

THE NEW TIMES

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

Vol. 4. No. 50.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1938.

Every Friday, 3d.

SLUMS AND CRIME Whose Crime?

One of the prevalent crimes of to-day is that of self-murder. It is a crime in that according to the law of both the Christian Church and the State, one's life is not one's own to take. In the bad old days the law did its best to punish the crime by returning a verdict of *felo de se* and arranging for the body to be buried without benefit of clergy. Nowadays the law is more lenient in that it generally saves the victim's memory from the stigma of self-murder by pronouncing a saving clause of temporary insanity.

On the other hand, if you or I decided to take a revolver walk one night and shoot some unfortunate fellow-citizen in order to get his watch and chain, we would have the very greatest difficulty in proving, to the satisfaction of a jury, that we were anything else but sane, so that we would probably hang.

The point of our comparison is this: we are moved to compassion by the fate of the man who kills himself, while we condemn the man who kills someone else; rarely, however, do we extend our condemnation to that which is the cause of the death of all three, the murdered, and the murderer—poverty and insecurity.

Which brings us back to the people of the slums and the sub-standard life.

Poverty and Crime

Before its birth the slum child hungers. Its ill-nourished mother is unable to provide it with sufficient food. When it is born her empty pockets won't allow her to provide it with milk from the shops. As it grows it finds that in order to live, it must scramble with a horde of brothers and sisters, and, very often, lodgers, if it is to get its share of the poor food that is offering. A penny means something put into an empty belly, and if a penny is left lying about when the belly is uncommonly empty, then the penny is taken. If it is not taken it is because the child is timid enough to fear the consequences of being found out, to a greater extent than it fears the consequences of going supperless to bed.

If the Murray River were the property of a small section of the community, and if it were the only source of fresh water in Australia, it is highly probable that a large proportion of Australia's population would become criminals, because they would not be able to pay the price charged for the water, and they would have a quaint objection to dying of thirst. Our Government would deplore the growing criminal tendency of the poor, increase the police force, and impose severer sentences on the criminals, in the hope that the added deterrent might persuade

the people that it would be preferable to die of thirst rather than suffer the consequences of stealing the water. It would naturally follow, then, that those who did take the risk of increasingly severe punishment would be correspondingly more desperate in their efforts to evade capture. Thus, while the petty burglar who lays himself open to a short term



WHO SAID EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY?

—Block by courtesy Methodist Baby Centre

of imprisonment rarely carries a revolver, the professional safe-breaker, who may expect a long term of imprisonment, carries a gun and sometimes uses it.

Slum to Gaol

The children of the slums, born of poverty and reared in hunger, are the criminals and murderers



(Above) TWO AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS-TO-BE. WHAT CAN THEIR FUTURE HOLD?

—Block by courtesy Methodist Baby Centre.

(Right) DERELICT QUARTER IN CANTON? NO, WHITE MEN'S "HOMES" IN CARLTON!

Block by courtesy Methodist Baby Centre.

of to-morrow. Melbourne's half-fed, ill-clad poor see the stacked abundance of goods that they require behind sheets of plate glass, as the thirsty inhabitants of our

allegory could see the water of the river. In the first place, driven by sheer necessity, many of them take the very natural course of getting behind that glass and helping themselves to the goods. They are criminals, we punish them physically by confining them within the four walls of a gaol, and torture them mentally by attaching to them the stigma of gaol-

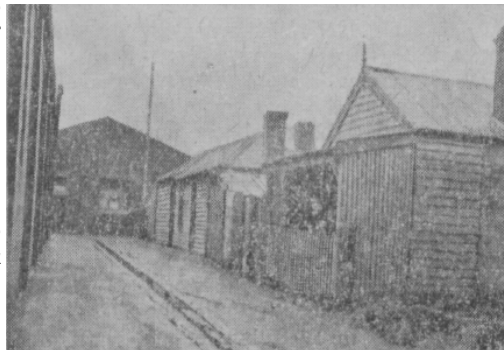
bird, with the result that even if the prison system were of a reformatory nature the outside world would quickly reduce them to the most desperate extremes.

While admitting that poverty is not the only cause of crime, it has been irrefutably shown that it is responsible for most of it.

