

THE "NEW TIMES"
IS OBTAINABLE
AT
ALL AUTHORISED
NEWSAGENTS

THE NEW TIMES

Outstanding
for Accuracy and Finish.
Watch Repairs
by
Mark Chapman
M.L.C. Chambers,
Cr. Collins and Elizabeth Sts., Melb.
Six Years in Charge of Repair Dept.,
etc., Hardy Bros. Ltd.
(Jewellers to H.M. the King).

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. 49.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1938.

Every Friday, 3d

THE ENEMY IS WITHIN THE GATES

**Closing of N.S.W. Savings Bank
And Premier Stevens—What
Sir Robert Gibson Said**

BABIES AND BATTLESHIPS

A Message To Australian Youth

A PLEA FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

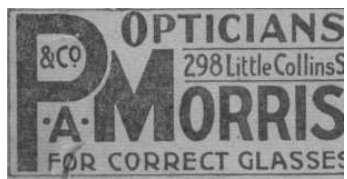
PATRONISE THESE ADVERTISERS.

Their advertisement helps your paper. Say you saw it in the "New Times."

GENERAL

ELECTRO-PLATING—Nickel, Silver and Chromium Plating, Highest Grade Work Only. W. R. SPEAKMAN, 69 Latrobe Street, Melbourne. **INDUSTRIAL ADHESIVES** Pty. Ltd., 155 Yarra St. Cold Glues, Dextrine.

"LEUKOL." By far the most up-to-date Toothpaste. No Toothache. No Extractions. No Pyorrhoea. 30,000 packages sold without advertising. Send 2/- to W. Winford, 183 Waterdale Rd., N.21.



MELBOURNE

ABBOTSFORD.
HOLLINS, A. R., 405 Victoria St. Motor Repairs of all kinds. J 2047.

ALBERT PARK.
GROCERIES. C. Paten (cor. Page & Boyd Sts.). Wood, Coal & Coke. Orders called for and delivered.

ASCOT VALE.
A. J. AMESS, 390 Mt Alexander Rd. (Next Tram Sheds.) Motor Garage. Just Price Discount—Repairs and Supplies.

AUBURN.
BLACK CAT LIBRARY and Ladies Hairdressing. 639 Burw'd Rd. Haw. 1779

BLACKBURN.
"A" GRADE MOTOR ENGINEERS Station Garage, Whitehorse Road. WX 1400.

HAIRDRESSER and Tobacconist. Ladies and Gents. Wright, 122 South Parade.

MOTOR REPAIRS. Straton's. Better Service. Lower Cost. WX 2748.
PAINTER, PAPERHANGER, etc. G. B. COLLIER, 8 Wolseley Cres.

BOX HILL.
ALL Electrical and Radio Needs. G. G. Foster, Whorse Rd. WX2581.

BOOT REPAIRS. Work Guaranteed W. Tolley, 975 W'horse Road.
BOX HILL FURNISHING CO. 247-9 Station St. Cash or Terms.

CHAS L. COX, TAILOR. Men's and Boys' Wear. 285 Station St.
CHEMIST. F. Cheshire, For Your Prescriptions. 270 Station Street.

COOL DRINKS, Sweets, Smokes. R. Damock, 1124 Whitehorse Road.
CYCLE SHOP and Oxywelding. "Alwin" Station St., South of Rly.

DRAPERY. For Smart Styles and a Fair Deal, TAIT'S Corner Stores
DRESSMAKER. Mrs. Evans.

Station St., opp. Baptist Church.
ELECTRICAL & RADIO. Holliday. Opp Stn. Sales, Repairs. WX 2677.

FURNITURE REMOVERS.
Gill Bros., 254 Station St. WX2073

GROCER. W. M. Anderson, 14 Main St. WX 1233.

HAIRDRESSER and Tobacconist. L. Larsen, Station St., opp. Gilpins.
ICE & FUEL. J. Underwood. 440 & 770 Station Street. WX 2547.

IRONMONGER & SPORTS STORE
F. P. Park, 10 Main St. WX123JO,
MARS LAUNDRY CO. WX 2662 Pick up & Deliver. Quality G'teed.

RENNIE'S BLUE TAXIS. WX1946
City Prices. Day and Night Service
TAILOR. J. G. Penson, 227 Station Street. Suits Hand Made from 95/-.

W. A. MOODY. 1014 W'horse Rd. Fruit, Vegetables Delivered Daily.
WATCHMAKER and Jeweler. Barnes. 32 Main Street Repairs.

BRUNSWICK.
"FAMOUS FOR BEAUTIFUL WAVES." Miss Townsend, 42 Sydney Road. FW 1986.

G.W. TOWNSEND. Your Hairdresser and Tobacconist is at 46 Sydney Road. Look for the Neon Sign.

CAMBERWELL
SPORTS DEPOT & Leather Goods. E. Goslin, 777 Burke Rd. Haw. 4900.

(Continued on page 3.)

Babies and Battleships Women and Children First-or Last?

When it was announced in last week's issue of the *New Times* that a further article concerning the slum question would appear in this issue, it was intended to deal with the matter in a cold, analytical manner; facts and figures would tell their own story, without it being necessary to go into any harrowing details. We were mistaken. It would be as futile to try to tell the story of the slums in terms of figures only, as would be an attempt to describe the last-second horror of the Kyeema victims with a graph of nerve and heart reaction.

Melbourne's slums are a Kyeema disaster multiplied a thousandfold; lacking, however, the dramatic interest calculated to excite wide-

Land of Golden Opportunity!

Many of us are under the impression that, bad as are slum conditions in Melbourne, there is nothing in this country that will compare with those that obtain in England. The actual facts of the matter are that our proportionate death-roll in slum areas, as compared with that in outer suburbs, is in much the same ratio as is the case in England, while the proportion of slum dwellings in relation to total population is rather higher in Melbourne than it is in London.

The child born in Fitzroy has less than half the chance of survival to the age of one year, as compared with the child born in a suburb

in portions of the metropolis is most disgraceful, and the conditions under which the unfortunate residents of some of the slum areas exist are a menace not only to themselves, but to the health of the community at large."

The 1936-1937 Commission then goes on to say:

"The passage of twenty-four years has aggravated almost beyond description the appalling conditions of the same slum areas and the inhabitants."

Before arriving at this conclusion the board made an inspection of the 577 miles of streets in the five-mile radius of the city of Melbourne, to ascertain the allocation of slum or sub-standard houses. Of the 85,779 dwellings in that area, 7330 houses, inhabited by 24,961

have to find sixty million pounds to provide an army that will save the lives of the women and children in case of an enemy invasion."

"But," replies the medical profession, "they only need access to food, light and air, and these are superabundant. And, anyway, the women and children are *already* being killed. Babies are dying for lack of food, not of battleships."

"Just a minute!" says the Government, wearily. "We'll ask the Banks if we can do anything for you."

"No; we're afraid it's no good. The Banks say that we can't give the people food, light and air—*life*—unless we have the money to pay for it. They won't give us the money unless it's for battleships. After all, only the poor die of starvation and disease, but the rich may die in the case of an enemy invasion."

In these circumstances, we regret to have to inform our readers that, owing to lack of figures in books and on bits of paper, Australia will have a continued increase in its annual death-rate as a result of starvation, disease and unsanitary conditions. These conditions, which have become immeasurably worse in the last twenty-four years, will continue to get worse in the next, during which period many thousands of women and children will die just as surely as the eighteen Kyeema victims died. Owing to the fact that the manner of their death has not the same popular interest, however, nothing is done about it, but steps are being taken to ensure that there will be no repetition of the Kyeema incident. Also, it has been suggested that the Government spend fifteen million pounds on a battleship for the defence of Australia's women and children, quite a number of whom it is anticipated, will die in the meantime.

In conclusion, there may be food for thought in the reflection that a cesspool in Fitzroy may cause the deaths of children in Toorak.

THE MENACE OF PLENTY!

"Farming First" (N.Z.) quote an American correspondent as saying: "All over the United States there were about 30,000,000 cows at the peak, now we have about 27,000,000. I do not know what would happen if we had the production from 3,000,000 extra cows. It probably would mean that the prices would be way down, because we are barely able to struggle along with the 27,000,000. It looks as if we are headed for another depression, as bad as it was in '31 and '32. We are pretty nearly there now, and there is very little hope of escaping."

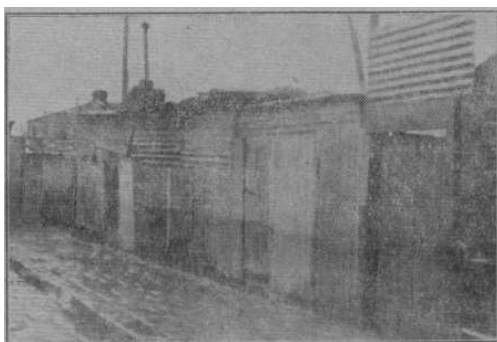
Upon which the same journal comments: "Even killing 3,000,000 cows, and a few other items like that, will not save a great nation from a depression it is evident. Probably if the U.S.A. killed off all cattle and destroyed all stock, the prosperity would be so amazing the whole world would follow suit."

NOTICE

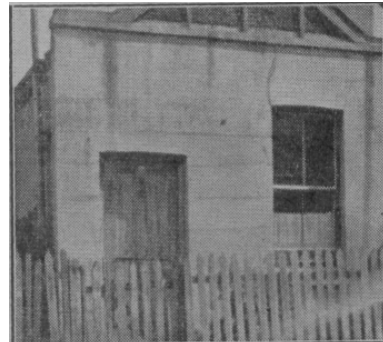
The telephone number of the "New Times" is now MU 2834.

The "New Times" office is now located at McEwan House, 343 Little Collins Street (Fifth Floor).

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



"THE BUNGALOWS," FITZROY.
(Block by courtesy Methodist Baby Centre.)



HOME, SWEET HOME.
(Block by courtesy Methodist Baby Centre.)

spread public sympathy and action. Facts and figures testify to the enormous death roll, but the preceding misery is beyond words.

Despite the real sympathy and true humility with which the writer approached the task of gathering the material for this article, it was often impossible to overcome an attitude suggestive of the fact that, to the slum dweller, anyone well fed and covered was an imposition from another world. Many tenants of filthy rat-and-vermin-infested hovels in Fitzroy, Carlton and Collingwood opened their doors and dumbly permitted one to enter neither welcoming, nor having the spirit to resent, the visitation; others put on a cheerful front, apologising for the fact that there were only boxes to sit on. Every home visited, of some thirty in all showed signs of unbelievable poverty, misery and starvation, yet the ragged children showed much the same traits as their more fortunate brothers and sisters; shyly hiding their faces in their mothers' skirts, at first, peeping out from time to time, and sometimes getting bolder as the visit lengthened, until they could be persuaded to sit on one's knee and talk childish talk, which often, pathetically, had food as its basis.

