs. Robinson, 150 Suburban Road, South Perth. All country friends are asked to help as far as lies in their power.

worked were entitled to a share, but it was not because they worked harder that the pile was getting bigger. No; the size of the pile was due to science. When God made man he was just as good or bad as he was to-day, but he had no science. Then he began to discover things, and gradually increased his power. He doubled his power when he domesticated animals. To-day there were thousands of machines and engines exploiting some power. If the human being had doubled his power by domesticating animals, how much had he increased it by the inventions of to-day?

Science, Dr. Dale said, was in the common ownership of everyone, and every person was entitled to his share of its benefits—the man who owned the land, the man who worked it, and the whole community, which owned science. It did not matter what Government was in, the people should demand the abolition of poverty. It could be done. It was not for the people to say how it was to be done. That was a job for experts. The people must take charge, and become a democracy, which was a state of government which resides in, and is exercised by, the people as a whole. But it was the person who controlled money who controlled government. Therefore, before they went Fascist or Communist, let them give democracy a chance. Let them tell the Government what they wanted, and get it. In the words of a famous man, science had repeated on a grand scale the miracle of the loaves and fishes, but they were not being distributed. Those loaves and fishes had to be distributed, and it could be done through democracy.

The U.E.A.

There is no use carrying on as we are, Dr. Dale concluded. The old business was not good enough, and we should try something new—try democracy. This would be a most interesting experiment, which had never yet been tried. Let the people get together and let their member know that they were watching him and demanding things. Members of Parliament were astounded at receiving demands from the electors, they had been so used to simply voting the party ticket. He asked his hearers to treat the matter seriously, and to act up to their rights.

In reply to a question, Dr. Dale said it was not for the electors to say how the trouble should be cured. Opinions were so diverse that, if they attempted to say that a cure should be attempted in a certain way, the movement would break up. The cure rested in control of the monetary system, and the actual technique of the bookkeeping system to be adopted should rest with experts.

Changing the Horse

When it was suggested that there were too many changes of government in Australia for any continuous policy to be tried out, Dr. Dale said the trouble was that they changed the horse, but not the jockey.

Before the meeting closed, with a vote of thanks to the speaker, moved by the Rev. C. M. Kennedy, and seconded by Mr. A. McIntosh, it was announced that the United Electors of Australia had developed a plan of action, known as the "Electoral Campaign," which was designed to bring sufficient pressure to bear on Parliament to make certain of getting the results all Australians wanted and knew to be possible.

The success of this campaign depended entirely on a large enough number of electors doing their small share of the work. All interested were asked to get in touch with the Benalla group of the U.E.A. through the president (Rev. L.E. Wilkinsen), secretary (Mr. A. C. Russell), or treasurer (Mr. T. La Peyre.)

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