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NEWSAGENTS

THE NEW TIMES

MEDICAL JOURNAL
ON NATIONAL
INSURANCE

See Page 2

A NON-PARTY, NON-SECTARIAN, WEEKLY NEWSPAPER EXPOSING THE CAUSES, THE INSTITUTIONS, AND
THE INDIVIDUALS THAT KEEP US POOR IN THE MIDST OF PLENTY

Vol. 4. No. 48.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1938.

Every Friday, 3d

OUR SLUM EMPIRE

How B. S. B. Stevens
Misled The People

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(Continued on page 3.)

OUR SLUM EMPIRE

International prestige, about which there has been so much talk of late, is one of the most desirable and soul-satisfying things that one can have. It is as the wine of the gods, enabling one to swing along with light, blithesome step, head held high, while the white man's burden rests as easily on its bearer as a haversack on the shoulder of a hiker. In fact, the only drawback to international prestige is that *one can't eat it.*

We have the largest city in the world, the greatest empire, we have won most wars of any importance since the death of Harold at Hastings, the sun never sets on us, and now—to add to our list of superlatives, we are given credit by an American publication for having THE slum empire of the world. What an honour!

The Heart of Empire

Other countries have slums, of course, but for size, at least, there is nothing in the world to compare with London, where some 80% of a population of nine million are in receipt of an income of under 45/- per week. In 1936, when the Means Test was working at full pressure, 10% of Britain's population was receiving less than 10/- per week, their average expenditure on food being 4/-, or about 2½ per meal. That represented 4,500,000 men, women and children; 20% of the population, representing 9,000,000 (considerably more than Australia's total population,) were in receipt of less than 15/- per capita per week on food slightly less than 3½ d. per meal.

Taking it that the next strata representing a further 20% of the population who lived in luxury on a food buying average of 8/- per head per week, or nearly 4½d. per meal, are able to be filled, though not nourished, it must be apparent that 30% of Great Britain's inhabitants, 13,500,000 in all, are actually starving.

How They Live

Before we bring the story home, so to speak, it might be as well to go into the matter of how Britannia's sons and daughters manage to keep alive at all under such conditions, also how they die, as many thousands of them do each year. Here is one case. A nineteen-year-old girl, one of a family of three with a total weekly income of 8/6 (5/- rent, 3/6 food), died. The funeral was stopped and an inquest ordered. The coroner's jury returned a verdict to the effect that the girl had died as a result of "UNINTENTIONAL NEGLECT on the part of the parents," that neglect being due to "IGNORANCE AND POVERTY." We are left to infer that had the parents not been ignorant, the girl could have been kept alive on her share of the weekly food budget.

While the position of England's unemployed is bad, it often happens that those who are working are even worse off. A pay sheet showing the wages paid to ten men for a full week's work in a Birmingham steel works shows a total amount paid of £25/12/2, the wages ranging from £5/5/- down to 18/7. The 18/7 being paid to an unskilled labourer aged 23.

Naturally, people on such wages cannot feed themselves properly nor, in view of the fact that the rental of a slum room in an English city—10/- to 13/- per week on an average—is high, can they afford decent accommodation. In fact, it is not unusual for two families to share one room.

How They Die

A comparison between two suburbs of Glasgow—Cathcart, a comfortable middle class suburb, and Calton, a working-class suburb—gives some idea of the loss of life due to poverty.

In Cathcart, 27,000 people live on an area of 1300 acres, while Calton, with an area of 333, one-quarter of Cathcart's, houses a population of 34,000. In Cathcart the average house space for each person is sixteen yards by fifteen, in Calton it is seven yards by seven.

One person dies each year to every 100 living in Cathcart. Two persons die each year to every 100 persons living in Calton.

Five infants under one year of age die out of every 100 born in Cathcart. Thirteen infants under one year of age die out of every 100 born in Calton.

The comparative deaths from respiratory diseases in the two suburbs are four to one, and the infectious disease ratio is seven to one.

So, at the heart of Empire we have conditions fairly comparable with those that pertain in poor, benighted China during a famine. The only difference is that when there is a famine in China there is a shortage of goods, while a famine in England merely means a shortage of some silly little figures and bits of paper. The millions starve, while a super-abundance of food is separated from them by a bit of plate-glass.

Where England Leads Australia Follows

As we intend to deal with actual conditions in Melbourne in our next issue, it is not intended to go into detail of our local poverty in this article, but it might be pointed out that during the past few months several people in Melbourne alone have been picked up in the streets and taken to hospital in a dying condition as a result of starvation, while thousands (men, women and children) have died who would not have died had they been able to afford proper food and decent living quarters.

The following extracts from a recent Melbourne *Herald* report, which carried the heading "Baby died of bad feeding," are illuminating.

"The parents of a child aged seven months who, said the coroner, had died from the effects of exhaustion caused by improper feeding, were the subject of strong comments on their 'disgraceful neglect.'

"Addressing the parents he (the Coroner) said 'I have considered taking further action against you, but in all the circumstances—I have in mind that you have a large family and a LIMITED INCOME—I do not intend to do so!'

Armaments and the Enemy

While our population is starving our politicians are very concerned at our loss of prestige as a result of our inability to back up our arguments by force during a recent European crisis, so it has been arranged to spend something like sixty million pounds on rearmament. We have no doubt that there will shortly be a recurrence of the old war-time poster, "England (or, in our case, Australia) expects that every man this day will do his duty," with, underneath, the picture of a recruiting sergeant with a pointing finger, and the caption, "This means you." Our daily press will be packed with sob stuff about saving the women and children, and maintaining our prestige.

Well, we are fighting to save the

women and children. We will do our duty. As a matter of fact, we have been doing it to the best of our ability for some considerable time. Our recruiting sergeant's finger is pointed at the baby-loving Billy and his friends in the legislature—*The enemy is here;* women and children are being killed. "Australia expects that every man this day will do his duty." That means YOU, Mr. Elec-

tor and Mr. Politician.

With regard to our prestige, perhaps it is as well that it isn't a necessary part of our diet. If it were our people would suffer even greater disabilities as a result of malnutrition, for Europe has adopted France's coined phrase, "Perfidious Albion," and America, with good reason, has called us THE SLUM EMPIRE.

MEDICAL JOURNAL ON NATIONAL INSURANCE

"Financial Measure—Not a Health Bill"

"Designed to Relieve Government of Pensions Expenditure"

The following is an editorial, under the heading, "National Health Insurance In Australia," appearing in "The Medical Journal of Australia" of November 26.

National health insurance in Australia was anticipated for many years before the Bill was brought before Parliament. It had been discussed on many occasions by politicians and by the profession. Occasional threats of its introduction were made, and were met by mild protests or gentle cries of alarm. In the course of time medical men became accustomed to the boggy, and despite the warnings of their leaders, ignored it. Consequently, when the Bill at last came, the announcement of its provisions struck like a thunderbolt. The profession reeled for a moment, then leapt into action. In the early heat the features most discussed were those that appeared most prominently and thrust themselves most violently before the observer. Almost every argument was concerned with money. Little was said, except by a few thoughtful people, of the possible effect of panel practice on professional morals and efficiency, or of the possible value or danger of national health insurance to the community, or of the necessity or desirability of any form of national health insurance in Australia. Even the scope of service received scant mention. But the fear of reduced incomes was not the only reason for this attitude. The Bill was not truly a health bill; it was a financial measure, brought in by the Commonwealth Treasurer, not the Minister for Health, and, so we believe, was designed primarily to relieve the Government of its large expenditure on pensions. Money was its main consideration.

As a result of the profession's protestations a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into certain aspects of national health insurance. Partly as a result of the type of the profession's protestations and partly because the Act was sponsored by a financial rather than a health expert, the terms of reference of this Commission are concerned solely with money matters—the remuneration of medical practitioners under the Act. It seems that to a financial expert, and, indeed, to some medical men, all things appear measurable in pounds, shillings and pence.

Now that the more excitable members of the profession have become sobered and the less excitable have had time to think, many are asking why the Commission is not presented with broader views on the nationally important features of health insurance. The answer is in the terms of reference. Still, it is not for us to say whether any particular evidence is or is not admissible. If a man has something of importance to say, he should seek an opportunity of saying it while there is still time. Many things must be said, and many things done before national insurance will be acceptable to the profession in Australia. For the proper working of any such

Scheme the good-will of the profession must be secured.

It has been officially announced that the health provisions of the Act will not come into operation until May 1939. This will give time for the formulation of a scheme that will be acceptable to the nation and the profession alike. Masses of data are available now that were unobtainable before the drafting of the Bill. If the Federal Executive of the British Medical Association were to meet the Government now, its members would be provided with sufficient information to enable them to discuss national health insurance on an equal footing with the Government's experts. Formerly they had no reply to the experts' arguments. They stated the case for the profession, but were unable to substantiate their claims. They had to accept as correct the figures and statements presented to them; for they themselves had none. And it was on these figures and statements that the Bill was based. Now is the time for the Federal Council to collaborate with the Commonwealth Department of Health, the health departments of the various States, and other informed bodies, in the evolution of a scheme of health insurance that will be a true health insurance, designed for the welfare of the poorer people, and including in its scope not merely a few services for the wage earner, but good general services for the unemployed and the unemployable and for the breadwinner and his dependants.

It may reasonably be doubted whether national health insurance is required in Australia. If we must have it, let it be in such a form that it will give us cause for pride and will be a credit to our nation.

Plans for the subsidised export of 100 million, bushels of wheat have been completed by the U.S.A. Department of Agriculture. It has been estimated that nearly one-third of American families have not enough to eat, judged by modern standards.

* * *

"We may be able to do still more during the next two years than in the first three years of office."—Premier Aberhart.

NOTICE

In future the telephone number of the "New Times" will be MU 2834.

The "New Times" Office will be located at McEwan House, 343 Little Collins Street (Fifth Floor).