One small boy lay on a bed under an old piece of hessian, his almost-naked body as emaciated as that of one of the starving Russian children whose photographs aroused so much sympathy when they were published in many of our "leading" papers shortly after the revolution. His small body was covered with sores, but his eyes were bright, because he had had breakfast, and "the man" was going to take him to hospital that afternoon. We regret to inform you, Mr. Hughes, that that child will never be of use to Australia, either as a defence unit or in any other capacity.

But this is just sob-stuff! Our publication of such truths labels us as being propagators of some "ism." Our insistence on the necessity for changing a system that results in such misery and suffering lays us open to the charge of being cranks, and, if our gorge rises at the sight of this slaughter of the innocents, as it did when we read tales of alleged enemy atrocities during the last war, we are dubbed anti-British!

such as Kew; the proportion of juvenile delinquency is three times as great in the inner suburbs, as compared with the outer; the infectious disease ratio is four to one and infantile paralysis five to one. These figures, it will be seen, are on a par with the figures relating to Glasgow, given in last week's issue. Actually, then, this land of "Golden



YOUNG AUSTRALIA.
(Block by courtesy Methodist Baby Centre.)

Opportunity," to which we are now seeking to encourage emigration from England, offers no better prospects than does "overcrowded" England. Under present monetary conditions this pernicious practice of encouraging emigration to Australia, by the deliberate misrepresentation of facts, can have no other result than to lower the already low standard of living here, cause considerable heart-burning, and enlarge our increasing army of unemployed.

What the Slum Commission Found

At the beginning of its report on the slum problem, the Commission quotes the findings of the Select Committee of 1913, which said: "That the housing of the people

women and children, were made the subject of a special house survey and social census, with the result that 6390 were found to come under the heading of slum, or sub-standard, dwellings.

Extracts from the report read: "Hidden behind wide, spacious streets there are slum pockets which are hotbeds of depravity and disease. . . . The ravages of vermin on the occupants cause indescribable physical discomfort and distress, particularly to infants and little children."

"The rat menace is also prevalent in all of the congested areas. . . . Lack of facilities for food storage in these low-grade houses exposes food to constant contamination."

"Many men, a large number of whom are returned soldiers, have expressed very forcibly the resentment and indignation they feel at being housed in such miserable hovels."

The family incomes of those inhabiting these slum and sub-standard houses ranged from thirty shillings per week, the average being £2/10/4. The average rental was 11/2, and the average number in a family was four. The average weekly expenditure per capita on food, then, may be assessed at five shillings, or less than 3d. per head per meal. (It should be explained that the five shillings per week figure is arrived at on the basis of the English average, which shows that a per capita income of 10/- represents a 4/- food budget.)

Babies or Battleships?

We have a small and inadequately equipped army that is fighting against the enemy—poverty and disease—in these slum areas, which, like the rotten core of an apple, are growing in extent and defiling the good fruit.

The army, as represented by the medical profession, with its excellent record of service in the interests of public health, has acquired the knowledge that would enable it to defeat the enemy. It has the desire to defeat it. In effect, the medical profession, the Government's technical adviser, has reported that hundreds of lives can be saved if the people are provided with proper food, decent housing and sufficient clothes.

The Government's reply has been, "We haven't the money. We

PHEASANTS MUST GO

By "YAFFLE," in "Reynolds News" (London).

It is comforting to read, in these anxious days, that the Press forecast for the pheasant season is "An Exceptionally Bright Outlook." This happy state of things is the result of the early Spring, which induced the birds to start laying earlier than usual, the silly fools.

There were some anxious times, when the nation held its breath in suspense. Lack of vegetation exposed nests to danger from frost and vermin, and many young birds were lost. Again, heavy rains in June caused heavy mortality among young broods.

Much has been said against English weather. Many of the charges are unjust. But one must set some standards of behaviour, and only the most caddish weather would cause mortality among pheasants in the wrong month.

There are many who oppose this campaign against the pheasant. "Is there," they ask, "no argument but force? Cannot the issue between sportsman and bird be settled otherwise than by the arbitrament of the fowling-piece?"

Gunmen Want Peace

We would urge readers to note that the shooting season is not attack, but defence. The following statement was broadcast last night by Dr. Gurgells, Minister of Propaganda:—

"Sportsmen want peace. They demand no territory; they desire no poultry. They ask no more than to walk quietly about the countryside, letting off guns. The pheasants deny this just and moderate request. They continue to put forward their arrogant demand to go on existing.

"They have no right to exist. They are not a nation. Of Turkish origin, they have since been interbred with other breeds from China and Japan. In the interests of race-purity these mongrels must go.

"The patience of sportsmen is exhausted. The close season, deliberately instituted for the purpose of humiliating and disarming sportsmen, is at an end. The time is come to act.

"Despite the sportsmen's repeated offers of a peaceful, double-barrelled settlement, the pheasants continue to terrorise our woods and pastures, squawking defiance to civilisation in an unintelligible, non-Aryan tongue."

Incident after incident brings evidence of the brutality of these bestial birds. A common and characteristic instance of their behaviour is their habit of starting suddenly with a loud noise in front of unsuspecting pedestrians for the purpose of making them jump.

Only yesterday, while walking harmlessly through a wood shooting rabbits, a pheasant rose almost from beneath my feet, causing me to bite my tongue severely and my companion to swallow nearly a whole cubic inch of Brighton rock.

As I said at the time, "If this is a pheasant's idea of a joke, I can only say it is a gentleman's idea of a cad!"

England Answers No

But the barbarity of these birds is not confined to coarse, practical jokes. To those who urge leniency, I would say, "Are you aware that pheasants prey continually and mercilessly upon insects and snails?"

Insect-lovers throughout the world will be roused to indignation. The news will draw passionate demands for retribution from the multitudes who call the snail their friend.

I am no insect-fan. I am not one of those who delight to hear the merry patter of beetle's feet about the house. When naturalists endeavour, with the aid of moving pictures, to enlist my interest in the home-life of an earwig, the resulting nausea is such

as can only be dispelled by a good stiff drink.

Yet all who love justice will agree that the right of self-determination must be extended to all species, and while there is a sporting rifle left in the land the cry of the persecuted cockroach shall not be heard in vain.

Finally, our culture is threatened, our moral standards are at stake. Are those who advocate leniency aware that the habits of the pheasant are polygamous?

Shall we permit the deplorable domestic habits of these loose-living fowl to besmirch the honour of our virtuous English woods and pastures? Can we allow them openly to flaunt their depravity, thereby setting a bad example to the blue-tit, the ring-tailed hoopoe, the great-crested grebe, the black-backed snackerjack, and many other innocent native species who, in spite of what I should have thought was the insuperable difficulty of distinguishing between one bird and another, are reported, on the authority of ornithological text-books, to mate for life?

England answers NO.

Absorbing Virtues

It has been argued that the sportsmen's motive in defending civilisation against these pests is not unmixed, seeing that he is frequently observed after the battle to be eating his enemy.

Let us be broad-minded on this matter. Is it, after all, inconsistent with the code of a gentleman that in the hour of victory he should eat his foe?

Castigating prejudice aside, I see no reason why he should not. As my cannibal friends have frequently pointed out, the purposes of eating one's enemy is not the mere restoration of tissue, but the assimilation of the other fellow's virtues.

Chief M'Baabaa recognises in his hereditary enemy, N'Gaagaa, a worthy fellow, with a good chest measurement and a snappy uppercut with a knobkerry. "I'll take him with spinach," he says.

Chief N'Gaagaa, in his turn, regarding his opponent in the light of a savoury hot-pot, observes, "Behold a man strong and courageous, and one who has a way with the girls. He's my gravy."

Thus each, filled with mutual respect and a soul above carnal appetites, seeks to biff the other on the noggin in order to absorb into his system an extra set of virtues, making two sets in all.

England's Sinful Enemies

Hitherto, I admit, this practice has not prevailed in our military campaigns. It would be futile for an English soldier to endeavour to absorb the virtues of his enemies, for the simple reason that, as our history books show, the enemies of England never had any virtues.

No democratic officer would dare to eat a totalitarian officer, lest he return home imbued with the principle of race-divinity, and get expelled from his club for kicking the waiter.

Similarly, it may be said, no totalitarian officer would dare to eat a democrat, lest he return possessed with the habit of uttering his own opinions aloud, and get it in the neck.

Then, has the pheasant, you will ask—has the cruel and vindictive pheasant any virtues which the sportsman may profitably imbibe?

Well, the pheasant has one outstanding characteristic which is not found to any extent among the people of my acquaintance. I refer to its habit of producing a large family regularly every year for the sole apparent purpose of sending them out to be shot as soon as they are old enough. And in some civilised countries this seems to be regarded as the primary virtue of a citizen.

A MESSAGE TO AUSTRALIAN YOUTH

By the EARL OF TANKERVILLE.

N.B.—The following is the text of a message to the Democratic Federation of Youth (Australia), written by Lord Tankerville:—

"In these troubled and rapidly changing days, there appears to be emerging, with ever-increasing distinctness, two fundamentally opposed points of view.

The One

"The one, which I think characterises the outlook of the age now passing away, feels that one should give (or even force upon) 'the other man' the sort of government and conditions of life which one thinks will be good for him. To this outlook belong the reformers-of-others, the improvers of the nation, the creators of Utopias, and the planners. They believe that 'good' government (according to their particular ideas about the word 'good') is better than self government. Their point of view carried to its ultimate conclusion—though a majority of them in the so-called democratic countries would doubtless hotly deny it—is Dictatorship; beneficent perhaps, but none the less Dictatorship. To them, the 'Nation,' the 'group,' the 'system,' seems a reality, and is thus of more importance than the individual. Their outlook renders them incapable of seeing that 'the other man' is really no other but oneself-looked-at-from-the-outside.

The Other

"The other, which characterises the outlook of the age now beginning to come into being, the *real* youth of the world (whether young in body or old), feels that one should find out and let 'the other man' have the sort of government and conditions of life which he wants—so long, of course, as 'the other man' minds his own business and does not interfere with the similar freedom and peace of his neighbours. To this outlook belong all those who *really see*—not 'say'—that the welfare of their community, their nation, and of the world they are bringing into being depends upon the individual (that is, oneself) and his ready acceptance of personal responsibility within the group or the organisation of which he is a member. They know that *true* self-government, though no doubt more difficult efficiently to organise than any other form, must be better than so-called 'good' government; because 'good' is a purely relative term, and, in respect of government, can only be measured by the degree of satisfaction of individually expressed desires which it affords to a majority of those governed. They see that there is no such thing as a nation apart from the individuals who compose it, and hence that the stability and welfare of the nation depends upon the well-being, happiness, and freedom - to - choose - a - desired -line-of-action of the individual. They see that organisation and systems were intended to serve and not to rule the individuals who co-operate within them. Their point of view, carried to its ultimate conclusion, is *Real Democracy*—that is, freedom-in-security for the individual; freedom for 'the other man', because he is, in fact, oneself.