In the last two articles of this series we have dealt almost exclusively with the effect of poverty on the communal life in so far as physical health is concerned. Poverty's effect on mental health has much more far-reaching consequences.

Cause and Effect

It does not seem to us that a man who steals food because he is hungry or money to buy clothes because he is cold shows by such acts that he is mentally deficient. Self-preservation being the first law of nature, it naturally follows that a proportion of those people who suffer from a lack of things that are plentiful, will make raids on that store of plenty for the purpose of relieving their suffering.



The prevalence of acquisitive crime, then, depends on the extent of the suffering caused by lack of access to those goods, the need of which is the cause of that suf-

fering. To take an extreme case, a man who is dying of thirst will risk everything to get at water. In a lesser degree, a man who is starving will take considerable risks to obtain food. Consequently, it follows that the wickedest city is not, as some people would have us believe, that in which such vices as gambling, heavy drinking and harlotry are most prevalent, but that in which the extremes of poverty and wealth are most widely separated. Judged by that standard, Melbourne is possibly the wickedest city in the southern hemisphere.

Philosophy of Rewards and Punishments

Because those who have access to the necessities of life represent a more influential section of the population than those who have not, our laws have been framed in such a manner as to lay that wickedness at the door of those whose only means of survival is to take that which they cannot get by orthodox methods.

The general acceptance of such standard has resulted in an attitude of mind that views poverty with suspicion and insists on the punishment of acquisitive crime while acquiescing in the inadequate distribution of goods that is its cause. It is this attitude to those who suffer the effects of poverty and the bludgeoning of so-called recalcitrant by the police, which produces the mental pervert whom we call our habitual criminal. We attack the disease known as crime, by inflicting further suffering on the sufferer, while the original causes of the disease are nursed and pampered lest they die. The sufferer, as a consequence of living in a state of continual fear and poverty, an outcast from society and any of the really good things of life, eventually becomes a pervert to an extent that he would need treatment in a medical sense if he were to be brought back to a normality that would make him a useful member of any society.

In effect, then, our slums, besides producing a major portion of the ill-health of the community, also provide us with our mental perverts. The system which permits slums to exist is therefore the direct cause of crime and starvation, and a main contributory factor to much of our disease.

Way Out and Responsibility

We, ourselves, do not presume to suggest detailed economic methods by which these evils shall be cleansed from our midst, but we do suggest that we shoot home the crime bill to those who make war on society by deliberately preventing the implementing of reforms proposed by experts who have the (Continued on page 8.)

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(Continued on page 3.)

YOUTH ADDRESSES MR. LYONS

Eric Butler's Challenging Letter

Below is an open letter written to Mr. Lyons by Eric Butler. Mr. Lyons is making many appeals to youth at the present time, so, in the following letter, which we have much pleasure in publishing, Eric Butler takes up the issue of Defence, and asks some very pertinent questions. If Mr. Lyons sees fit to make a reply we will publish it.

Dear Mr. Lyons,

As you are the Prime Minister of Australia, and ostensibly one of the nation's leaders, I address this letter to you.

You have seen fit, in your capacity as Prime Minister, to advocate that my generation join the militia for the purpose of building up Australia's defence. I would like to state my reactions to your suggestions, and desire you to know that a similar outlook exists among an increasing number of my generation.

I am 22 years of age, and for some time have been subjected to a barrage of propaganda in connection with this defence issue. The Daily Press tells me nothing except distorted versions and half-truths, while its leading articles inform me that I must be prepared to help defend the wonderful "liberty" and "democracy" we have in Australia.

Liberty and Democracy

Let us look at the position dispassionately. *Defence implies that we have something to defend, and that we will be attacked.* I have yet to be convinced on either of these points—especially the former. We certainly have very little democracy or liberty in Australia to defend, for the very good reason that you and other bankers' men have allowed a small clique of financial gangsters to get the Australian nation by the throat. This, sir, is quite undeniably a fact and, indeed, no one but a liar or an idiot would even attempt to deny it. I sincerely hope that you are in neither of those categories. As a matter of fact, you do know the true position, and publicly admitted it before the last Federal Elections. You were reported in the Melbourne *Argus* of October 15, 1937, as stating in the Adelaide Town Hall. *"The banks had confidence in my Government, and we were able to carry on."* Yet you talk to us about defending our liberties and our great *democracy!* What hypocrisy!