The postal address will remain unaltered—Box 1226, G.P.O. Melbourne.

THE BROKEN COLUMN

National Fitness

By "WAFFLE."

Democracy is not ready for National Insurance. Hence I have shelved indefinitely my scheme for ensuring insurance. First things first. Insurance companies will not insure six people (pardon) sick people. Therefore the nation can't be insured till we have made it - where it belongs. What it is made to fit I now propose to explain. But mind, it's only for circulation amongst the Inner Cabinet.

Mixed Vitamins

I have known for a long time that the people would not fit—were not fit. Hardly one could stand up to a day's march, or carry a gun. It's their own fault. They will mix their vitamins like cocktails. No D vitamin should be taken with any B vitamin, and vice versa. But I mustn't generalise or dogmatise. I believe that Democracy, like water, always finds its own level.

Nevertheless, I find it necessary to give Democracy a bone to pick—i.e., a scheme, plan, economy, that will provide a National place for each unit of population to fit into. Hence the term, National Fitness.

I hope I'm not too late with this scheme. Divers diseases show a marked upward trend. Since the rise of unemployment during the unfortunate Depression, now happily over, psittacosis (parrot disease) is on the increase. This is due to the fact that the unemployed sit, sit, sit—or, to use a metaphor which gave the complaint its *nom de plume*—they perch.

Now it is impossible to be perfectly fit, unless all or both of two things occur. The first is: Make a hole to fit a man; the second is like unto it, only different: Make a man to fit a hole. The latter is the only National way of achieving National Fitness.

Two Public Utilities Must Help

The only way to do this is to inaugurate a National Fitness Campaign for Promoting Physical Jerks. For this it will be necessary to use two public utilities: — (a) The Radio; (b) The Press Gang. The Radio can be abused (correction — for "abused" read "used") to arouse the sleeper (if any); and, if necessary, shock him into jerks. If this fails, the Press Gang comes in and jerks him into shocks. Brilliantly written starticles prove a National panic can be caused by realistic broadcasts of invasion from or by another planet or nether world. (Apropos of nothing, I understand a British Trade Delegation is contemplating a tour over-air to explore every air-venue on the chance of lighting on a new market beyond Far East.)

Now the part played by the Press Gang is important. Democracy has had so many shocks

over the air that it doesn't any longer get shocks over the air unless it's pressed into saying it's had shocks over the air. Otherwise Democracy merely shakes its tawny head and says: "Another new jazz effort . . . They think, we think, I think the Press Gang will not need pressing into this National service. Amen."

Very well, then. An hour's solid physical jerks before waking, another on rising. Repeat. It is advisable to exercise for about 45 minutes each half hour, and a little exercise by way of, an appetiser before meals, which should, preferably, be replaced by fasts. If this is difficult at first, then light meals, preferably once a day or less. An army marches on its stomach; but if the stomach is overloaded, the marching is apt to be bumpy.

This brings me back to the question of diet. Most people eat much too much. There is a considerable leakage of food to the unemployed, who, not having done anything to whet the appetite, should have no appetite. 'Tis said that if a man shall not work, neither shall he eat. It's not the price (sorry, — prize) that makes the race worth running—it's the effort, the straining, striving, muscles taut, faces twitching, stomachs empty, and then the final sprint up the straight. If there's no prize, no buttered bun, the other side of the judge's box, isn't it still supremely worth while? Democracy wants buns with bread and butter. It should learn to want guns instead of butter.

A D— Sick Notion

We're only a D sick Nation (erratum—for "D sick" read "D 6") We can't be A1 till every man is fit, may fit, must fit. Like everything else it's a moral question. The D 6-ers are D 6 because of flabby morals. They refuse to work twenty-four hours a day if necessary, looking for work. They sit on their psittacosis, and live on doles. Physical fitness depends on the effort to earn one's salt, otherwise one's cake is dough; it depends on continual striving to reach the unattainable—everyone knows that, we have plenty for everyone to eat, we have to export the surplus to other nations, and they have to do the same. (What the last nation does with it I don't know). But it's the moral discipline that makes us fit where we belong. The non-stayers are non-starters. Obviously, if they fail to reach the hole they should fit in, they'd fail to fit in it if they got there. This is true survival of the fittest—of those fit to defend the Nation.

My scheme applies equally to juvenescents, adolescents, and senescents. Co-operation is solicited. It has been offered by: National Post-hole-diggers' Assoc., The Associated Shooting Galleries, Athletic Singlet Manufacturing Co., Sporting Goods Manufacturers, Gas Companies and Powder Puff Manufacturers.

As a start, I propose to provide swimming pools for everyone, by digging canals from the sea-board to the Commonwealth Bank Board, via the Inner Cabinets. This will provide work, and also a hidden anchorage where the Australian Fleet can float un-armed (sorry, — unharmed) should any enemy drop in. It could also pop out and surprise 'em and then pop back again and shut the door. That would defend the Fleet, the Inner Cabinets and the Bank Board.

Just a minute. Here's Democracy wanting to have a say. But what on earth can I say till I've made Democracy fit----?

"MY ARMY, O MY ARMY"

Wanted—An "Aussie" as I.I.G.

BY HARLEY MATTHEWS.
Condensed from "The Publicist."

Well, it seems all settled that Australia will soon be fighting in this next war that is going to make Democracy safe for the World.

Daily we read of plans, programmes, conferences, discussions, organisation, reorganisation, of new posts created, men appointed to them. The only thing yet to be decided, it seems, is where the war is to be fought. One public man tells us our real frontier is Singapore, another says it is the Mediterranean, and yet another assures us that it is in the "Far East" somewhere.

Keeping in Step With England

But, however mixed the geography, all seem agreed that Australia must "keep in step with England." So accordingly from that country we have imported a kind of super-drill-sergeant to give us the correct left—right—left.

Certainly he is to be called "Inspector General." And most likely he will recommend this town to be fortified, some new railway to be built, insist on all camp gateposts being whitewashed, perhaps abolish slouch hats.

But, writing as an Australian private soldier left over from the last war, I'm sure he will be more concerned about the way the troops present arms, how they salute officers, or don't salute them, whether some button or other is undone—"See to it, Sergeant-Major"—than about things that the average Australian would regard as more important.

Still, the Big Day will come. The Australian soldiery will march past the saluting base, bands playing, flags flying—"Left, right, left" - bayonets flashing - "Eyes right, eyes front"—crowds cheering.

"Splendid! A magnificent body of men. I indeed deem it an honour to command such troops."

Last Man, Last Shilling

And then—well, as our politicians seem convinced that "Australia will be there," it will soon be: "We don't want to lose you, but we think you ought to go." And, a little later: "To the last Man and the last Shilling."

It will probably be all right for the shilling. The last war proved that the shillings, and the pounds too, could take care of themselves. In fact, they increased and "multiplied" as never before. But it was different with men. They had a way of diminishing in numbers. Indeed, at times it looked as though there really would be a last man. The War of Attrition, as the British Higher Command termed it, would be won by him. That was the whole idea behind their strategy, they said. They saw him standing on top of a trench, "Somewhere in Europe," with 10,000,000 German corpses on one side, and 10,000,000 Allied corpses on the other.

No Crude Australian

He would, of course, have been no crude Australian soldier, but a British Guardsman just brought over from Military Police duty in Leicester Square. There he would be standing, buttons polished, badges shining, eyes fixed straight ahead, at attention (or presenting arms, I forget which), while the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps band played the General Salute and "It's a long way to Tipperary." Then he would be paid off — 1/- for the day—with that last shilling, all the other shillings having turned into pounds by then!

Awaiting the Higher Command

But, of course we are concerned only with the last Australian. He had frozen to death while waiting for the

British Higher Command to come and inspect him after the A.I.F.'s last battle. There they found him, even in death, standing to attention, face freshly shaven, boots and badges polished, chin-strap in place. For by this time he had become a properly disciplined soldier. He had saluted every officer in the Allied forces, naval and military, and many German officer prisoners besides. He had done guard at Buckingham Palace. But there, the night before his mates had been wiped out. When that machine-gun started to sweep the trench, they had not bobbed their heads, because, "Lieutenant hasn't given order, Choom."

That's what might have happened to the last soldier. And I want to prevent it happening to the next soldier. I want to see him take his girl out . . . without being told by some Grenadier guardsman to do up the top button of his tunic; and that whether he ends up as G.O.C., A.I.F., in U.K., or as a full private.

I should therefore suggest that some ex-private of the A.I.F. be appointed I.I.G.—Inspector of Inspector General.

LIFE AND ABUNDANCE

Between 1924 and 1935 the output per worker in mines and factories increased by 25 per cent; in engineering, by 52 per cent; and in many other industries by 27 per cent, and upwards.

Even in agriculture the last few years show an increase of production per man of 27 per cent.

What do these figures mean? Is the standard of living—of personal security—increasing as the rate of output of wealth per man is?

It is not.
We are being cheated—defrauded of well-being, abundance of all those things required to make life free and secure for all in here on our doorstep.

Increasing output per man (with the help of machines) means more wealth and *less work* is NOW available.

If we demand *work*, we are *cheating ourselves*; if we listen to planners who imply that more and more jobs must be found we are conspiring against facts, trying to cheat the facts.

It is distribution of the output to consumers that is required, and, further, that distribution must increase as output per man increases, and as *labour decreases*.

To demand WORK in face of the facts of the performance of labour-saving machinery is insane and dangerous.

To demand the "wages of the machine," so that consumers may choose and consume the increasing output of the machines, is sane, practical, and safe, because it fits the facts; because it fits the facts of production in relation to its proper objective—i.e., consumption—correctly.

To demand WORK (meaning employment) is to demand a form of slavery, whatever and however its degree may vary with the conditions of different "jobs."