Choose

"So, to the Youth (of whatever age) of Australia and elsewhere, I would say: 'Decide first to which of these two points of view you really belong (for it will become increasingly difficult, and, finally, impossible to be a mixture of both); and, having *really* decided,

However, if you do not wish to absorb this parental enthusiasm, there is always the hope of preventive indigestion. So bang away Squire. We dine at seven.

you cannot then fail to *act*. At this critical juncture in history your decision is of extreme importance, and will affect not only your own generation, but the lives of men and women for many generations to come. If you belong to the one outlook, you will finally lose your battle—I hope soon; but, in losing, you will win the understanding of how unrealistic, and therefore how stupid, that outlook is. If you belong to the other, you will win—perhaps soon, though not without a tremendous struggle. But win you most certainly will, because you will have behind you the whole force of the most fundamental urge in human nature—the urge to be free; that is, to be fully conscious, fully responsible, and, in winning, you will lose that sense of thwarted, ineffectual existence; you will lose the clogging encumbrances of out-of-date habits-of-mind-carried-forward-into-present-action.

"Which is it to be, then? Good luck, whichever way you choose."

WOMAN PUTS PUBLIC SERVANTS IN THEIR PLACE

Mrs. C. Parkins, of Trowbridge, Wiltshire, England, recently staged a two-hour sit-down strike in a hole workmen had dug outside her home.

An official called on her early in the morning to ask if she and her husband objected to a telegraph pole being put up outside their home. Mr. and Mrs. Parkins said, "Yes."

While they were having breakfast they saw workmen digging up the pavement.

As soon as her husband had gone to work, Mrs. Parkins took a garden spade and shovelled back the earth as fast as the workmen could dig it out.

When the workmen went off to fetch the postmaster, Mrs. Parkins jumped into the hole and began a sit-down strike. Sympathetic neighbours brought her tea and refreshments.

Mrs. Parkins insisted that nothing further should be done until her objections had been referred to the statutory authority, and she has got her way.

Quite right, too. If ten per cent, of the people in this country had the pluck and determination of Mrs. Parkins there would be no fear of war, no fear of rise in rates or rise in taxes, telephones could be laid underground and anything we liked to unite in demanding would be forthcoming, providing it was physically possible.

If you know of another 'ole, go and jump in it.

—Social Credit, London.

BRITISH FREEDOM!

Free Speech Ban

Said *Reynolds News* (London) on October 2:

"Indignation has been aroused by a widespread endeavour to stop freedom of speech in London.

"The Albert Hall was booked by the League of Nations Union for a meeting in support of the Czechs. It was widely publicised and thousands of leaflets advertising it were distributed last week-end.

"On Wednesday the Union was informed that it could not hold a meeting in the hall unless an undertaking was given that no attack would be made on the Government.

"Subsequently the League of Nations tried to obtain other accommodation in London for the meeting, but in each case a similar undertaking was required by the lessors of the halls which they tried to book."

New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

PATRONISE THESE ADVERTISERS.

Their advertisement helps your paper. Say you saw it in the "New Times."

MELBOURNE (Cont)

(Continued from page 2.)

CITY

Health Service & Store. Free dietetic advice. 300 Lt Collins St. C 6001.

A TAILORED SUIT at Moderate Price. Dress Suits. DOYLE. C. 6192 Wentworth House. 203 Collins St.

ATTENTION! Naytura Hostel Vegetarian Guest House. Accom. State & Inter Guests. Haw 74. BLINDS of every sort Car curtains repaired. T. Pettit, 235a Queen St. "CIRCULEX" clears up all Child-blains. Phone Richard E. Brochie J 1873.

CAKES, PASTRY, etc. Home Made Cakes "Clovelly." The Block, Elizabeth St, Cent. 265.

DAVIS, 568 Bourke St. Royal Medal Milkers, Separators, Engines DOUGLAS SOCIAL CREDIT BOOKSHOP. 166 Lt Collins St.

GINGER JAR CAFE, 238 Flinders Lane (4 doors from Swanston St Best 3-course meal in city).

JAS. JENNINGS, 211 Queen and 6 Regent Arc, Optician 73 years est. Testing Free.

MAISON MERLIN, Natl. Bk Bld 271 Col. St. Ladies' Hairdresser OPTICIAN and Hearing Aids.

M. L. COLECHIN, Champion House 4th Floor, 57 Swanston St F 5566 OPTICIAN J. H. Buckham, J.P. Nat. Bk Ch. 271 Collins St. C 831.

P. A. MORRIS & CO., OPTICIAN 298 Lt. Collins Street, and 80 Marshall Street, Ivanhoe.

PRINTING. E. E. GUNN. Off 600 Lt. Bourke St. Cent. 602

QUICK SERVICE TOBACCO KIOSK. Equitable Place. Buy your Smokes here!

TAILOR, High Class; H. Stackpoole, Lang Arc., off 333 LONS. St. WATCHMAKER and Jeweller. M. Chapman, CAPITOL HSE, 6 yrs. Hardy Bros., in charge Repair Depart.

DARLING.

ESTATE AGENT, J. White, 1 Illowa St. UY 6521,

ELSTERNWICK.

BRIDGE & SON. Men's & Boys Wear. Opp. Station. Phone L 5383 RADIO & ELECT'L SERVICE Mackintosh's, 72 Glenh'tly Rd. 4588.

FAIRFIELD.

BUTCHER, 93 Station Street Arthur B. Heath Solicits Your Patronage.

FOOTSCRAY

BOOT REPAIRS. A. A. Taylor Station Ramp, While U Wait S'vice MASSEY'S GARAGE, W'town Rd. The Home of Motor Reconditioning

GLENFERRIE.

OPTICIAN, W. W. Nicholls, 100 Glenferrie Rd. Haw. 6845. SUITS to order from 70/- H. 681 A. Sutherland, 184 Glenferrie Rd.

HAMPTON.

BEAUTY SALON, Norma Bell, 33 Hampton St., next P.O. XW216 BOOKSELLER, S. J. Endacott, Hampton St., for all book needs. CHEMIST, Rod Burgess. 156a Hampton St. XW 2424, HAIRDRESSER, Ladies and Gents R. STEWART, 68 Hampton St. HOME MADE CAKES. BEAN'S, 140 Hampton St. XW 178

TAILOR, R. W. Simpson, Railway Walk. Suits Hand Made from 95/-

IVANHOE

BOOT REPAIRS. J. Fraser solicits your custom. 130 Upper H'berg Rd

P. A. MORRIS & CO

PTY. LTD. EYESIGHT SPECIALISTS, PRACTICAL OPTICIANS.

"YORK HOUSE" BASEMENT, 298 LITTLE COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE.

Phone: Central 8400. And at 80 MARSHALL ST., IVANHOE, Phone: Ivanhoe 88.

UPHOLSTERER, Blinds & Bedding. Duke's, 111 H.berg Rd. Ivan. 626.

KEW

ANDERSON'S 141 High St. Authorised Newsagent. Haw. 1145. BUTCHER, S. Daw. High Street, Opp. Union St. Satisfaction S'vice.

(Continued on page 7.)

The New Times

Published every Friday by New Times Ltd., McEwan House, Elizabeth and Little Collins Streets, Melbourne, C1 Postal Address: Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne.

Telephone: MU 2834.

Vol. 4. No. 49.
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9.

The Enemy is WITHIN The Gates

From the point of view of the man in the street, the most significant happenings of the past week have been the recruiting propaganda broadcasts over the national network by Mr. Lyons and Dame Enid on Sunday night, and the resolution, which was passed at a meeting held in the Brunswick Town Hall on Sunday afternoon, when representatives of over fifty churches of various denominations met to discuss the international outlook.

In his speech over the air Mr. Lyons said: "We do not want war, but the last few years have clearly shown us that we must be prepared to go to war if we hope to avoid it?"

Dame Enid, addressing the women of Australia, said: "We women are conscious how dependant our men are upon us, and upon the views we express. So I say to the women of the Commonwealth that there is much they can do unobtrusively to make successful the appeal for a trained force of 70,000 volunteers."

At the meeting which was held in the Brunswick Town Hall, the following resolution was passed:

"That this meeting of citizens expresses its conviction that the causes of modern war are mainly economic, since production is obviously not for man, but for markets . . . Believing that mankind is resolved against war, and that Governments, dominated as they still are by obsolete business interests, are pursuing policies that must involve the people in a new serfdom, this meeting calls upon the Christian Church to accept responsibility for the character of civilisation, and give a clear and unequivocal lead towards the promotion of peace through the establishment of social and international justice."

The demand for social and international justice, as compared with the appeal for increased military strength, is representative of the division of the peoples of the civilised world to-day. It is a line of demarcation that transcends geo-

graphical boundaries. On one side of that line are a variety of nationals who are united by their desire for peace and goodwill among all men; on the other side are those few who are in agreement in that they believe that if war is the one means by which they can hold what they have, then war must come, cost what it will.

The end of the last war saw a world-wide revulsion against wholesale slaughter. That revulsion had its outcome in the formation of the League of Nations, and a temporary restriction of armaments throughout the world.

The restriction of armaments, however, though accompanied by temporary cessation of actual fighting, coincided with a renewal of the international trade war which broke out with an added intensity (because of, and in the face of, the restrictions of internal purchasing-power), leaving in its wake ruin and desolation in the shape of workless manufacturing towns and starving people, the ultimate effect of which was a death roll far greater than that of the military war, and a re-arming of the Powers beyond the conception of those who saw the beginnings of the last war.

In different countries, and at different times, numerous palliatives have been tried. The great majority of those palliatives have been of a nature calculated to inspire international ill-will. Tariff barriers have been erected which have reacted unfavourably on the trade relations of the countries concerned. International finance, with its finger in the pie of every nation, has been able to retain its grip, but at a cost to humanity of the suffering caused. Through its servants who control and direct the policies of the Governments of nearly every nation of the civilised world, it has been able (so far) to defeat any major move on the part of people who have sought to create a system of distribution that would overcome the present evils. Obviously, any change of system which has as its basis public control of finance must necessarily depose the present money kings. The money kings are determined to retain their power at any cost, even the cost of another war.

The anachronism of poverty amidst plenty has become so glaringly apparent of late years, however, that an ever-growing public throughout the world has been brought to a complete understanding of the true state of affairs, while an even greater number of men and women of all classes are beginning to ask awkward questions and demand that their Governments do something to enable the people to avail themselves of the plenty that is theirs by right.

The time has now come when the only way in which a major war can be averted is by a complete re-organisation of the process of internal distribution, and thereby of international trade as well. As a previous trade-war led to the 1914-1918 armed conflict, so has the present trade war reached the point at which armed conflict is imminent.

The position is such that we in Australia may have to fight with guns and the lives of men to retain our policy of closing our markets to certain foreign trade, or organise our system of distribution in such a manner that we will be able to enter into free trade relations with other nations on lines that will be to the best interests of all parties, and result in a friendly reaction to ourselves on the part of the belligerents.

Mr. Lyons, acting on the instructions of his bosses, has told us that we must prepare to fight. Our young men must die in order that the system which keeps them from sharing in the abundant wealth of the community shall survive them!

The very intensity with which the appeal for recruits to the militia is being carried on, and the comparative lack of enthusiasm with which the appeal is meeting, is proof of the fact that people are beginning to think. There is a growing realisation of the fact that the enemy is WITHIN our gates, while the men whom we are to be asked to kill are brothers in misfortune. As High Finance is international—the enemy of all men—so are its opponents to be found in all countries.

If Australia is to be saved the horrors of another trade-war she must take immediate steps to remove the local causes that will help to bring it about, and the policy that would drag her into it. This can and must be done immediately. The Government must employ experts to arrange the proper distribution of Australia's wealth among those who create and own it—the Australian people. These same experts must arrange for the free exchange of our surplus wealth for the surplus of countries which are willing and anxious to barter with us. The wealth is here. The books by means of which the method of bartering can be made simple are here, and only require a little altering to make them function properly. The experts who are capable of making those alterations are available. In view of the fact that the present bookkeeping system has brought us to the verge of another war it is a matter of the utmost urgency that those alterations be made. To paraphrase Mr. Lyons, "This is not the Government's job alone. It is not even a party question. The Government will provide the experts, but the job of providing the wealth is your job and my job as citizens."

To a speech like that we would answer with an ever increasing output of wealth. If, as a result of the new system, we found ourselves in danger of attack by some Finance-inspired enemy seeking to force us to return to the old regime, no broadcasts would be necessary to rouse us to the necessity of defending ourselves.

If, on the other hand, those who control our affairs refuse to take the steps necessary to prevent war, merely seeking to divert our attention from its causes by frantic re-arming, there is every probability that they will find that Australians would prefer to die in company with "the enemy within the gates" rather than in defending it from the enemy without. It is probable that our women and children would receive as much mercy from an invading enemy as they would if left to the tender mercies of "a grateful country." They could hardly get less; the last war taught us that.

In effect, Australians will fight to preserve anything worth while in the way of freedom and plenty; but first, they must be given the freedom and plenty to make the fight worth-while.

FLIGHT OF THE TON

One day, between Mr. Chamberlain's visits to Hitler on the Continent, fifteen tons of gold were flown by aeroplane from Croydon to Basle, in Switzerland.

TOPICAL TIT BITS FROM THE NEWS

By "LEXICON."

Referring to Mr. Lyons' "home-ly" talk to the nation on Sunday, Monday's *Argus* leader explains that the "Call to patriots" is not merely a call to the young men between 18 and 40. The leader then points out that the suggestion that the young men are to make all the sacrifices is entirely without foundation. "The militia," says the *Argus*, "is a most important phase—perhaps the most important—but there are other phases."

Another leader on the same page, commenting on suggested increases in taxation, says, "There is a very real limit to the taxability of incomes. Sometimes patriotism will acquiesce in the upward movement of that limit."

If war should come, then, Australia will fight to "The last man and the last shilling"—Well, the last man, anyway.

Dame Enid, in the role of "mother of twelve," was also utilised to good effect. Her saccharine appeal to women to use their influence to persuade their men to do their duty by their "God, King and Country" was truly heart-rending.

Lexicon recalls an incident of the days of the last war, when he saw a member of that noble band of white feather distributors at work. Her method of approach combined the technique of a young constable making his first arrest, and a "lady" about to make a conquest. Having presented a bashful youth in "civvies" with a white feather, she harangued the crowd that had gathered, and then retired in the company of a gallant figure in khaki, who, no doubt, eventually received a hero's reward.

It might be possible to arrange instruction classes for those women who are willing to use their "influence."

The people of Australia seem to have suddenly awakened to the somnolence of their legislators. Mr. Page's snores seemed to have disturbed, not only the various speakers in the House on the most recent occasion on which he dropped off, but quite a large section of the outside public too. Having the interests of the nation at heart, however, we should suggest that even though Page's snores have the effect of keeping his fellow-members awake, they serve one useful purpose. While he is snoring he is not talking, and, judging by his public utterances, we would say that Page should be encouraged to continue with his snoring.

Wednesday's *Argus* quotes a member of the House of Representatives as foretelling sensational developments regarding the National Insurance Bill. We are of the opinion that the most sensational development in that connection would be a re-iteration of the Government's refusal to repeal the Bill. In such case we would suggest a blazing headline for all our dailies:

"FEDERAL MEMBERS' STAY-IN STRIKE." "House of

Representatives Refuses to Represent."

The Bank of New South Wales has brought out another of its periodical Reports—not that there is anything startling about such an event. "A little nonsense now and then, etc."

Lexicon was pleased to read on page eight the following statement: "Taking only economic circumstances into account, we may therefore reasonably expect a recession much milder than that of 1929-32." Well that is very nice and encouraging. Apparently, if only a few thousand people die of starvation instead of tens of thousands, that will be "milder." As the production of Australia shows no signs of decreasing, we would like to know why there should be any recession of any degree. However, it is encouraging for us to have our view confirmed that we are now entering the next depression—or, to be polite and proper—"recession."

Mr. J. A. Seitz, chairman of the Council of Public Education, is reported in the *Argus*, December: 7, as protesting about the practice of young children being taken away from school to take part in Christmas revues and displays by large city stores.

We are in agreement, but we would also respectfully point out to Mr. Seitz and his fellow-educationists, that they might also make some public protest on behalf of the 32,000 juveniles who work in Melbourne industry. These children are also taken away from school, in order that the may take their place with the other thousands of wage-slaves. We might add that this figure of 32,000 is for the year ending 1937 when we were enjoying "almost unbelievable prosperity." For the year ending 1932 the figure was 15,000. Comment is useless.

THE RICHER WE GET THE POORER WE BECOME

"During the year 1936-37 we bought just on £408,000,000 worth of goods from all overseas British countries - - Dominions Colonies, and mandated territories. They bought only £245,000,000 worth from us; an adverse balance of £163,000,000 in a year does not hold out the rosiest prospects of a higher standard of living for the workers of this country."—From a letter to the *Daily Telegraph*, by Mr. J. W. Banfield, M.P.

If any of our readers still believe in the present financial system, this should make them wake up. Great Britain has received from the Empire 163 million pounds' worth of goods more than she has sent out. Yet the only result is a lower standard of living there. Everything is topsy-turvy under "sound finance."

THE PRINTED WORD
in
Pamphlets, Booklets Leaflets, Weeklies, Monthlies, Annuals, Newspapers, Magazines, or Books
EXCELLENTLY AND ECONOMICALLY PRODUCED
By
THE ADVOCATE PRESS
143-151 a'BECKETT ST.,
MELBOURNE
Phone: F 2673 (3 lines).

Frank Devlin

The ONLY Tailor

To Make a **MASTER HAND-
TAILORED Suit to Measure**

New Smart Greys; FROM
All-wool Fancy Blues, and new "Birds-Eye"
Worsteds. **4/10/-**

"Just £2/2/- Below Shop Prices."

(2nd Floor) Elizabeth House,
340 LITTLE COLLINS STREET,
MELBOURNE.
Open Friday Night, 'Phone M5177.



DEMOCRACY, DICTATORSHIPS AND R. G. MENZIES

By "STIRREMUPP."

One of the notable features in the political arena of late has been the frequency with which Mr. Menzies has been making speeches in which he has been emphasising his belief in Democracy. For some time past the Lyons Government has been showing signs of change, decay and disintegration, and, with a view to future eventualities, Mr. Menzies is keeping himself well in the spotlight. If words alone counted, he would perforce have to be accepted as the world's greatest democrat.

The disconcerting part of it all for Mr. Menzies is that, despite his frequent and fervid asseverations, no one seems to take them seriously. It may be that the people have an uneasy recollection of the fact that, before swallowing its victim, a boa-constrictor slobbers over it.

In the political sphere, as in the courts of law, the production of his "record" has often prevented some plausible scamp from "getting away with it." At a time when Mr. Menzies is strenuously advertising his democratic convictions, it would be well for the electors to scan his "record" to find what proof it gives, if any, of devotion to these in the past, and also what the prospects are of loyalty to them in the future. The result of any such scrutiny will be instructive.

A Confidence Trick

In the course of an address given before the Constitutional Association in Sydney on October 24 last, Mr. Menzies is reported to have said: "The first lesson for the Governments of Australia was that in these times of emergency they must not hesitate to take the people into their confidence and give them leadership on well-defined lines."

The audacity shown in this statement is in direct contrast to the calculated prudence of 1914, for the "record" proves that the Lyons-Menzies Government, again and yet again, has refused to take the people into its confidence.

Although the shortness of memory of the public is proverbial, few people will have yet forgotten the suppression of the Petrol Commission's report by the Lyons Government. The people of Australia were given the privilege of footing the bill of costs (some £14,000) for the Petrol Inquiry, and also that of being kept in ignorance as to the outcome, despite oft-repeated requests in Parliament for information. A statement revealing at whose instance the report was suppressed would give weighty evidence of the Government's sincerity.

To expect the people to believe that the formation of an "inner" Cabinet to prevent the "outsider" Cabinet members from getting to know too much—together with the censorship exercised by the Government over radio, press, and cables during the "King Edward" crisis—should inspire any trust in the Government's intention to take the people into its confidence is really asking too much.

The real inwardness of the desire to give the people "leadership on well-defined lines" will not be lost on an awakening people.

Past experience indicates that the "well-defined lines" would be equipped with "phantom" baits, hooks, and outside sinkers, and the people would have as much freedom and security as a hooked flathead.

Hellish Inspiration

Mr. Menzies also stated: "Democracies cannot maintain their place in the world unless they are provided with leadership as inspiring as that provided by dictator counties."

The need for inspiring leadership for democracy at all times is, of course, obvious! But the question inevitably arises: "What kind of leadership have Mr. Menzies and his political associates provided?" Is it not true that, instead of leading the democracy of Australia on to greater heights of social and

individual security, the Lyons-Menzies Government has led it further and further into a veritable slough of despond? It is quite true that the bogward slide did not begin with the advent of the Lyons Government (nor, for that matter, with that of the Labor Government which it superseded), but Mr. Menzies and his associates have had ample time to display the inspired leadership required to lead back to prosperity.

Instead, every year of their dispiriting leadership has brought an appalling increase in the national debt, crushing increases of taxation, and ever-increasing insecurity for the people. Some 70 per cent, of the breadwinners of Australia have to exist on incomes ranging from nothing to £3 per week, and the unemployed number well over 100,000.

This is the sorry plight into which the "inspiring leadership" of Lyons-Menzies and Co. has led Australia. And what does this "leadership" promise for the future? In the same speech Mr. Menzies stated: "Australians, too, should be prepared to render their best service to the Commonwealth, and THIS WOULD MEAN GREATER BURDENS BOTH ON LABOUR AND CAPITAL."

Low-Level Leadership

When he spoke of providing democracy "with leadership as inspiring as that provided by dictator countries," Mr. Menzies certainly did not "hitch his waggon to a star," for such a standard as he suggests is a poor ideal for a true democrat. Given leadership that is truly inspiring, the people of Australia are as capable of rising to high ideals and accomplishments as are any people in the world.

What inspiration, it may well be asked, is to be found in a leadership which complacently accepts poverty in the midst of plenty as satisfactory and unalterable, and for the future can only promise "greater burdens both on labour and capital"?