For a human labourer to insist on attempting to compete with a machine as his only dignified claim on the means of life is to throw away his birthright, and to condemn himself to destitution plus degradation.

— *Social Credit*, London.

Forty-three of the [Canadian] senators hold 199 directorships or offices in 151 companies whose known assets, without duplication, add up to 8,500,000,000 dollars. This figure represents over 50 percent of Canadian industry and finance, including all railroads.--
Fortune

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(Continued on page 7.)

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Y.S. Propaganda Organiser.

The New Times

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Progress and Prejudice

From time to time it is necessary for a paper such as ours to make a statement of policy, in order that our readers may use that statement as a kind of standard measure by which to compare performance.

The trouble is that, having been brought up in a world of labelled thought, we are all inclined to carry the "he who is not with us is against us" attitude to absurd extremes. Two schools of thought, whose ultimate goal is the betterment of social conditions, but whose methods for attaining that one objective differ, are obviously in the same camp. Unfortunately, however, it often happens that members of both schools, each of which has much to commend it, are so busy trying to convert each other to their way of thinking that the common enemy is forgotten, and, worse still the common ideal is lost in an unseemly wrangle.

In standing four square to its non-party, non-sectarian principles, the *New Times* has reserved the right to applaud good works by any section of the community or any member of the community, irrespective of the platform represented. In these circumstances there is a remote possibility that even the Lyons Government may earn our commendation and receive our support. On the other hand, however, we reserve the right to criticise any specific act on the part of anyone which does not conform to our general idea of rightness, justice and logic.

We consider that the activities of Montagu Norman and Sir Otto Niemeyer are anti-social, and trust that the time will come when such activities will be considered criminal, but is not because Montagu Norman and Sir Otto Niemeyer are said to be Jews that we object to those activities. We have many supporters who are Jews, and they are as loud in their condemnation of such men as are our Gentile adherents.

We have seen fit to condemn some Church dignitaries, not because they are Church dignitaries, but because they have used their pulpits for the purpose of disseminating anti-social doctrine. Those of us who are Christians furiously resent the forging of Christ's signature to

anti-social propaganda, and that resentment is due to the fact that we do believe in Christianity.

We have been accused of having anti-British sentiments. On the contrary, our sentiments are pro-British, not because we think that it is more important for a Britisher to be well fed and cared for than for a German, a Chinese or a Mexican, but because, by an accident of birth, it has happened that the section of the world in which we have our being is a British country (in our case, Australia), and because *the job at hand* is the logical one to undertake. This, in our opinion, can be done more effectively by discovering and pointing out the evils that exist in our social order, than by singing "Rule Britannia" quite regardless of the fact that some of the "rulers" are seeking food in Britannia's refuse bins.

Unfortunately, there is a large section of our community that is of the opinion that an empire can be great, irrespective of whether its people are happy or not. That same body is also of the opinion that one cannot be pro-British unless one is willing to be anti anything else on demand. According to that reasoning, it would have been necessary for us to have had a hatred of some nation or another without cease since the signing of the Armistice, in order to win approval.

An article contained in this issue, entitled "Our Slum Empire" will be construed by our traducers as being anti-British — we maintain that it is pro-British, in that it is written in the hope that it will have the effect of improving the lot of some of our suffering fellow-Britishers and defeating the real anti-British, who are unpatriotic and inhuman enough to use their power to check legislation aimed to benefit a section of the British public.

A leading scientist has written to the effect that the future of humanity may be decided in this century. Science, properly applied to the problems of humanity, would have the eminently desirable result of raising man still higher above the animals; improperly applied, as at present, evolution must take us back to our beginnings, far below that level.

The *New Times* is on the side of those who, irrespective of class, race or creed, are fighting for the continued improvement of man's status in the scheme of things. In this fight it is handicapped on all sides by those who fear that the general gain will mean their individual loss. The banking fraternity find us sufficiently important to "advise" their clients against advertising in our columns, employees of large concerns who support us are frowned upon by their employers, the frowns sometimes having a concrete effect on their futures. While we are thus handicapped in our efforts to support those who, in their various ways, are working for the abolition of poverty and its attendant disease and misery, the Press, controlled by those who thrive on widespread misery, seeks to damn our policy by a reiteration of contumely and ridicule.

Our demand is that the brains and scientific skill which have been applied to industry with such astounding results in the last hundred years shall be applied to our economic and educational systems. Such brains are at the disposal of the community, but the press and the wireless are at the disposal of only an interested and selfish section. The secret of the atom has been disclosed; why not the secret of how to feed our-

NEW ZEALAND NOTES

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

WAIMATE, November 21. — Everyone over here is awaiting anxiously the Government's pronouncement as to how it is going to finance the country during the next three years. So far no definite information has been given though the published utterances of the Prime Minister, to the effect that "Currency must be based on production", plus the unmistakable concern of the "granny" press, encourages monetary reformers to hope that something really worth while will follow the pronouncement. In the meantime we wait.

Brave Words and Public Credit

Unfortunately, Mr. Savage's brave words in the past have not been followed up by equally brave action. He has spoken, and still continues to speak, quite a lot about using the Public Credit, but when it comes to a showdown one finds his definition of Public Credit differs widely from what monetary reformers mean by it.

With Mr. Savage, Public Credit is little else but savings plus the issuing of loan money through the Reserve Bank, not costlessly, but as a debt to be laid on the already debt burdened shoulders of the community.

There has been a good deal of this sort of talk during the past three years, and monetary reformers are not likely to be deceived by it. But that which does cause them to be optimistic is the fact that the Government will not be able to finance its colossal Social Security Scheme by orthodox methods, even if the present so-called prosperity holds—which it will not—and if a depression sets in—which it surely will—much less will they be able to do so. What, then, will the Government do?

Monetary reformers, knowing the minds of many of the Government members, are not without hope. Yet "there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip," and one asks oneself whether this Government has the "guts"—it's a nasty word, but it is expressive—to defy the financial hierarchy and see the ensuing battle through. Will they be strong enough to finish the job, even though they be equal to putting their hand to the plough? One confesses, knowing full well how many mighty ones have fallen in the past through the patronage and wiles of the financiers, to a feeling of misgiving about it. Nevertheless, we are hopeful, and will continue to hope.

Granny Press is Agitated

Dear old Granny Press is much agitated about the depletion of the country's sterling funds. A few years ago they stood on balance at £40,000,000, but now they selves on the food we have? The secret has been discovered, but the discoveries have been prevented from handing it on by censorship, and prevented from putting it into practice by Privilege and its servile Governments.

In our efforts to gain our objective, we endeavour, in so far as is humanly possible, to clear our minds of prejudice in any shape or form. Being human, however, it is possible that we will feel a certain pride if it is as a result of our efforts that the desirable state of affairs which is our objective should come about first with the British Empire, so that a friendly world would feel disposed to look up to us. Then we would not only be pro-British, but would feel that we had the right to be proud of our nationality.

In the mean time, however, an American magazine has published a photograph over the caption, "Britain's Slum Empire."

are down to £9,000,000. This is regarded as a grave matter by the dear old thing, especially in view of the fact that a loan of £17,000,000 falls due next year, and must be paid in sterling.

"What will the Government do about it?" she asks.

Mr. Savage says there is no need to worry, a solution of the difficulty will be found all right, and financiers overseas are not to be perturbed about it. New Zealand has always met her obligations in the past, and will continue to do so, etc., etc.—but "Granny" is in sore distress over the business! Anyway, it will be interesting to see how a Government boasting that it has closed down on overseas borrowing completely is going to extricate itself from the position and remain within the orbit of orthodox finance.

People Behind the Government—Rebuff to Press

The elections were a great triumph for the Government. Be not deceived by paper talk or the contrary attitude of "distinguished visitors" from these parts. This Government has the solid support of the great mass of the people, and if it carries out its pledges it will stay where it is for many a long, day to come. It will take more than the newspapers to shift it. One thing stands out like a minaret against the election background—the inability of the press to influence the public to-day as it once was able to do. Nearly every newspaper in the country was "agin' the Government", but it mattered not, the Government went back with a bound. This, surely, is significant to a degree.

ORMOND CITIZENS DEMAND REPEAL OF NATIONAL INSURANCE

Mr. F. C. Paice was the speaker at a largely-attended public meeting held at Christ Church Parish Hall, Ormond, on Tuesday, 29th ult., to protest against National Insurance. The speaker was accorded a very attentive hearing, and many questions were asked.

At the conclusion the following resolution was carried unanimously: "That this meeting of residents of Ormond, representing all shades of political opinion, believing that the National Health Insurance Act is not in the best interests of the majority of the Australian people, calls upon the Federal Government to repeal this Act; further, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister (Mr. Lyons), the member for Henty (Sir Henry Gullett), and each of the Victorian Senators."

The body of citizens who organised this meeting are already organising one to be held at Glenhantly Rifle Club Hall, Royal Avenue, opposite Glenhantly Railway Station. Mr. Paice will be the speaker.

NATIONAL INSURANCE

Active Workers in the Repeal Campaign to Meet

It has been suggested that as many as possible of those persons actively interested in the Repeal Campaign be gathered together with the idea of ascertaining the number of letters actually sent to members of Parliament, to compare notes, to consider a monster protest meeting, to consider subsequent action should it be necessary. Room 9, Fifth Floor, McEwan House, Little Collins Street, Melbourne, will be made available as a meeting place for those interested on Wednesday evening, December 7, about 8 o'clock.

N.Z. ANSWER TO THE LEMON

Says *Farming First*, Auckland: land:

"The stupidity of Government dealings as within the present financial system could not be better illustrated than by the present position of the citrus industry. Governments have been encouraging this industry to the fullest extent to expand, and now there are, very literally, lemons to burn. It is expected that 10,000 cases of really good lemons will be destroyed in Tauranga by the end of November. Now, Government's idea of setting this right is to help the lemon growers to advertise. The real difficulty in selling the lemons is not that the people do not want them. They are selling for three-halfpence to two pence each in the South Island. A mere fractional profit per lemon would satisfy the growers and would enable them to do very well, as lemons are prolific fruiters. Instead of this the lemon trees are being hacked down, and the lemons destroyed, will run into millions.

"There are plenty of people languishing on sick beds in hospitals and at home who could do with more cooling drinks, and there are other avenues for disposal of lemons. Persons suffering from neuritis or digestive troubles find them very beneficial. Probably the greatest use of lemons, however, would be with fish, if the use of lemons with fish were fully developed in workers' homes as well as among the well-to-do. A fish shop that supplies lemon with its fish is considered rather 'posh,' yet the lemon now need cost hardly more than the salt.

"Government's remedy for all this is some assistance in advertising. Now, obviously advertising may shift a burden from one class of commodities to another. It may, for instance, sell lemons as against apples. But so long as men have only money for lemons or apples, it will not enable them to buy both. So the same old stupid system goes on, whatever Government is in power."

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GENOT

Man of Victory

A Not-So-Fantastic Fantasy

By MANUEL KOMROFF, in "Ken" (Chicago).

A prostituted science conceives and develops the "perfect" man. He resists cold, hunger, thirst, and is bred totally blind to sentiment. That is why he knows no fear and in battle gives no mercy. Best of all, however, this perfect pawn will unquestionably obey his Exalted Leader's each and every exacting command.

Chairman and Gentlemen of Science:

The honour falls upon me to present to you, at this meeting of National Scientists assembled here by special command of our exalted and most supreme leader, the first public view of the new man, which we have named Genot. The root *gen* means to be born, become; it relates to the generation, the reproduction of our race. The suffix *ot* expresses the idea of national native, and is found in such words as patriot, zealot, helot. Therefore we put the two together in short order and call our man Genot.

Gentlemen of Science, we are assembled here for a great occasion. We shall see our new man, Genot, who is destined to save our race and make us the great and recognised leaders of the world. I have the honour of being selected to give you a brief history of Genot, how he was conceived and what were the main traits, physical, moral and spiritual, that we have bred into this great future man. He has been completed in the short space of 100 years.

The work on Genot was begun in the year 1918. He was conceived directly after the shameful Treaty of Versailles, and developed in our National Genetic Institute. We started with a pure blond stock that could be traced back to the heroes of our mythology. You may well wonder how, in so short a period as 100 years, we have been able to select, discard, inbreed and develop our national man Genot. Well, that is a secret we are not quite ready to disclose. However, we can say that from some secret writings in ancient Arabic we discovered some fundamental laws which are now legend with Arabian horse breeders. Also, from the work done on fruit-flies by a scientist whose name we need not mention, since he is a foreigner, and no foreigner is important, we received valuable clues. But we have made important discoveries of our own.

New Man

This year 2018 sees the birth of our new man. He is ready to go into production. Little traits and details may be bred into him at a later date, but these are not important. The main work accomplished, and by the arithmetical laws of multiplication and the rapidity of modern generation, we will in a few years have our great race of Genots. And Genots have been bred to conquer!

As far back as 1918 and 1920 we discovered in our institute that we could make young girls reproduce at 10 and 11 years of age. By work on the glands and injections we were able to reduce this age considerably. This was the first step in our speeding-up process. In the old days of 1930 and 1940 our women were burdened by long breeding periods. The incubator reduced the genetic time only two or three months. But we were forced to find new and more rapid methods. Our high scientific minds soon evolved a new laboratory technique in which the embryo is only started by the mother, and in a few days is taken from her to be grown first in test tubes and later in special genetic retorts. We have been limiting our girls to 24 in a single year, but now that our Genot is ready for reproduction we need make no such restrictions.

For the first ten years, as we have in the past, we shall keep all girls born, so that we can

have over two million Genots as fast as possible. After that the natural laws of selection will be employed, for we will need only a few females for breeding purposes. As for natural satisfaction of the Genot, this has been bred out of him. We have had to do this in order to build bone and muscle, and he does not seem to miss a thing that he knows nothing about. In our institute the males can reproduce only when we give them injections to stimulate the glands.

Cause and Effect

In this way, forced by national necessity, by a solid ring of foreign pressure, by envy of our neighbours and jealousy of the purity of our race, because of all these things, as well as the humiliating economic pressure placed upon us by the entire world, we have been obliged to use our great scientific minds to further the rapid production of the new man—Genot the Conqueror! What we have accomplished in a short space of 100 years some races would not be able to do in 10,000. We are a proud people and we cannot be humiliated.

Genot is here with us, and I will soon lead him upon the stage for all to behold. But before I do so, I want to point out certain characteristics that you will soon see. And also I want to give you the reasons for certain points, so that you may better understand the work we have done and the nature of Genot.

Characteristics

First of all, Genot is six feet six inches tall. We had some seven-foot Genots, but we had trouble with them and were unable to balance their glands. You will notice that he is big framed and his bones you would find, are hardened by special minerals. The arms and legs are very powerful. The body is short and the neck also very short. An even layer of fat covers the body. You will notice that the head is very small and narrow. This was necessary for reasons that will soon be made clear.

You will observe that the skin is fairly dark and hairy. We wanted the pigmentation as a protection from the sun and the hair and fat to reduce our cotton and wool consumption. It was easier to breed in these things than it would be to make two million overcoats for our conquering Genots.

The Genots have a good eye for aiming but a bad eye for many other things. Their ears are keen to hear the voice of their commanders but dull for loud explosions or machine-gun fire. Their nerves are almost nonexistent. This has been a serious problem, as we could not go beyond certain limits, but you will later see that we can stick pins in Genot and they will only tickle him.

Eats Chemical Tablets, Has No Sentiment

Genot has been bred to eat very little. He has a sort of low-pressure metabolism which we learned from the Japanese. The little soldiers of Japan are quite content with a bowl of rice a day. Our Genot is a big fellow in comparison, and his food is even less. We have chemical tablets that he adores, but he can go for three days without them. Also, our Genot does not bleed easily. We have taken the heavy blood streams away from the surface,

therefore small cuts, annoying little bruises, and even superficial bullet wounds are nothing that would bother him or delay him in action.

Because of his size, his weight and the long endurance that has been bred into him, each Genot can carry a rifle twice the weight of the old, obsolete guns used in our last wars. Besides this he is able to carry six belts of cartridges for the new automatic type machine gun, or 200 pounds of our new glico-paraphene shells.

Genot resists cold, hunger, thirst and, what is more important, he has been bred totally blind to sentiment. That is why he knows no fear, and in battle gives no mercy. He could not understand what mercy is. His teeth are strong, and we have given him some of the wonderful instincts that we found in animals of the highest order. In the face of an enemy, Genot will often throw away his gun and plunge at his victim, sinking his teeth into his soft neck. He is conditioned to the taste of certain things, and, from infancy, he is taught that there are valuable minerals and vitamins in human blood. Most important of all: Genot loves obedience.

A Secret

I shall now tell you a great secret that is strictly in confidence. While the Genot has been bred to resist all sorts of forces, he is still only human, and, being human, is subject to certain things. Though we said before that he does not bleed easily, he can be killed by a bullet in the right spot. But, having in him a special and low nervous organism, this is not so easy. However, we have made a valuable discovery which is now inbred into our hero. While he does not wound easily, when he does wound, he spares us a good deal of trouble by dying at once. We figured out that it was easier and less expensive to breed fresh Genots than, to take care of wounded ones. This conclusion came from the ingenious calculations and plotted curves of our greatest economic mind, our beloved professor of Patriotic Economy in the National Security University. Stupidly for many centuries we have cared for our wounded, but these figures are clear and definite, and show how man can be blind for so long and suddenly enlightened.

Now, Gentlemen of Science, the moment has arrived for you to look upon our work. You are the first of the general public to have the privilege of examining Genot.

The hairy giant, bent with long ape-like arms, was brought upon the stage. On his small face a silly grin disclosed a fine row of large yellow teeth. The audience applauded wildly.

This, Gentlemen, is Genot. (*More applause.*) Genot, bow to the gentlemen of science. (*The great monster bowed four or five times in rapid succession.*) That's enough, Genot.

Now, Gentlemen, we shall demonstrate that we can put pins in Genot and he will hardly feel them. There! See him smile! Now we shall make a small cut with this little blade, and you will see that hardly a drop of blood will be lost . . . You see that Genot is quite complete in all respects. I mean by that, he has five fingers on each hand and five toes on each foot, two eyes, and everything necessary, but each part has through the genius of our science been altered slightly.

Now you will have a rare privilege. You will hear Genot speak. He speaks very little, but what he says is most important. NOW, Genot, speak the four words you know for the gentlemen. Come, now, speak.

(The lecturer touched his fingers to his lips and nodded his head, as though to give consent. The giant stretched himself to his full length and raised his right arm high in salute.)

"I serve. Victory. Hail!"

GERMAN DEMAND FOR COLONIES

A New Zealand Opinion

(From "Farming First," Auckland.)

The question of colonies for Germany has been to the fore lately, and some people think it is really settled. Italy and Japan appear to have helped themselves, and Germany, without a fleet, but possibly seeking some excuse for a fleet, apparently relies upon the fear induced by her possession of a powerful air arm to supply her with colonies.

Surplus Population Fallacy

It is probably vain to bring forward the various arguments against Germany wasting her time on colonies, the reply to which, by Germany, would probably be: "Well, what do you want to waste your time for?" It is, however, a fact that none of the three States that have complained about having nowhere to dump surplus population ever did any dumping worth speaking of when they had colonies into which to dump surplus people. Forty years' possession of Korea did not result in the settlement there of Japanese equal to one year's increase of Japan's population. There are far more Italians in a very small area in New York than there were Italians and all other Europeans put together in all the Italian colonies. Japan has not led. Manchuria—has not even attempted to do so. One authority says that between 1925 and 1935 the Japanese population increased by 8,000,000, and only about a quarter of a million was sent to all the colonies. In all the German colonies before the war there were not as many settlers as there were Germans living in Paris, and when Germany had the colonies there was a great deal of complaint about them by Germans themselves. The fertile were blamed as being unhealthy, and the healthy as being infertile.