Mr. Menzies' Golden Opportunity

Recently Mr. Menzies had a golden opportunity not only to prove his devotion to democracy's cause, but also to help to relieve Australia of a considerable part of

the galling financial burden with which she is afflicted.

Australia is now paying £1,000,000 per week interest on her national debt, and taxation has risen to £17/6/- per head per annum, as compared with £4/14/4 in 1914. Defence costs, together with the expense of the iniquitous Pensions and Insurance Act, will impose further privations on the poorer classes, by raising taxation to unbearable limits, but a feasible way of easing the burden considerably has been pointed out. In the report of the Royal Commission on Banking (appointed by the Lyons Government), part of Section 504, dealing specifically with "Creation of Credit," reads thus: "Because of this power, too, the Commonwealth Bank can increase the cash reserves of the trading banks . . . and it CAN EVEN MAKE MONEY AVAILABLE TO GOVERNMENTS AND TO OTHERS FREE OF ANY CHARGE."

The Acid Test

By means of a question submitted in the Senate recently, Senator Darcey drew attention to this clause, and asked if the Prime Minister would "take immediate steps to instruct the Chairman of the Commonwealth Bank to issue sufficient credit to meet the cost of adequate defence of Australia, the credit thus issued to be free of any charge, except the actual administration cost"? In his reply, the Prime Minister stated that the Government declined to do this, because "it was opposed to the political control of banking."

This reply is just what might be expected from a so-called democratic leader who accepts, as the correct order of things, BANKING CONTROL OF POLITICS AND PEOPLE. It will be remembered that, in the course of a policy speech given in Adelaide during the last Federal election campaign, Mr. Lyons said: "The Banks had confidence in my Government, and we were able to carry on." Oct. 15, 1937.) This shameful admission by Mr. Lyons of the subservience of his Government to the Banks clearly proves that Australia now HAS "inspired leadership," and also reveals the source of the inspiration.

It also emphasises the force of the statement made by the Hon. R. McKenna, Chairman of the Midland Bank, and ex-Chancellor of the British Exchequer, when he said: "They who control the credit of a nation direct the policies of Governments, and hold in the hollow of their hands the destinies of the people."

Mr. Menzies Threatens to Fight!

When speaking at the Old Melburnians' luncheon recently, Mr. Menzies stated: "I am prepared to resist the institution of a dictatorship in Australia by every means available to a citizen."

As by words and actions both, Mr. Menzies admits that a dictatorship of financial institutions now rules Australia, Mr. Menzies has a splendid opportunity to prove that his promise to resist a dictatorship by every means available is something more than mere "hot air."

Democracy Now "Wise" to the Swindle

The recent burst of indignation against the proposed imposition of the hypocritical Pensions and Insurance Act is an indication that at long last the people are becoming aware of the iniquitous fleecing they are being subjected to by the "Sane Finance," Bank-controlled Lyons-Menzies Government. They have now become aware that "greater burdens" of taxation for Defence and Pensions are unnecessary, as the Commonwealth Bank can supply the money required "free of any charge."

It is this awakening that constitutes the chief danger for Menzies and Co. The Lyons Government is being forced to realise that while they can fool some of the people all the time, they cannot fool ALL the people all the time.

CHRISTMAS MAILS

Early Posting Campaign

The Deputy Director of Posts and Telegraphs (Mr. R. N. Partington) is seeking the co-operation of all readers in regard to the posting of Christmas gifts and greetings. He would like as many as possible to post such mail matter before Friday, December 16, and suggests that packets be endorsed. "Do not open until Christmas." By doing this you will materially assist the department and eliminate any possibility of your gifts and greetings not being delivered in time. If everybody delays their postings until the last day or so, the congestion may prevent the postal staffs from effecting delivery before December 25. The charm of your gifts and greetings lies in their receipt before Christmas Day, so do your shopping now, pack securely, address fully and plainly, and post early "to avoid disappointment to your relatives and friends."

HAVE YOU SENT THIS LETTER TO YOUR FEDERAL MEMBER?

Dear Sir,—

Having at long last learned the details of the National Health and Pensions Insurance Act, I have arrived at the definite conclusion that this Act will mean a drastic lowering of the already low standard-of living of the majority of the people of Australia by the very fact of reducing their weekly income.

I am, therefore, taking this opportunity of telling you, as my representative in Parliament, that I resent having this imposed upon me without the electors first being consulted by referendum; and I am determined that if you, as my representative, fail to do your utmost to have this undemocratic measure repealed, I will do all in my power to cause you to be replaced at the next elections by a representative who will truly represent the wishes of his electors.

Yours faithfully,

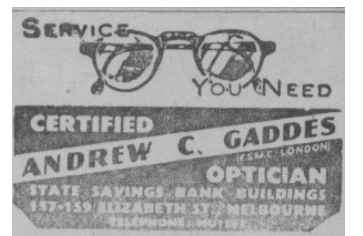
(Name).....
(Address).....
....., 1938.

* * *

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

Parliament House, Canberra, is sufficient address.

- BALACLAVA . . . White, T. W
- BALLARATPollard, R.T
- BATMAN Brennan, F.
- BENDIGO Rankin G. J.
- BOURKE Blackburn, M. M
- CORANGAMITE Street, G
- CORIO Casey, R. G
- DEAKIN Hutchinson, W. I
- EAWKNER Holt, H. E
- FLINDERS Fairbairn, J. V
- GIPPSLAND Paterson, T
- HENTY Gullett, Sir H
- INDI McEwen, J. S
- KOOYONG Menzies, R. G.
- MARIBYRNONG Drakeford, A. A
- MELBOURNE Maloney, Dr. W. R.
- MELB. PORTS, Holloway, E. J
- WANNON Scholfield, T. H
- WIMMERA Wilson, A. T
- YARRA Scullin, J. H.



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

If you wish to assist the "New Times" in its fight for justice, security, and freedom for all our people; if you desire to help it in exposing those who are the enemies of the people, you can best do so by providing the financial ammunition which will enable the paper to build up the greatest possible circulation in the shortest possible time.

Shareholders incur no other liability than payment in full for the shares applied for and allotted to them.

All shares are ordinary shares of £1 each.

You may apply for any number of shares from one upwards.

MINIMUM terms of purchase are 10 per cent. (2/- per share) with application, 10 per cent, on allotment, and balance at 10 per cent, per month.

To The Secretary, New Times Ltd., Elizabeth House, Elizabeth and Little Collins Sts., MELBOURNE, C.I. Sir,—

I hereby make application for.....ordinary shares of £1 each in New Times Limited and I agree to be bound by its Articles and Memorandum of Association.

I enclose herewith £.....being payment on account of these shares. part payment

Name in full.....

Address.....

Date.....Signature.....

"THE MOST CAPABLE MAN AVAILABLE" (?)

Hon. B. S. B. Stevens, Premier of New South Wales

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H. BROWN.

Sir,—After reading what was written last week, it is probable that many of your readers felt doubtful about Mr. Stevens' public straightforwardness, and it is possible that they will feel even more doubtful in the light of what is to follow. Last week we were able to go only part of the way through his special article in the Melbourne *Herald*, entitled "America Adopts the Premiers' Plan." Sufficient was said, however, to show that the Premiers' Plan, as we know it, cannot properly be compared in any sense with the course followed in the United States. The conditions are totally different, and the action there gave greater attention to the greater need—i.e., an immediate and substantial increase in the purchasing ability of the people as a whole. The plan in Australia did precisely the opposite, until the banks changed their policy from deflation to inflation.

Withstood the Shock

Two important statements remain for comment. The first of these (which is all we will have room to deal with at present) is as follows:

"In Australia the financial system (with the exception of one State-managed bank, the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales) was able successfully to withstand the shock of the depression. Our Australian banking system is regarded the world over as one of the most efficient and best organised.

Well, let us see.

An Untrue Statement

Note particularly the statement of this much-vaunted idealist and spiritual adviser (his advice on spiritual matters will be commented upon more fully later) that the ONLY bank which failed to withstand the shock of the depression was the State-managed bank in New South Wales. When I think of this and remember Mr. Stevens' address from the Wesley Church a few days later, I hardly like saying he lied, but what other word would adequately describe it? The Official Year Book, published by the Commonwealth Statistician, proves that other banks were forced to close, and, when taken in conjunction with other data, it becomes clear that the actual closing was politically engineered for the express purpose of discrediting the Government of the day. Mr. Stevens himself was not altogether blameless in this.

Primary Producers' Bank

On August 24, 1931, the Primary Producers' Bank of Australia Ltd. was forced to close its doors, owing to the depletion of its liquid assets. That is to say, when the depositors went for their deposits there was no legal money or cash in the bank with which they could be paid. In other words, except as entries in books, the "deposits" were not there. Before this bank closed, however, unsuccessful attempts were made to arrange amalgamation with some other financial house, and at the end of September steps were taken for the winding-up of the bank's business.

Smaller Bank

Following on the closure of the Primary Producers' Bank, considerable uneasiness developed amongst depositors in the small banks, and the stream of withdrawals seriously embarrassed the managements of these institutions. The Brisbane Permanent Building and Banking Co. Ltd., and the Queensland Deposit Bank were able to withstand the demands on their resources only because they received support from some of the stronger trading banks. These two banks subsequently became amalgamated by agreement dated November 12, 1931.

The directors of the Federal Deposit Bank decided to suspend payment as from September 5, 1931, and court orders were subsequently issued for placing the affairs of the bank in the hands of a liquidator. At the end of October 1931, a scheme of settlement was placed before depositors providing for the immediate payment of small current accounts and extended payment of the higher amounts.

The Australian Bank of Commerce Ltd. also experienced difficulties and negotiated for amalgamation with the Bank of New South Wales. The amalgamation was effected as from November 12, 1931.

An Accident?

What a pity it was that these private banks failed? For years and years we have been encouraged to expect it of anything "run by Government," but not under private enterprise. And what a strange thing it was that we were hearing on all sides about the alleged "failure" of the Government Savings Bank in New South Wales, without so much as a word about the failure of these privately-conducted institutions! Do you think that was just an accident?

Betrayed by Commonwealth Bank

Now, about this Government Savings Bank business. Permit me to give the bald facts from the Bureau of Census and Statistics. Owing to the continuous demands of depositors, and the consequent strain on the liquid assets of the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales, the Commissioners of the Bank negotiated with the Commonwealth Bank for amalgamation, but the negotiations were abortive, and the bank was forced to close, as from April 22, 1931. As we shall see presently, it was quite a simple thing for the Commonwealth Bank to meet the wishes of the New South Wales Savings Bank, but for political reasons the Commonwealth Bank refused to protect the depositors in New South Wales. To my way of thinking, that was a crime for which the members of the Commonwealth Bank Board should be publicly arraigned.