Colonies—What For?

All that colonies meant to Germany and Italy was tremendous expenditure without adequate returns. All that any of the colonies could provide to Germany or Italy can be provided just as easily to-day, since there is no export duty upon goods from any of the colonies. The trouble is for Germany and Italy to pay for imports. Even in that direction British and French loans have largely facilitated entry of goods into both countries, but both countries have preferred the raw materials of war to the raw materials of industry. Very largely the recent descents on Austria and Czechoslovakia were financed by the City of London, which has provided hundreds of millions to Nazi Germany.

The colonies about which there is such a fuss would not provide what Germany wants any more than Abyssinia is providing what Italy wants, but they would provide excuses for armaments and warships that are wanted to-day; not that either country seems to require much excuse of that description.

The total value of all imports into Germany from the colonies in 1913 was £1,125,000. Yet Nazis claim that the loss of this relatively small supply is strangling German industry! Other nations can afford to be sceptical about such a claim.

Rubber seems about the only raw material that Germany could get, after many years waiting, from her colonies, if they were restored to her.

White Man's Burden

The most cogent argument against the restoration of colonies to Germany is the Nazi spirit and its attitude towards non-Teutonic peoples. The idea that no nation other than an Aryan nation is more than sub-human is a pretty good reason, where it is held by any nation, for seeing that that nation does not take on the white man's burden with re-

gard to any of the sub-humans, since those who really hold the view that a nigger is a beast, and that everybody who is not born within sound of the local Bow Bells is a nigger, is likely to make the nigger more of a beast than he is, and, in the long run, not only suffer himself, but make all other people suffer in consequence. In short, the only reason for refusing Germany colonies is that, bad as we may be ourselves, Germany has openly declared herself to be very much worse; and if we are not fit to have colonies, then Germany is self-confessed as still more utterly unfit.

KEEP UP WITH THE WORLD

New *deluxe* Diesel - engined trains of stainless steel, with sleeping and dining cars, run every day between Chicago and Denver, in the U.S.A. The distance is 1050 miles, and these trains cover it in sixteen hours; and after an eight-hour rest they start back to make the return journey at the same over-all speed of 65½ miles per hour. Each train covers about 375,000 miles in a year, and take the place of three trains and five or six steam locomotives; it weighs 600 tons instead of over 1000 tons of a steam train and locomotive for the same service.

Glass wool, baled so that it unrolls like a carpet, is being used to cover delicate plants in cold weather. It is made of glass fibres finer than human hair. It admits air and light, but keeps out rodents and pests. Each summer it can be rolled up and stored away ready for the next winter.

Hard, durable, and fast colours of many shades, some of them being corrosion-proof, can be applied to metals by chemical and electric chemical processes. Aluminium for example, can be made any colour of the rainbow; zinc can be coloured ebony, brown, blue purple, and yellow; and copper or brass can be tinted black, brown blue and green.

High-speed photography now enables exposures of only one hundred-thousandth of a second to be made—that is, four thousand times faster than a normal box camera. Moreover, the high-speed apparatus can be arranged so that anything from a few hundred to 6000 exposures per second can be made accurately. Photographs of a golfer showed that his club-head was travelling at 113, m.p.h. just before hitting the ball and 83 m.p.h. just after; the golf ball he hit attained a top speed of 121 m.p.h., and was turning at 5200 revolutions a minute as it flew through the air.

Oil-engined flying boats can now fly well over 3000 miles without having to stop for fuel. Actually the record is held by the German plane which on March 29 and 30 of this year flew from Dartmouth (in Devon) to Caravelas, in Brazil, a distance of 5100 miles, in 41 hours 40 minutes.

Manufacturing and machining processes can now be made so accurate that irregularities of only one-hundred-thousandth of an inch in the surface of ball-bearings may cause them to be rejected.

HON. B. S. B. STEVENS

"The Most Capable Man Available"

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H. BROWN.

Sir,—Last week's letter from me finished with this sentence: "Logically therefore, every democrat should join in resisting the transfer to the Federal Parliament of men of the Stevens type." I spoke of him then as a man who had been directly interested in the financial firm of J. B. Were and Son, whose head is also chairman of directors of the Melbourne Argus, and who, when he spoke on monetary matters, spoke for the Bank of New South Wales. Reference was made to the special article he wrote in 1934 for Sir Keith Murdoch, of the Melbourne Herald, making it appear that the United States had adopted the Premiers' Plan, as applied in Australia. That plan had resulted in the shameless robbery of the people of Australia in the interests of the bankers, and my own inquiries revealed quite definitely that America had NOT adopted the Premiers' Plan, as Mr. Stevens' article had claimed. An attempt was made by the bankers there, just as had been made by the bankers here, to impose a policy of severe deflation, but such attempts had been met with far greater opposition.

"The Logic of Fact"

Now, as this man is being held up to us publicly as the very man we want in the Federal Cabinet, it is fitting that we should publicly examine his public conduct. The heading of the article he wrote for the Herald was as follows: "AMERICA ADOPTS THE PREMIERS' PLAN." That meant, if it meant anything, that America was adopting the plan. THEN, when, as a matter of cold fact, nothing was further from the truth. Mr. Stevens said: "It has not been easy to analyse or appreciate the President's policy, because he has not kept to any single plan. He has resorted to various expedients and waited for results to show whether they were good or bad. Now, at last, one thing is clear—little by little the logic of fact is forcing the United States upon much the same path to recovery that Australia has already traversed. Experience is taking the place of experiments." This part of the article suggested that America had had the same President throughout the period in which the world had felt the full effects of the rigging of the monetary situation by the international financiers, whereas the truth of the matter was that President Hoover, a notorious bankers' agent, was in command up to 1933 and actually framed the 1933-34 budget. President Hoover did attempt to traverse much the same path as we had trod, but the logic of fact quickly forced the people of the United States to realise the futility of it and to reject its sponsor. They were not forced this conclusion "little by little" at all, but they had the sense to see, after only one year's experience, that the policy of deflation was hopeless. We realised it, too, but our abandonment of it was slower and far more surreptitious. At the very time when Mr. Stevens was praising deflation and making it appear that others were adopting it, he was well aware that it had been abandoned by the bankers in Australia and that INFLATION was the order of the day. He also knows that we have been living under inflation since 1932.

"Divergent Features"

Mr. Stevens said: "There are still some features of the American plan of which we have had no experience in Australia, but the present tendency in the United States seems to run towards the elimination of these divergent features. The differences in situation between the two countries have created differences in the two methods of approach to certain problems, but the resemblances of general policy remain remarkable." What did Mr.

Stevens mean by that? Just previously he had said that there was NO definite plan, but to suit his purpose he quoted what he considered to be the "most significant" of these divergent features, and gave no indication at all as to how the tendency ran towards their elimination. And fancy the apparent innocence of the man! He thought it worthy of special mention that "the resemblances of general policy remain remarkable." Seeing that the policy for both countries was determined by the same people,—to wit, the bankers—it would have been far more remarkable had there been no resemblances. He made it appear that the aspects of policy which were not in harmony with ours were being eliminated, but, as a matter of fact, they were being strengthened. In October 1931, for example, President Hoover's credit proposals authorising the issue of up to a thousand million dollars were put into effect through the National Credit Corporation. How was that feature being eliminated?

"Cost and Prices"

Mr. Stevens said: "In both countries the problem of budget deficits had had to be faced by much the same measures, and in both the main line of policy has been directed to obtaining the appropriate relationship between cost and prices." That was true in part only. Reduction of expenditure and an increase in taxation were only a part of the plan to secure the balancing of the budget during the Presidency of Mr. Hoover. That part of the plan has not had the same place in American policy since Mr. Hoover's departure in March, 1933. Notice particularly the words "has had to be faced." He did not tell us WHO it was that required it to be faced in that way. Nor did he offer a word about the fact that the bankers first deliberately altered the bank rate to affect prices and then forced the Government to reduce costs correspondingly. In Australia we saw the prices drop and then the politicians almost falling over themselves to bring the costs down "in sympathy" with the prices. In America, however, they sought more and more to bring the prices back into an appropriate relationship with costs. That was more sensible than the Australian procedure, but what was really necessary was action to make the quantity of money in the people's purses equal to the prices they had to pay. This significant aspect was conveniently forgotten by the very capable Mr. Stevens.

"The Path to Recovery"

Mr. Stevens said: "America started on the path to recovery three years later than we did, because her vast size and economic independence allowed her to defy until 1933 the necessity for re-adjustment, which Australia faced in 1930-31. This reluctance of America to face the facts earlier cost her dear." Our own recovery is hardly a thing to crow about especially in view of the ominous portents for the next year or two, but the comparison made by Mr. Stevens in this respect was very misleading. America's deficits appeared a year later than ours. She had a surplus for the year ended 1930. During the following year, however, when the indications pointed to a deficit, the American administrators acted with characteristic promptitude. In fact, in February 1930, even while there was a surplus, the President called attention to the trend of events and required special economies. Moreover, within twelve months of the first deficit, America had put the first plank of the deflationists' platform into action through an Economy Act, but against this it must be recognised, as I have already said, that there was also a special issue of credit. In our case, and despite the fact that we had heavy Governmental deficits, the banks continued to call in overdrafts, and the Premiers' Plan did not apply until 1931-32.

Guilt of Commonwealth Bank Board

It is not generally realised that the Commonwealth Bank Board was largely responsible for the depression in Australia. It prepared the way for the private banks. Between December, 1927, and June, 1928, the Bank Board SOLD 38 million pounds' worth of securities, and at the same time called in four million pounds' worth of advances, thus CANCELLING £42,000,000 worth of currency and making inevitable in Australia the depression which the banking system had already inaugurated abroad. The very capable Mr. Stevens conveniently said nothing about that either! It was in the earlier part of 1931 that the bankers here, with the co-operation of the Bank Board, put the screw on the Governments of Australia.

Similar Tactics in America

Almost the same thing occurred in America a few months later. On January 8, 1932, the American Bankers' Association demanded a balanced budget, and "drastic curtailment of Government expenditure, so that public confidence in the high credit of the Government may not be impaired." On the following day, the New York State Bankers' Association strongly supported the demand, and added that, "while we realise that there are certain fixed charges upon the Government which cannot be reduced, there is a vast field of expenditure which has been increasing year after year, over which Congress and the Administration have control, and should now materially reduce." Immediately afterwards President Hoover announced that the budget WOULD be balanced, and also that there would be no inflation. This announcement was considered important enough to be officially circulated by the American Embassy in Paris. Up to that point it was a clear win for the enemies of the people, and a Bill was tabled to cut the salaries of Government workers.

One Sane Banker

In the same month, however (January, 1932), the Governor of the Federal Reserve Bank, in the course of an address dealing with world conditions generally, said that "Deflation of Credit must stop if one hoped to see an early turn of the tide." It did not take that responsible gentleman long to realise the futility of the "Premiers' Plan"! The next month, President Hoover made a strong public appeal against hoarders. This was to mark the introduction of an anti-hoarding campaign, private hoardings at that time being estimated at thirteen hundred million dollars. The great need, you see, was to SPEND, not to deprive the people of the where-withal, as was the case with the Premiers' Plan. Even Hoover, recognised everywhere as the servant of the bankers, scented the danger of the withholding of the country's money supplies. In the same year (December, 1932) the banks followed through with their stroke, and put the screw on the City of New York, obtaining a pledge that expenditure would be reduced by 40 million dollars in the year 1933-34.

"Confidence!"

About the same time the American Chamber of Commerce demanded further large cuts in national expenditure (just as the Australian Chambers and politicians of the Stevens type had done here), and on January 17, 1933, President Hoover sent a message to the Senate urging the balancing of the budget. In this message he said: "The great problem before the world to-day is the restoration and maintenance of confidence." How often have we heard that here, too? We are actually hearing it again, but this time it can hardly be said that the world has been upset by the doings of Mr. Lang or that it is he who has destroyed this thing "confidence" in all countries.

Hoover and His "Confidence" Men Rejected

It was in this atmosphere that the Presidential election was held.

Banks in America, as in other countries, were deflating and increasing the misery of the people, and it was to stop this that the people of America rejected Hoover and appointed Roosevelt to bring in his "new deal." Budget-balancing was suddenly and deliberately dropped. In fact, the budget was purposely unbalanced, with the definite object of increasing the spending capacity of the citizens of the country. That was the very opposite of what the great Mr. Stevens was publicly praising in Australia, and leading the people to believe was being adopted in America. With the election of the new President, the Secretary of the Treasury addressed the people by means of a national broadcast, and said this: "If we exclude the inevitable obligations, such as public debt expenditure, and the Army, Navy, and Veterans, the ordinary expenses of the Federal Government are approximately 500 million dollars. I stress this point because of the misleading picture which has been painted of an immense and costly bureaucracy, and of the vast savings to be effected through the reorganisation of the Federal Government. Substantial relief to the taxpayer must be sought elsewhere." So, you see, they had critics of the Stevens type there also—men who sought to mislead the people into believing that the facts of life had necessarily to be confined within artificial limits of money symbols arbitrarily imposed by enemies of the nation.

Ox-Cart Stage

In February 1933, Henry Ford reminded the world that we were only in the ox-cart stage of the machine age. Within three months of that statement America had adopted a working week of five days and a six-hour day. What has Australia to compare with that? In the face of the actual facts, it seems that Mr. Stevens strained even a politician's licence when he said that "America's reluctance to face the facts earlier cost her dear." It would have been more correct to say that at that time she had faced the facts more courageously and more resolutely than any other country in the world. Since then we have seen the

President hamstrung by decisions of a court working within the terms of reference prepared by the very interests which seek to keep the community poor in the midst of material plenty.

Unconfirmed Figures

Mr. Stevens said: "America's unemployment figures rose to the staggering total of some 16 millions—nearly twice as much, in proportion to population, as it was in the worst stages of depression here." I could obtain no confirmation of this. The official figures were 11,586,000 in October 1932, and 10,076,000 in October 1933. The figures at the time Mr. Stevens wrote were much lower, and the newspapers were claiming that America led the world in the job of recovery.

Wage Levels

Mr. Stevens said: "The United States, between 1930 and the beginning of 1933, depressed by just on 20 per cent, her average level of real wages. In Australia, we were able to keep the real wage steady right up to the present date; the standard of the United States worker is still far below that of normal times." The New York Times of 1/1/33 published the following: "Since 1929 wages have been reduced 13.9 per cent.; salaries, 15.9 per cent., and managers, directors, and executives, 20.3 per cent." On January 5, 1933, the same journal stated that the Federal Reserve Board Index showed an advance of 19 per cent. in wages in the October-November period. Here again Mr. Stevens, "the most capable man in Australia," conveniently omitted to quote his authority for the statements he made.

It can be seen from the foregoing that Mr. Stevens has misled us in the past, and that in our own interests we should look carefully into his claims to our respect and confidence. Other aspects of his article will be considered next week, and these emphasise the need for giving publicity not only to the latest political intrigue, but particularly to the purposes behind it.—Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H. BROWN. Adelaide.

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THE MARVELLOUS STORY OF PRIMARY PRODUCTION IN THE MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION AREA

The Only Problem is One of Finance

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

Any person who has any doubts as to the possibilities of the Australian primary producers to produce more than enough for the present population, or an increased population, would be well advised to learn as much as possible about the story and progress of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. It is a graphic story of how modern scientific methods of production turned a wilderness into one of the greatest fruit growing areas in the world. While being a direct challenge to the old ideas of scarcity, it also portrays with ghastly brilliance the absurdity of our present economic system, which postulates that the more real assets the people produce the further they go into debt to the private controllers of our money supply.

From a Wilderness to a Garden of Eden

As one travels through this marvellous area, with row upon row of grape vines and fruit trees stretching as far as the eye can see, it is a refreshing tonic after the arid country further south. And, as you look at this monument to man's ability, it is hard to realise that only forty years ago this same area was practically uninhabited and was only fit for carrying a few sheep. But what of to-day? The Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area now has a population of 16,900, while the gross annual production is estimated at £1,000,000. The industries include rice growing, wheat, general agriculture, fat lambs, dairying and fruit. The results are a very definite indication of the abundance which can be produced in Australia. However, as we are all painfully aware, it does not imply that because this abundance is being produced the Australian people are getting access to as much of it as they desire. Mr. W. M. Hughes has informed us, in his capacity of Minister for Health, that a vast majority of the Australian people are suffering ill-health through lack of sufficient fruit. This is not because there is a shortage of fruit, but because the people have insufficient money with which to buy the fruit. A brief look at the following figures will indicate the tremendous progress made in fruit production on this area: Citrus fruits, 620,400 bushels; apples, 139,000 bushels; peaches, 9849 tons; pears, 680 tons, and prunes, 767 tons. This is yearly production. It is very interesting to note that the annual production of 5114 tons of apricots makes this area the largest centre of apricot production in the British Empire. But how tragic and pathetic it all seems when you think of the struggling plight in which a great number of the growers on this area find themselves at the present time!

These Markets

Markets, of course, are the things which worry the average fruit grower. However, unfortunately, like most primary producers, the vast bulk of the fruit growers have very little idea of the realities of these things called markets. A very good market is waiting right here in Australia, which could consume all the present production of fruit, and a great deal more which the growers could easily produce. Unfortunately, the people who comprise this market have a shortage of that so-called mysterious thing called money in their pockets. If the growers asked why this state of affairs exists they would be then starting to get towards a solution, where many tons of good fruit would not be destroyed every year while thousands of people starve. Although unable to get any authoritative figures on the amount of fruit dumped every year on this area, the writer was assured that it was considerable. It seems rather

appropriate that the dump outside Leeton is situated opposite the cemetery.

As they are unable to sell their produce in Australia, the fruit growers adopt the same attitude as all our primary producers, who seek to sell their goods overseas. The Leeton Co-operative Cannery Limited alone, which is one of the largest canneries in the British Empire, besides exporting 200,000 cases of canned fruits to the United Kingdom per annum, also ships large quantities to Canada and New Zealand. However, as the people overseas are in the same position as ourselves, they are also finding it increasingly difficult to buy fruit. As a result of this, some of our alleged political leaders are actually now suggesting that we will have to consume it ourselves. Fancy them discovering that after all these years! All we need now is sufficient money in the hands of the Australian people and this will take place. We will then find that the disgraceful system which results in 45 per cent. of our children suffering from malnutrition will be obliterated.

The Rice Industry

A few brief comments on this industry in relationship to our present false economic system indicates that this section of the primary producers might, with benefit, ask why the Rice Marketing Board should be seeking markets overseas, when two-thirds of the Australian nation is living on the breadline.

A brief outline of the rapid growth of this industry may prove of interest to readers. Following upon successful experiments by the Irrigation Commission some years ago in the growth of rice, this industry has now come into prominence on the areas, and has gone a long way towards a solution of the problem of the utilisation of heavy-class soils. As the first commercial crop was grown in 1925, and since that time the quantity produced is 277,880 tons, worth approximately £2,668,600, it offers still further proof of the ability of our primary producers to increase our real wealth to a degree never thought of by our forbears, who knew nothing of the marvels of modern irrigation methods.