Improper Discrimination

During August 1931, increasing withdrawals from the State Savings Bank in Western Australia caused the Government of that State to negotiate for the amalgamation of the State Savings Bank with the Commonwealth Savings Bank. On this occasion, the negotiations were successful, and the amalgamation was effected in October 1931. The Commonwealth, therefore, saved the Government Bank in Western Australia from what had occurred to a similar institution in another State. At that time, the Government of Western Australia was apparently of the right political colour, from the point of view of the members of the Commonwealth Bank Board.

In September 1931, the Government of New South Wales appointed new Commissioners for the Savings Bank, and immediately resumed business. Negotiations for absorption by the Commonwealth Savings Bank were re-opened, and agreement reached early in December.

A Boomerang!

Mr. Stevens will remember perhaps better than most people, the nature of the banking propaganda used at the election which resulted in the defeat of the Bavin Government, and how that propaganda was the beginning of an attack upon the Government Savings Bank. This attack was sustained and intensified because of the result of that

election, and was carried out by unscrupulous men who cared nothing at all for the welfare of the people in general. It achieved its direct purpose when the Savings Bank was obliged to close in April, 1931, but the run on the Commonwealth Bank, which immediately followed, was not part of the scheme, and caused serious misgivings in banking circles generally. The run was so great that it threatened to cause the closing of other banks as well.

A Rush to the Microphone

So serious did the position become that on Sunday, May 3, 1931, Sir Robert Gibson, then chairman of the Commonwealth Bank Board, made a memorable announcement. It was made in the form of a broadcast address in all States simultaneously, and was rendered necessary because of the increasing demands for withdrawals from the Commonwealth and trading banks. It will be noticed how quickly he could be brought to the rescue of the private banks, but how adamant he was when the then Government of New South Wales needed assistance.

"Take Your Money Away"

On that particular occasion the late chairman of the Bank Board said this: "The Commonwealth Bank has control of the Note Issue, and it can command resources in the form of currency to any extent which, in the opinion of the Bank Board, is deemed necessary. . . . I would say to those who have not the kind of confidence which should exist: 'Come and take your money away. It will be paid over at once. The Commonwealth Bank will meet any demand placed upon it by its customers. The Bank will never close its doors so long as the nation stands.'" It was precisely because of this very power that the Monetary and Banking Commission reported in paragraph 504 that the Bank could make money available for the purposes of government free of any charge. If this were done, there would be no occasion to tax us for the payment of interest, but so long as the Government can be persuaded NOT to do it, then we must continue to meet heavier and heavier assessments for the payment of interest on fictitious money, privately-manufactured by the trading banks. It is for this very purpose that efforts are being made to get Mr. Stevens transferred to the Federal Cabinet, just as arrangements are made for directors of private banks to be transferred to the Board of the Commonwealth Bank!

Spilled the Beans

Sir Robert Gibson, in his broadcast address, appears to have gone somewhat further than his urgers intended, for he spilled the beans completely about the closing of the Savings Bank in New South Wales. He gave the definite assurance that there was no good reason why that bank was compelled to close its doors, and so we see that the reason for the closing must have been a BAD one, arising wholly from ulterior motives on the part of the Government's opponents. Read for yourself the striking words of Sir Robert at the time, viz.: "The Government Savings Bank of New South Wales was forced to close its doors because the people who had deposited their money in that bank WERE LED TO BELIEVE, by the foolish statements of those who should have known better, AND THE STATEMENTS OF THOSE WHO DESIRED TO BRING ABOUT DISASTER, that that bank was not in a safe position. . . . The Government Savings Bank of New South Wales was in a PERFECTLY SOUND POSITION. There was no good reason, on account of lack of soundness, why it WAS COMPELLED to close its doors." Indeed, it would be a good idea to memorise it. What has the virtuous Mr. Stevens to say about that? Who were these people "who should have known better"? Was HE one of them? Who were these people who LED the

depositors into a state of agitation and the false belief that their savings bank was in an unsound position?

Nearly Brought Disaster to Themselves

Sir Robert Gibson's speech had the full approval of the Government, and evidently was also inspired by the trading banks. It indicated such a sudden and pronounced change of front on the part of these people that one naturally looks for the reason. The Melbourne *Tribune* of January 11, 1934, summed it up well, as follows: "The run on the New South Wales Savings Bank did not harm the trading banks nor shake public confidence in their stability; but there is scarcely a doubt that the closing of the Commonwealth Bank would have been followed by a run upon every trading bank in Australia, and within a few days every one of these institutions would have been wrecked." And yet we are told that our banking system is one of the most efficient and best-organised in the world. It might be quite as correct to say, "So is the Australian Mont de Pieté!"

Sheer Defamation

No institution has been more defamed than the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales, and it does the Premier of that State no credit to ally himself with those who were responsible for the creation of its difficulties. If the public fully understood the truth of the affair, and the deliberate campaign inaugurated after the Premiers' Conference in 1931, at which the then Premier of New South Wales was the only man who spoke up for the suffering people, the tables would be completely turned. Mr. Lang refused to take orders from the bankers against the people, and for that impertinence

on his part he was saddled with the responsibility for the closing of the Savings Bank, and was made the object of an Empire-wide campaign of vilification and ridicule. I have never met the man, but from my own investigation of the subject I feel satisfied that the day will come when he will be completely vindicated and carry the respect of the whole community. That is not to say that I agree entirely with everything he has done, but it does mean that, in my view, he is closer to solving the problems of the people than any other of the men in Australian public life to-day.

Assisting the Forces of Evil

The whole of the circumstances in this particular regard form a chapter in our history of which we and our children will feel more ashamed as the years pass; and, just as we wonder how the people of the past could have tolerated some of the things recorded in history, so will the children of the future marvel at the stupidity displayed by the people of these fateful days. The part Mr. Stevens played in this betrayal was such as to make him a menace against the people's interests, and to reveal him as entirely unsuitable for a place in the National Parliament. If he were half as capable as the *Argus* makes out he would be leading the forces for good, but as it is he is allowing himself to be used as a leader of the forces whose object is the perpetuation and intensification of conditions of debt, destitution, and degradation.

Instead of being the most capable man available, it seems to me that the facts identify him politically as a menace to the welfare of this and future generations.—Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H. BROWN.

"LEFT" AND "RIGHT"

What Difference?

AN ENGLISH OPINION.

"Leaving out of account the fundamental gulf between Fascism or Communism and Social Credit, is it possible to make any distinguishing features between the two former? I believe that it is.

"Communism, in common with nearly all 'Left' movements, is inextricably bound up with the international money-power. The song the 'Left' sings is the song the bankers taught it. Moscow moves, but the motive power comes from Wall Street. Internationalism is one and indivisible, and its god is Baal.

"Mussolini and Hitler, on the other hand, are in the position of having 'pirated' a section of the financiers' empire. Perhaps at first they 'pirated' it by consent; and the policies they followed, and are following, do not in any way improve on those of the bankers as far as *the individual* is concerned.

"Yet there seems no doubt that these two dictators now have the bit between their teeth as regards the Money-power. The confiscation of the Rothschild banking interests was quite a new thing, the Nazi regime having signalled its beginning by giving an 'Aryan passport' to banker Mendelssohn. Mussolini's so-called 'anti-Semitism' is another significant sign of changed policies; and though Schacht is still in office in Germany, I cannot but think that that country's credit, as that of Italy also, has actually been wrested from international control and is now being used to suit the will of the Dictators.

"If this is true, the influence of these two men will tend to be disruptive of the very power we ourselves are attempting to break. It is borne out by the fact that behind the Czech 'crisis' there was a most ruthless plot to bring about an immediate war—in which (of this there seems no doubt) Germany must have lost, though at appalling cost to everyone. Such a war—fought about a difference in the method of doing what most fair-minded people agreed ought to be done—cannot be explained in terms of French British, German or Czech diplomacy. Only one group is always ready to bring about the mass-murder of untold million for purposes that are not those of mankind.

"Social creditors cannot say that Hitler and Mussolini are 'steps in the right direction.' Emphatically they are not, and heaven help this country if such steps are ever necessary here. But we can agree that, when they happen, for whatever reason, to be doing our work for us, it is obviously foolish to assist the common enemy by joining in the universal outcry against them. At times it may even be strategically advantageous to clarify temporary issues, when facts in their favour are being deliberately withheld or misrepresented."

—Miles Hyatt, in *The Social Creditor*, Liverpool, England.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

A Plea for the Individual

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

There is a certain type of person familiar to most of us, whose chief aim in life appears to be to get a majority of the people to dictate in some detail what shall be "good" for each and every individual; and, irrespective of the wishes of the individual, to place him (or her) in a strait jacket designed by these "benevolent" friends. Now, mind you, this is all done with the best of intentions. "They do not know what is good for them" is the cry. Exactly! This is the core of the whole problem of social relationships to-day. Mr. Montagu Norman and other big financiers have exactly this psychology. They also are idealists of that type—and, believing that they know what is best for other people, proceed to use the power at their disposal in order to enforce their ideal. They are upholding a philosophy which has prevailed for thousands of years in varying degrees, but is now reaching its logical conclusion in modern societies—which are fast becoming so centralised that individuals are slaves to such abstract gods as National Efficiency, National Economy, The Nation and The State. This distinct trend is disturbing and has got to be faced. I, therefore, take up my pen in defence of the individual against the various insidious and subtle attacks being launched upon him to-day. As the Indian philosopher, says: "The time has come when, for the sake of the whole outraged world, Europe should fully know in her own person the terrible absurdity of the thing called The Nation. The Nation has thriven long upon mutilated humanity. Men, the fairest creations of God, came out of the National manufactory in

huge numbers as war-making and money-making puppets, ludicrously vain of their pitiful perfection of mechanism. Human society grew more and more into a marionette show of politicians, soldiers, manufacturers and bureaucrats, pulled by wire arrangements of wonderful efficiency." That the individual is being mutilated, both mentally and physically, needs no substantiation. The principle of the Electoral Campaign is to reverse this position to one where the individual is supreme and every man his own dictator.

The Need to Clarify Our Objective

In other words, the Electoral Campaign has a very definite philosophy, and I feel that before discussing with people the merits or demerits of a certain proposition or mechanism designed to achieve a certain objective, it is very desirable to clarify the issue as to which objective is desired. For example, it is quite useless discussing the technique of the Electoral Campaign with people for some considerable time, only to find out that they do not agree with your objective. The first thing is to get a common definition on what common objective we desire. Definition has been termed the breath of science. If you cannot get your prospective convert to agree that the individual in society should get access to the physical amenities of life as a right, as a heritage, and that he should be free to order his existence to his own desires as long as he interferes with no one else, it is a waste of time expounding real democracy to him. But if you can get him to agree with your objective, you will then have little

difficulty in convincing him that the Electoral Campaign is the method of obtaining it. Our fight is not so much in convincing people that our mechanism is right, but of suitably defining our objective and getting people to agree with it.