The Story of the Scheme

In 1885 the late Alfred Deakin while in America was very impressed with the possibilities of American irrigation schemes, and their similarity, both as regards soil and climatic conditions, with certain arid regions in Australia. The result of this was that an American engineer came to Australia in 1886 and made some exhaustive inspections.

Work in connection with the Burrinjuck Storage Dam was commenced in 1905. The Berembled Diversion Weir was commenced in 1906, and the main canal in 1907, while the water was officially turned on at Yanco in 1912. A few facts in connection with the Burrinjuck will indicate the tremendous size of this scheme, and will graphically illustrate how man has harnessed nature. The dam, which impounds the waters of the Murrumbidgee River, near Yass, has a maximum height of 247 feet, with a base 160 feet thick, tapering to 18 feet at the top, and is 752 feet in length. It throws the waters into a lake, having an area of 12,784 acres. These waters are the source of supply for the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas. The catchment area is 5000 square miles, and the water stored is 771,641 acre-feet. From the dam the water passes along the river channel for the distance of 240 miles to Berembled Weir.

Burrinjuck not only supplies water for the areas, but provides for the hydro-electric scheme, regulates the

the flow of the river so as to serve the interests of riparian proprietors over 730 miles of river frontage, assures constant supplies of water for the towns of Gundagai, Wagga, Narrandera, Hay, Balranald, and the Hay Irrigation Area, and domestic and stock supplies for landholders in the south-west of the State, the total area of whose holdings is over 1,000,000 acres.

The capital invested in the whole scheme, covering the cost of storage dam, diversion weir, main canal, developments, advances to settlers, municipal undertakings, is £7,859,305. The writer was unable to get any details in connection with the financial debt of the scheme. However, the outstanding feature of the whole scheme is the fact that, in spite of the marvellous increase in real wealth and the possibilities of still further increasing it, the whole scheme has been written up as a debt by those who created the money to finance it—namely, the private banks. The growers now have the privilege of paying a huge interest bill on a wonderful scheme which they, in conjunction with the rest of the people, brought into existence. They now want to increase the storage facilities, as I will relate, and they will be either told there are no funds, or, if they do get the funds, they will go still further into debt in producing real assets. Such are the wonders of the present economic system.

Further Water Storage Needed

Although in the past the Burrinjuck Dam has proved adequate to supply all requirements, the recent extensions of the irrigation area by the Commission, in conjunction with two drought years, has brought about a critical state of affairs. One of the features of our present social and economic system is the absurd way in which we always wait for a crisis before taking any action—or even discussing any action. No provision was made for the present set of circumstances, mostly because of the antiquated ideas which our Governments have on matters of national importance. Their outstanding contribution has been to popularise the cry, "But where are the funds to come from?"

That the present position is reaching a crisis is indicated by the following report, which was published in the *Murrumbidgee Irrigator* of November 15. It reads as follows: "As a result of investigations carried out by the *Irrigator*, it is clear that, if the present dry conditions continue to obtain in the catchment area of the Burrinjuck Dam, and the water is used at the rate which has continued over the past few days, the dam will be cut out before March 16—even with the present restrictions which have been imposed on large-area farms." At the time of writing, the position had not improved, owing to the continuance of the dry weather.

In order to discuss this position, the M.I.A. large-area holders recently held a meeting, the report of which I have before me. As is usual with these meetings, everything was discussed except the thing which matters—i.e., finance. A resolution was passed impressing upon the Government the need for action. The Governments reply is not yet available, but we can be quite sure what it will be: "We have no funds." And, even if the private controllers of money decide to lend them the desired amount, the primary producers will have the privilege of paying the interest bill on this debt for centuries to come, while the capital debt will probably remain forever—that is, unless the rules of the present financial system are altered. The more real assets the people bring into existence from a physical aspect, the further into debt they go from a financial standpoint. The primary producers in this area would do well to bear this point in mind.

From a physical standpoint, there is no reason why the necessary storage scheme should not be started immediately. Several schemes have been suggested, although reliable expert opinion favours the diverting of the Snowy River. All the natural resources for the scheme exist, while we have

thousands of unemployed men and all the other essentials to carry the scheme to a successful conclusion. Everything is ready to start, but the Government will raise all sorts of objections about funds. What the interested people in this area want to do is to point out to the Government that they have the constitutional power to create all the money necessary for the job, and demand that they get on with the job. This should be done immediately. As Mr. J. H. Kelly, secretary of the Large Area Committee, has truthfully said: "The present dry period should not be let go past, because people were quick to forget, and the same conditions would come again later." This is, unfortunately, true.

Conclusion

The lesson to be learnt from the story of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme is the same lesson that each section of the primary producers has got to learn. They have got to understand that all their efforts at producing real wealth will be seriously thwarted if the people as a whole have insufficient money to buy it. Already the effects of the new depression are making it harder for the average family to buy fruit, while the recent Anglo-American Trade Treaty is a further blow to our fruit growers, as they are going to lose considerable preferences on the British market. The only logical and reasonable action for the fruit growers to take is to get in behind the Electoral Campaign and demand that the Australian people get access to sufficient money to buy all the fruit they want. Instead of dumping some of their products, the growers will then find the demand for fruit so increased that they will need to produce more. Judging from their past efforts, they should have very little difficulty in doing this. Furthermore, they want to demand that all new irrigation schemes be written up as an asset to the community, instead of as a debt. They will not then find themselves crippled with a staggering interest bill, as at the present time. To pay interest for the use of what is ours is a deplorable sign of servitude, from which the Australian nation has suffered far too much.

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Frank Devlin, tailor, Elizabeth House, Melbourne, announces a special purchase of the newest and best quality suitings for the Christmas season. The range includes the smart fancy grey and blues in all pure wool worsteds, also the popular indigo dye, fine blue twills and heringbone weaves.

These suitings are offered at the astonishingly low price of £4/10/-, £5/5/-, and £6/6/- for a master, hand-tailored suit to measure. A cordial invitation is extended to clients to visit the workroom, where all work is tailored only by skilled craftsmen. All branches of made-to-measure tailoring are catered for, including all clerical garments and evening dress wear. Open till 9 Friday night, and 'phone number is M 5177. Note address: Frank Devlin, for better tailoring, 2nd Floor, Elizabeth House, 340 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, C.I.

* * *

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(Continued from page 3.)

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1933 it was \$2,208,000,000 and still it is going up. Capacity to raise more money by taxation and rates is at its limit. Soon New Yorkers will be realising that they can't borrow themselves out of debt.

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

VICTORIA

The estimate of expenditure on defence given to electors during last elections was 10 million pounds the taxpayer is informed that it will be 70 millions or over. Taxation on the latter amount, to obtain interest to pay the investments of "widows and orphans" will mean a substantial deduction from the income of the community. So much so that the Government was quite justified, in accordance with the (high) principles of "Sound Finance," to deluding the electors that they would only be required to service the lesser amount; otherwise it is probable that the present "Government" would not have attained office, and the real Government would have experienced difficulty in imposing its pick-pocket policy. In three jumps, in about as many months, the defence estimates have reached 70 millions. If this energetic debt kangaroo is not brought to a stop it is likely it will keep jumping till it reaches the heights of the taxability of Australia, which, "The Watchman," over the air, has informed a wide public to be over 200 millions, estimated in ratio to Britain's armament expenditure.

The policy of Government borrowing at interest to finance national takings is a SWINDLE.

The Commonwealth Constitution empowers Federal Parliament to make laws . . . "in respect to currency, coinage and legal tender . . . banking . . ." The Royal Commission of Banking Report says: " . . . the Commonwealth Bank . . . can even make money available to Government or others free of any charge."

The Electoral Campaign has been designed to enable electors to command Parliament to legislate for the well being of the nation, to be the House of the people, and not, as at present, the sovereign instrument of a private monopoly. Full explanation of the Electoral Campaign can be obtained from: United Electors Australia, McEwan House, Fifth Floor, Little Collins Street, Melbourne, C1. Tel., MU2834.

BAYSWATER.—Eric Butler addressed a very successful home meeting at the residence of Mr. and Turner, Bayswater, on Saturday evening, November 26. Those present were very interested, and Eric was kept to a late hour answering questions. It is expected that, as a result of this meeting, a public meeting will take place at this centre in the near future.

GEELONG.—Next week Eric will address a meeting at Geelong, on Monday evening, December 5. The following night, Tuesday, December 6, he will give an address at the Eastern Hill Fire Station.

BENALLA.—The Anti-National Insurance meeting, held in the Shire Hall on November 18, was successful and enthusiastic. In response to a petition signed by ratepayers, the council allowed the use of the Shire Hall free of charge. Rev. L. E. Wilkinson was in the chair, and Mr. Alan C. Russell addressed the meeting. At the close of the meeting forty persons volunteered to canvass the town, street by street; a sufficient number to do the job thoroughly. The local paper fully reported the

meeting, and gave it a front-page spread.

WANGARATTA is to be complimented on its recent activities. The North-East is in capable hands, and Mr. McEwen, the member for Indi, will find that he will have to bend to the wishes of his electors or lose his seat.

GIPPSLAND is forging ahead, and, no doubt, Mr. Paterson, the member, has realised ere this that he is servant and not master.

HAWTHORN GROUP will meet at Mrs. Allsop's home, 26 Grove Road, Hawthorn, on Thursday evening, December 8. This Group is steadily progressing and undertaking active work. The Group meets fortnightly. You are invited to attend. At the last meeting Mr. F. Paice addressed the Group on National Insurance.