History of Two Conflicting Conceptions of Society

Practically the whole history of the social development of the human race can be written around the two conflicting schools of thought which have been briefly mentioned above. Dating from the time of the Sophists of the early Greek civilisation, who were opposed to the authoritarian doctrine, the school of thought which has been opposed to all forms of centralisation and its consequent evils has had expression in many reform movements throughout the centuries, and is now finding its strongest expression in all New Economic thought. On the other hand, those who admire the so-called virtues of these things called National Efficiency, etc., have had their strong advocates from the time of Plato, who, in the eighth and ninth books of his *Republic*, launches a vigorous attack on what he terms the inefficiency of democracy. And so, down the ages, the conflict has raged until with the growth and monopoly of credit-power the enslavement of the individual has been carried to such a pitch that the forces of liberty have been hard pushed to keep alight the present small spark of democracy. The outstanding problem which confronts society at the present time is to save the individual from further attack—whether it be an attack by the financial system or by these self-styled idealists and Utopians who would like to have all other individuals living in accord with their conceptions. The only democratic conception of society is one in which all impediments to the free development of the individual will be removed. The biggest obstacle to the free development of the individual at the present time is the present financial system. It must, therefore, be altered. But to get it altered the individual has got to assert himself and realise his own power—so badly sapped by all these financial restrictions, laws and regulations which say that you cannot do this and you cannot do that. However, there are very encouraging signs that the spirit of individualism is re-asserting itself. Evidence of this in Australia is to be seen in the Campaign for the Repeal of the National Insurance Act.

More Significant Than Most People Think

The tremendous growth and partial success of this campaign is much more significant than appears on the surface. It indicates to the careful observer that the individual is feeling his power. He will, of course, learn slowly, because it is quite a new sensation; but, once having grasped reality, he will never relinquish it until he has removed all forms of tyranny oppressing him at the present time. It is safe to say that the repeal of the National Insurance Act will be without precedent in Australian history, in as much as it will be a free, spontaneous expression by the individual. All those who believe in the principle that the individual is the main thing in any society must push on with the work of showing him how he can obtain that objective. This is the spirit of democracy and liberty which true individualism has been striving for, for thousands of years. It appears that we are in sight of the goal—which should encourage us to redouble our efforts.

LAWS

Laws are like cobwebs, which catch small flies, but let wasps and hornets through.

--Jonathan Swift.

THE ECONOMIC FACTOR IN CZECHOSLOVAKIAN CRISIS

The Czechs have often been accused of stubbornness. It is asserted that, had Dr. Benes given proper concessions to his minorities years ago, the recent crisis might never have arisen. But it is interesting to note that in 1933, after fourteen years of Czech administration, Henlein made the following statement: "By identifying ourselves with the Czechoslovak State, we assent to the fundamental idea of democracy, and assess the Czech people, whose destiny is inextricably bound up with our own, as a cultural nation, equal in quality to any nation in Central Europe."

The economic factor was an important element in the alienation of the Sudetens from the Czech State. The glass, textile, and musical instrument factories in the Sudeten areas were severely affected by the depression. As many of these products were luxury articles, thousands of Germans were thrown out of work.

—Virginia Cowles, in the *Sunday Times*, September 25.

CONTRAST

An appeal to the State Government to retain the dental van which it proposes to sell was made today by the secretary of the Victorian Federation of Mothers' Clubs (Mrs. M. A. McColl).

"My organisation feels that the van would be most useful for suburban schools, even if it is no longer capable of doing country work or traversing hills," she said.

"At suburban schools it would enable much more dental attention to be given, as it would supplement the numbers of children who can readily be taken to the dental centre.

"Even if the van cannot be used in the suburbs, it could remain in the grounds of the dental clinic, where it would be most valuable during the vacation periods, when there are not enough surgeries for the work.

"The last van that was disposed of went for £15, and was, later, sold by its purchaser for £35. The amount involved is, therefore, comparatively small, and the Government would not be making a good bargain in view of the work which the van could still do."

—Melb. *Herald*, Nov. 24.

CANBERRA, Thursday. —It is not proposed to build a permanent Government House at Canberra for the Duke and Duchess of Kent. Instead, at least £25,000 will be spent on remodelling and adding to the present Government House, "Yarralumla."

"Yarralumla," which is one of the old station homes of the district, was converted at a cost of about £80,000 into a temporary official residence for the Governor-General. The additions to the home for the Duke's occupancy will include a ballroom, enlarged dining and reception rooms, and larger private quarters, a nursery, and additional staff quarters. It is hoped to start the work early in the New Year.

The Minister for Works (Mr. Thorby) will be in Melbourne from December 3 to December 5 to make preliminary inquiries for a Melbourne residence for the Duke and Duchess. Mr. Thorby will, it is expected, negotiate with the State Government for the use of the former Federal Government House.

Admiralty House, Sydney, is considered to be suitable as a Royal residence. It was recently renovated at great cost.

In planning expenditure on the Royal residences, the Government has to consider the travelling the Duke will do. Probably half of his time here will be spent in visiting the various States.

—Melb. *Herald*, Nov. 25.

New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

PATRONISE THESE ADVERTISERS. Their advertisement helps your paper. Say you saw it in the "New Times."

MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 8.)

C. KENNEDY, Grocer. Haw. 229. Opp. Cemetery Clock, Parkhill Rd.

DRY CLEANING, Depot & Library A. I. Fraser, 182 High St. H. 3733. E. WHITE, 109 High St. Confectionery and Smokes.

FLORIST, "Mayfair," Haw. 1462 Cotham Rd., near Glenferrie Rd. GIBSON'S, High St., opp. Rialto. Hosiery, Underwear and Aprons. GIFTS, & All Jewellery Repairs. Old Gold Bought. Greaves, opp. Rialto

KEW

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

LADIES' Hairdresser. Haw. 6605 "Burnie Salon," 81 Cotham Rd. M. J. MARTIN, 157 High St. Haw. 3794. Shoe Store, Shoe Repairs. MOTOR GARAGE. Kew Junction Service Station, Cr. High & Denmark Streets. Haw. 6457.

RADIO EXPERT. J. G. Littlewood, 267 High St. Also Elec. Appliances.

KEW EAST.

WATCH, CLOCK & JEWELLERY REPAIRS. I. Pink, 16 OSWIN St. WICKER & Pram Repairs. L. Pavitt, 2 Hale St. Pick up and deliver.

MORELAND.

BOOT REPAIRS. J. T. Nolan, Holmes St., 4 dn. Moreland Rd.

NORTH FIZROY.

KEITH PARLON, The Fitzroy Tailor, 45 Best Street, JW 1555.

NORTHCOTE.

GRAY & JOHNSON Pty. Ltd. Leading Land and Estate Agents. 742 High Street, Thornbury.

NORTH CARLTON.

W. BROWN, Hairdresser & Tobacconist, 733 Nicholson St., N. Carlton.

PARK DALE.

RADIO REPAIRS AND SALES. C. Barnett, 19 Herbert St. XW2031.

SANDRINGHAM.

A. RYAN, opp. Stn., Shoe Repairs. Tennis Racquets Restrung from 7/6. BIGGS & LOMAS. Tailors. First-class Workmanship. Suit Club. CONFECTIONERY and SMOKES Gibson's, Bay Rd., opp. Theatre. GROCERS, McKAY & WHITE. Bay Rd., opp. Theatre. XW 1924 HAIRDRESSER and Tobacconist A. E. Giddings, 18 Station St. HOME MADE CAKES. I. TAYLOR, 21 Bay Rd. XW2048 LIBRARY. 5000 BOOKS. COUTIE'S NEWS AGENCY.

ST. KILDA.

HARVEY'S COFFEE GARDEN. Sweets, Smokes. 227 Barkly Street

SPRINGVALE.

DAIRY, M. Bowler. Buckingham Ave. R. MACKAY & SONS. General Storekeepers. UM 9269.

WILLIAMSTOWN.

DON B. FISKEN, Baker. 122 Douglas Parade. DUNSTAN, DAIRYMAN. 28 Station Rd. 'Phone, W'town 124 HAIRDRESSER and Tobacconist C. Tomkins, 165 Nelson Pl, 76 Ferguson St.

WINDSOR.

E. COOKE, 49 Chapel St. W. 8044 High Class Butcher (Cash).

ARTHUR W. JONES OPTICIAN

Green's Building (4th Floor), 62 SWANSTON STREET MELBOURNE.

(9 doors from St. Paul's)

Same Address since 1908.

Consultation Daily.

Phone: Cent. 6693

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

A PRACTICAL SUGGESTION FOR EVERY READER

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

WHAT YOU CAN DO

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

Ask them to try it for a few weeks. Don't rely on them having the initiative to order it from a newsagent. Get them to sign the "Order on Newsagent" form printed below. They do not commit themselves to take it for a fixed period—and they do not have to pay you any money. Pass on the form to their nearest newsagent, who will supply at 3d. per week. Further copies of the form may be had, free and post free, from the "New Times." Parcels of specimen copies of the "New Times" are also available (free and post free).

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

ORDER ON NEWSAGENT.

To
(Newsagent)

Address.....

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

Signed.....

Address.....

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

VICTORIA

The Flour Tax or the Home Consumption Price for Wheat Plan is another scandalous imposition placed on the Australian people. An attempt will be made to impose on the good nature of the public by claiming that the tax is for the purpose of assisting the unfortunate wheatgrower. But the rise in the cost of the loaf will counter the sedative platitudes that politicians and the press will serve to the public in an endeavour to stir the spirit of sacrifice. The time has arrived in Australia when "you can't fool all the people all the time." The Campaign for the Repeal of the National Insurance Act is evidence of an awakened Australia. Perhaps it would be more correct to say that the Australian people have awakened to a knowledge of their individual power, and how to use it, as, undoubtedly, a substantial portion of the community has known for many years of the unmitigated swindle being perpetrated by Financial Institutions on the Australian people, of which the Flour Tax is an example. The primary purpose of the Flour Tax is to exploit the public by forcing it to pay the interest on the loans made by the banks to the farmers. The state of the world's wheat markets is such that the price obtainable per bushel of wheat is insufficient to provide the farmers with an income that will enable them to meet their interest charges, and at the same time leave enough to carry on the working of their farms. Hence it is deemed necessary to compel the general public to pay an amount for flour which will, at least, provide the farmers with their interest payments to the banks. It is the wish of the Australian people that the wheat-grower and the wheat-consumer should be of benefit to each other. This can only be brought about by employing the Electoral Campaign, which enables the people of Australia to direct Parliament to adjust the distributive system of the nation to make the wealth and production of Australia fully available to the people of Australia—without sacrifice by one struggling section for another struggling section. Obtain information on Electoral Campaign from: U.E.A., McEwan House, Fifth Floor, Little Collins Street, Melbourne, Telephone, MU 2834.

ERIC BUTLER.—At a well-attended meeting of the Geelong Toc H last Monday evening, Eric gave his first address at this important centre. Those present were very impressed with an address which dealt with the subject of the Electoral Campaign from a new angle. Taking up the problem of reform from the moral point of view, Eric concluded by saying that, "unless the conscience of democracy is going to stir, I do not think that there is any legitimate hope for an alleviation of the present appalling state of affairs." The address finished on a very challenging note, and was responsible for many inquiries. Those responsible for the organising of this meeting are now confident that they can arrange a big public meeting at an early date. As a direct result of the meeting Eric expects to address a meeting at Meredith on the Campaign for the Repeal of the National Insurance Act. This meeting will prob-

ably take place during the forthcoming week.

On Tuesday evening, December 6, Eric addressed a small group at the Eastern Hill Fire Station. The meeting was quite informal, and a very interesting discussion took place, with the result that Eric has been asked to give a further address in the near future. Eric informs us that he was very pleased with this meeting—although he lost his audience at one stage when the men answered a fire alarm!

Last night (Thursday, December 8), Eric addressed a small group meeting in Hawthorn. Before Christmas he expects to do some more country work, especially in the North-East, where he is anxious to further the Campaign for the Repeal of National Insurance. All supporters who are desirous of having a meeting are asked to get in touch with headquarters in advance, in order that Eric can make his arrangements. He is getting a stream of inquiries from many quarters, and will make arrangements so as to deal with as many as possible. He will not visit Sydney until early in the New Year, and will, therefore, be available for any centre in Victoria prior to then.

THORPDALE reports that a strenuous campaign for the repeal of the National Insurance Act is in progress. It is remarked that several differently worded forms are in circulation. Butter factories have issued forms. The report ends with: "Getting a good amount of space in the local press."

HAMILTON, which reports a substantial increase in *New Times* circulation, has suggested that a speaker should visit the district. Eric Butler will answer the call, but, before making arrangements, Head Office would like to hear from interested persons in other centres in the district, so that an extended tour can be arranged.

BENDIGO invites *New Times* readers and U.E.A. members to meet in the Soldiers' Memorial Hall, Bendigo, on Friday, December 16, at 8 p.m. Business, urgent. Bendigo is systematically preparing for intensive campaign work, to be undertaken early in the coming year.

FRANKSTON.—The Frankston branch, after the visit of the youthful stalwarts, is busy organising for a well-defined scheme of propaganda and extension of membership, notwithstanding the proximity of the holidays. Mr. J. S. Lazarus, from Bendigo has joined up, and was immediately placed on the executive. The Frankston *Standard* gave an excellent report of the Y.S. team's visit, and is doing good work in assisting the Branch to disseminate the good news. Members are keen, active and enthusiastic, and are hoping to leaven the whole of the community with the urge to rid Australia of the disgrace of poverty in the midst of plenty.

YOUTH SECTION.—The seventh Youth Section meeting—timed for 8 p.m., December 13, in the Auburn Recreation Hall, Auburn Road, Auburn—is expected to arouse enthusiasm in this corner of Kooyong electorate. The Youth team, following their success at Frankston last week, are eager for the fray. Now that the Youth

Section meetings are succeeding each other at an even shorter interval, another team is becoming urgently necessary. The newly-formed speakers' class will have its first airing at U.E.A. headquarters on Monday, December 19. Youth Section members who are keen to take the platform or the soapbox will be welcomed with open arms.

The next general meeting of the Youth Section will take place on Thursday, December 15, when plans formulated by the various committees will be ratified and put into effect. A very interesting scheme provides for the introduction of a lending library at headquarters for the use of Youth Section members. Rumours are flying about regarding the proposed high-pressure campaign for Balaclava in the New Year. More of which anon.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

RALLY.—To-morrow (Saturday, December 10), at 8 p.m., every supporter is expected to be present at the Lower Hall, 17 Weymouth Street, Adelaide. There will be so much to report and decide with regard to immediate action that there will be no time for social items. There will, however, be a basket supper with cool drinks—and, of course, a collection.

The chief item will be the work of the National Insurance Repeal Association, and the part Electoral Campaigners can play in helping its members to attain their objective.

On November 29, 1000 electors assembled in the Adelaide Town Hall to hear speakers on behalf of the N.I.R.A.

Those present were enthusiastic in support of each speaker as he exposed the partiality, limited application, and stupidity of the clauses of this obvious class-legislation, intended to discipline the majority of electors by financial methods (taxation, lower purchasing power, higher prices and lower standards of living and health).

Mr. D. Fraser, provisional chairman of N.I.R.A., presided; the speakers being Messrs. F. Nieass, M.P.; Cherry, A. Angrove and E. H. Hergstrom.

A resolution was carried unanimously demanding a straight out repeal of the National Health and Pensions Act.

Consequent action will involve a voluntary referendum in the six Federal electorates of South Australia, letters to Federal M.P.'s, and other forms of pressure politics. Two thousand workers will be needed for this work. With your knowledge and experience, you are indispensable to N.I.R.A. for early success. So be sure and be present at the rally on Saturday, December 10 (to-morrow).

B. H. BROWN TO SPEAK.—On Wednesday, December 14, at 1 p.m., the Women's Division will celebrate their birthday anniversary. This will take the form of a luncheon, at which Mr. Bruce Brown will be the guest and speaker, his subject being "The Will of God in Relation to Money." Luncheon (charge 1/-) is optional. Men are welcome. It is hoped that the Campaign Rooms will be packed to capacity to hear Mr. Brown on this subject.

WEST AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL INSURANCE REPEAL.—The Campaign against National Insurance is now proceeding actively. The first of a series of public meetings was held in the Fremantle Town Hall on November 17, at 8 p.m.

This meeting was thoroughly organised by that indefatigable worker, Mr. D. Byers. Besides addressing a huge meeting of hundreds of lumpers on the wharf he personally canvassed all over the Fremantle area and wrote to numerous people asking them to support the campaign.

The speakers were Mr. A. E. Ambrose, Mrs. I. Greenwood, Mr. J. J. Kelly (Hon. Secretary for the Repeal Committee, and Mr. V. J. Dury (Electoral Campaign Director). The *West Australian* was quite silent about the meeting. Over thirty people volunteered to obtain signatures, and by all accounts signatures are flowing in fast.

A great impetus has been given to the movement by the Banking Commission's Report, and, by the numerous requests H.Q., is getting for copies of letters demanding the issue of debt-free credits, the various members of Parliament must be having a warm time. The allegation in the press that the move against the National Insurance Act was sponsored by the Douglas Credit Movement is evidence that the powers that be are very dubious and not a little perturbed to find that a movement that they thought had died out had now come back into the fray with not only renewed vigour, but with a decided acquisition of strength, as is evidenced by the huge backing they have got to demand the repeal of the Act. Nevertheless, it is not true to say that the Douglas Credit Movement is responsible for the huge movement against the Act. It is a spontaneous move by the electors of Australia to rid themselves of the most absurd legislation that any legislature in the world has attempted to put over what they considered to be an ignorant Australian community.

The Wheatgrowers' Union of W.A. was one of the first bodies in this State to condemn the National Insurance Act, and they have given a lot of publicity to the Repeal Campaign. It is well known that all the friendly societies are not in favour of the National Insurance Act, especially as it is doubtful if they will survive as friendly societies for very long after their members are faced with the payment of two subscriptions instead of one.

Mr. R. G. Casey, Federal Treasurer, should be sure that when he states the Douglas Credit Movement is responsible for the Repeal Movement, that he is stating the truth and not the semblance of it. All Groups are requested, where possible, to hold meetings regarding the Debt-Free Credit issue, which is very important and should have all the publicity possible.

All groups in the metropolitan area are requested to arrange for public meetings as soon as possible, so that full publicity can be given to the Royal Banking Commission's Report.

SUBIACO BRANCH OCEAN CRUISE.—Tickets are now available at headquarters at 2/6 per head. Children's tickets can be obtained on the morning of the cruise at the low price of 1/- each. Mr. Willcocks, of the Subiaco Branch, 114 Gloster Road, will welcome enquiries, and also helpers, in the selling of these tickets. The

cruise last year was most enjoyable and all will be pleased if they come along on this occasion. The date is Sunday, January 15, and the trip will be to Garden Island and Rockingham, starting at 10 a.m. from Barrack Street Jetty and returning at 8 p.m. Altogether a most enjoyable and cheap trip.

Poverty Abolitionists, roll along and make it a successful function. Tickets are also available from the Secretary of the East Perth Group Mr. H. Smith.

FINANCE.—Finance is badly needed at headquarters to carry on the work more efficiently. It is the responsibility of every individual who is working to carry on this campaign. If all pull their weight the burden will be light. No reform has been implemented without sacrifice. Let us see that the burden of that sacrifice does not fall on too few shoulders. Any contributions to the Broadcasting Fund will be received with many thanks. The fund is £15 behind. What about it.

SLEIGHT-OF-MIND

Being the words of a lifelong Communist who became disillusioned as a consequence of living for years in the U.S.S.R., where he saw for himself:

"The international Communist movement is soaked through and through 'with a fetid Machiavellism that lies to its own adherents and to the rest of the world. Rationalised in terms of duty and ultimate goals, prevarication becomes a lop-sided virtue instead of a fault—just one more weapon in the 'final conflict' that will 'free the human race.' Thomas Mann, speaking in New York in April, 1937, warned eloquently against this mentality; against a kind of man who has 'here and there attained absolute power,' who 'without scruple . . . commits or approves crimes, provided they serve his advantage, or what he calls his advantage; he has no dread of falsehood, but reckons falsehood as high as truth, provided only that it is useful in his sense of the word.' Communist leaders have lost self-consciousness in the matter, and even take pride in their skill in sleight-of-mind. Devious thinking has become for them, as for their psychological blood-brothers in the Fascist camp, normal and habitual, so that straightforward truth-telling seems shocking and perverse in their eyes."—From *Assignment in Utopia*, by Eugene Lyons.

WORK

I like work; it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours. I love to keep it by me; the idea of getting rid of it nearly breaks my heart.—Jerome K. Jerome.

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

ELECTOR'S DEMAND AND UNDERTAKING

1. I know that there are goods in plenty and that therefore poverty is quite unnecessary and must be abolished.
2. I demand that monetary or other claims to those goods we now destroy and the production we restrict be distributed to every person in Australia, and that taxation be progressively reduced, so that the community may make the fullest use of the country's production.
3. This must not cause inflation, deprive owners of their property, or decrease its relative value.
4. In a democracy like Australia, Parliament exists to make the will of the people prevail.
5. So I promise to vote only for a candidate who pledges himself to support in Parliament these my demands.
6. If my present member will not so pledge himself, I will vote to replace him.

Signed.....

Address.....

.....Federal Electorate

Issued by
THE UNITED ELECTORS OF AUSTRALIA
(Non Party)

Victorian Division.

Box 1226, G.P.O. Melbourne

THE CANADIAN MAPLE LEAF

9 UPPER ESPLANADE, ST. KILDA

(opposite Baths).

Under New American Management.

Exclusive Guest House. Glorious View. Hot Water Service, Every Modern Convenience, Excellent Cuisine.

BOARD, FROM £2/5/- per Week, including Free Monthly Season Tickets for Baths. Car Accommodation Free.

WEDDINGS, PARTIES, PRIVATE DINNERS AND DANCES CATERED FOR

Special Tarriffs for Permanent Boarders.

Private Rooms With Breakfast.

Advance Bookings.....'Phone Windsor 2071

MRS. WRIGHT, Proprietress.