GET TOGETHER MEETING in the U.E.A. Rooms, Fifth Floor, McEwan House, Little Collins Street, City, next Wednesday evening, December 7. These meetings provide supporters with the opportunity to meet their fellow-workers, to offer suggestions, criticise, practise speaking, etc. Come along, and bring your friends! **YOUTH NOTES.**—Frankston residents received the full blast of the Youth Team's sixth meeting last Friday night. When those present had been safely tied up by the usual team, they were bashed into submission by Eric Butler with excellent results, judging by the number of demand forms signed, showing that the policy of "pressure politics as opposed to party politics" was appreciated by those present. Eric returned from the Riverina full of beans, and met with a warm welcome from the boys on the platform.

THE Y.S. ASKS A QUESTION.—Have you started a U.E.A. Group in your district? Follow the example of the Y.S. and call a public meeting or a house meeting, to forward the demand for the abolition of poverty. The Youth Team will supply speakers where required.

PICTURE NIGHT.—To be held at the Regent Theatre on Thursday, December 8. Tickets available from Miss Jean Barnard, c/o U.E.A., Fifth Floor, McEwan House, Little Collins Street, C1. Dress circle and stalls, 2/2. Are you coming? Avail yourself of this pleasure, which will bring in funds for the U.E.A.

ARE YOU HELPING THE Y.S. TO ADVERTISE?—Help the Y.S. by sending in a small donation, so that they may more easily place the U.E.A. before the many millions who travel yearly. Send your donation to Miss J. Robinson, Y.S. propaganda organiser, c/o U.E.A. (address above).

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

RALLY.—On Saturday, December 10, a rally will be held at 17 Waymouth Street. This will be a very important meeting, involving ACTION for repeal of the National Insurance Act. The president, Mr. Finn, wants everyone to be present to hear a resume of progress for pressure politics during the past twelve months. Past action has brought about results which make MASS ACTION an immediate necessity.

Now that the PEOPLE want

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OPPORTUNITY FOR TEACHERS

Sir,—One hears from time to time complaints from teachers and from the public generally that much taught in our schools is obsolete or irrelevant, and that much of importance is omitted.

The course of study, however, in certain cases offers a wide choice of topics which may be studied, and among these is "Banking and Money." All teachers should avail themselves of this opportunity to point out something of the truth of the money swindle.—Yours, etc.,

F. A. PARKER, Frankston, Vic.

AN OPEN DOOR FOR REFORMERS

Sir,—It seems to me that the *New Times* can add impetus to monetary reform by recognising an avenue for reformers opened by the Royal Commission on Monetary and Banking Systems.

Paragraph 487 of the "Report" (July 16/1937) reads: "487. —For the same reason (we think that they are outside the scope of our reference), we have not found it necessary to report upon other proposals in which the suggested alterations in the monetary system depend upon, or are merely incidental to, other suggestions for the reconstruction of the whole economic structure. The proposals to which we refer are those made by Mr. A. V. Greenwood and the Equation League of Australia, and by Mr. L. G. De Garis."

Clearly "suggested alterations in the monetary system" came within the terms of reference. Hence, the Royal Commission has added significance to the "suggested alterations" by showing that they are incidental to "other suggestions" for reconstruction. This is tantamount to saying that, if the evidence behind these suggestions can be confirmed, the alternative is "reconstruction of the whole economic structure."

As the Royal Commission, at a cost of, say, £20,000, has thought it worth while to call these proposals to notice, and to mention the names of witnesses submitting the evidence, it would seem that there is a direct and definite responsibility on the Commonwealth Government to follow up this paragraph with an exhaustive investigation of, and report on the evidence and the suggestions put outside its scope by the recent Royal Commission.

ACTION—i.e., movement is originating from the individual in so many places in reaction to something they do not want (the N.I.P. Act and its restrictions of freedom)—it becomes our duty, as enlightened democrats, to unify this spontaneous demand into a united will and direct it towards those responsible for the carrying out of that will—i.e., towards the Federal representative in each division. We must, therefore, place our services, as individuals, at the disposal of the National Insurance Repeal Association (N.I.R.A.), and help them to get the result we all want, which will be the first practical step towards Political Democracy.

TOWN HALL MEETING. These notes are written before the Adelaide Town Hall meeting on November 29, arranged by the N.I.R.A. An indication of the public interest aroused, and possible, is given by the fact that 37,000 dodgers were printed to meet the requirements of voluntary distributors; and, since then, another 20,000 have been printed for new volunteers.

In anticipation of a record attendance of members and supporters at the rally on Saturday, December 10, Mr. Finn has booked the large hall at 17 Waymouth Street. Here is the opportunity you have been waiting for for years.

PUBLICITY.—Every reader of the *New Times* in South Australia is recommended to read the Advertiser of November 23 (page 26, col. 1), and November 24 (page 24, col. 7).

Reformers can the more readily join in demanding an exhaustive Government investigation of the facts, principles, and plans behind paragraph 487, as there are two names mentioned in the paragraph, and so demand for an enquiry will not involve the immediate endorsing of either of the proposals.

An exhaustive enquiry into, and report on, the "suggestions for the reconstruction of the whole economic structure" will involve evidence on all aspects of reform—land, tariff, taxation, social, and monetary—and will require witnesses from all viewpoints. Thus all reformers have in this paragraph a door leading to the common goal of drastic and yet constitutional changes throughout the body politic.

I trust that the *New Times* will take up this practical political con-

tact, and work directly for the getting of the full enquiry indicated by the very significant wording of the paragraph.—Yours, etc.,

L. G. DE GARIS,
Box 59, Geelong, Vic.

A PRACTICAL APPRECIATION AND A SUGGESTION

Sir,—As an appreciation of the great work the *New Times* is doing for humanity, we have pleasure in enclosing a small gift (£1) towards the formation of a fund for the purpose of establishing the *New Times* on a more secure basis. If 500 or 1000 readers include the *New Times* in the list of friends to whom gifts are to be presented this Christmas, the future of the paper will be assured. Best wishes.—Yours very sincerely,

—"TOM. DICK & HARRY."
Yallourn, Vic.

TOPICAL TITBITS FROM THE

By "LEXICON."

According to the *Age* of Wednesday, November 30, German boys, on reaching the age of ten, are compelled to undergo an exhaustive medical test, great attention being paid to lungs and heart, before an entry is made in a health statement, which is filed under a nation-wide system.

By some peculiar mental process, the *Age* deduces that "these early examinations account for the incredible physical fitness of German youth to-day."

We would suggest that, if such is the case, we give our youth an intensive course of medical examinations, or, alternatively, save all the expense of buying battleships and building up a defence force to keep Hitler out, by inviting him to take over Australia—to the benefit of our youth!

The only objection that I can see to the latter idea is that once the invaders are here there will be no further need for us to bother about whether our youth is healthy or not. Not even Billy Hughes pretends that the birthrate and physical well-being of our people is of any importance, apart from defence reasons. It logically follows that if there were no danger of invasion we'd be much better off without any population at all, except for the Baillieus, Billy, Casey, R. G. Menzies, and, of course, a few lackies to do the work.

Commenting on the stock exchange position in America, the *Catholic Times*, under the heading, "Stock Exchange Collapse" refers to the fact that the New York Stock Exchange has been converted from a private club into a public institution, indicating that control is gradually passing from the hands of private bankers to the Government and the small investor.

That in itself is a good thing, but the same paper adds to the evidence of the American trend towards social and monetary reform the fact that, despite the screaming criticism and gloomy forecasting of the American bankers' press, Roosevelt is in as strong a position as ever.

It will be seen that a report in this issue from our New Zealand correspondent refers to a similar state of affairs in that country, —banks and press shrieking of the Savage Government's iniquity, while the only response of the people is to demand that the Savage Government become even more "iniquitous" as quickly and thoroughly as possible.

It is rather refreshing to find that even the mighty press is no exception to the rule that "you can't fool all the people all the time."

Which reminds us that there are signs that even the Murdoch press is forced to take notice of what the people want, instead of telling them what they ought to want.

Shakespeare said, "All men are liars," and, taking it that women are understood to be included in the remark, we are inclined to agree

with him. But, at the same time, most of us are inclined to cover the nakedness of the shameful lie with the garb of apparent truth. Honest Joe Lyons, however, has no truck with such deceptions as the following extract from Hansard proves.

Mr. Ward: In view of the widespread dissatisfaction expressed by all sections of the community against the provisions of the National Health and Pensions Insurance Act, will the Government take a referendum of the people, in order to ascertain their views in respect of it before it becomes operative in May next?

Mr. Lyons: The honourable member is just assuming without any basis for his assumption, that there is widespread opposition to the Act. His laughter does not add to any evidence of dissatisfaction which he has produced up to the present, which is nil. The Government has no intention of taking a referendum of the people with regard to this matter.—Hansard, November 22, page 1801.

An A.A.P. cable from London states: "Surveying Australian and New Zealand conditions at the annual meeting to-day of Dalgety and Co. Ltd., the chairman (Mr. Edmund Parker) said that, while he was not pessimistic, he considered the Commonwealth not as prosperous as last year. Australia was likely to experience a natural sequence of reduced spending power."

"In New Zealand the outlook was obscured through the forward policy of the Government, which was determined to carry out social schemes costing £20,000,000 sterling. He queried whether a population of 1,500,000 could stand such a strain; which already was causing anxiety."

The old, old story. The natural sequence isn't by any chance a reduction of goods—not to the extent that there is less than a huge superfluity. The New Zealand social scheme is not really costing twenty million pounds, but merely the effort of a population of a million and a half to add to the wealth of the community—we can see no cause for anxiety in that. The population are not only willing, but eager and easily able, to make the effort. If they weren't there would be cause for anxiety.

In 1903 Dr. Rutherford Harris, the well-known South African financier, was contesting Dulwich at a bye-election in the Conservative interest. Being used to the franker methods of young and vigorous communities, he announced publicly that he had sent £10,000 to the Conservative Party funds.—"The Party System," by Belloc and Chesterton.

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