Nothing to Defend

The great mass of the Australian people have very little to defend. What have the 63% of the breadwinners getting less than £3 a week got to defend? What have the thousands of unemployed youths got to defend? Absolutely nothing! For years they have been crucified by the present rotten economic system, which the banks, through men like yourself, have batted on the Australian people. And now they are asked to spill their blood in order to protect that system.

But I nearly forgot! Aren't you the man who has mouthed smug platitudes about "almost unbelievable prosperity?" Let us look at this prosperity which we are to defend. Let us first look at the plight of the forgotten men who fought in the last international bloodbath to make the world safe for "democracy." Officially, the war ended in 1918, but let me inform you, Mr. Lyons, that that war is still being fought. At the very moment I pen this letter thousands of returned men are lying on their backs in various military hospitals throughout Australia, slowly coughing their lives away.

Do you ever think of these men, Mr. Lyons?

Last War Not Finished

At the moment I write I have before me a poster issued by the Director-General of Recruiting during the last war. It states, "We are fighting this war to-day to finish the thing cleanly, and ensure that there shall be no next war." But it has *not* been finished—because the causes of war still remain, and are inherent in the present economic system which operates in practically every country of the world.

A majority of the men who fought in the last war to "make the world safe for democracy" are enduring worse conditions, in many respects, than they did on the battlefields.

Once again I ask you, do you ever think of these men, Mr. Lyons? Do you ever think of the thousands who are starving, or half-starving, in your "almost unbelievable prosperity?" Do you remember what Sir Harry Chauvel said last Anzac Day, when publicly appealing for financial assistance for the Red Cross Fund? Perhaps you have forgotten. Let me remind you. In his appeal he quoted letters from the wives of various returned men in which some of them said that they were nearly starving, while one woman wrote that the only covering she had was sack-cloths sewn together and dyed black.

And the position with the returned soldiers becoming worse. Some are reported by the press as being picked up in the streets suffering from starvation. Has decency and democratic morality died in Australia? Why do you and your Government tolerate this state of affairs? Why—a thousand times why? Do you dare to ignore this appalling and ghastly state of affairs? I challenge you to state that the vast majority of the Australian people have anything worth defending.

Guns, Butter and the Present Enemy

Your wife pathetically mentioned in a broadcast that if all these millions of pounds were spent on defence the Government could not afford to help the poor people, etc. But, even granting this erroneous idea, you have had seven years in which to make some attempt to remove the appalling conditions of the people. And what results have you to show? Thousands of men and women—not to mention the 40% of our children who are suffering from malnutrition—are being brutally treated by the present system *right now.* There is no need to talk about hypothetical enemies of the future. *The enemy is attacking right now.* And what defence are you organising? You offer no defence. You and your Government just allow these defenceless people to go on suffering. That is why, for example, we read of the wives of returned soldiers putting their heads in gas stoves because they cannot pay their rent.

Can your wife inform me why many thousands of children shiver during the winter months in a country which produces about

25% of the world's wool supply? Unless she takes some active part in seeing that such people get access to the superabundant real wealth of Australia in much larger quantities than is the case at the present time, she would be well advised to cease her nonsensical utterances. This, sir, is a time for facing reality.

Who is the Enemy?

And now to take another aspect of this defence question. *Who is the enemy?* Defence implies that we are going to be attacked—but, with your usual astuteness, you only make vague references to this side of the question. A possible enemy, we are told, is Japan—a nation which has always striven to be on friendly terms with us, but whom you have seen fit to provoke. I refer to your disastrous tariff policy, which cost the Australian woolgrowers many millions of pounds—causing additional suffering in Australia.

The time for the facing of the real issue has arrived, Mr. Lyons. Do not think that I am unpatriotic. I feel for the Australian people—and I see the world of reality. I visualise the day when the Australian nation will thrill to a new social ideal, whereby men, women and children will *not* be brutally treated by a savage and insane economic system. Yes Mr. Lyons, I *AM* interested in defence—but it is defence of the Australian people from *THE REAL ENEMY.* And an increasing number of my generation also take this patriotic and democratic stand. But we want to know if you are going to play your part. We want to know if you and your Government are going to give a lead to the rest of the world by removing the cause of war by allowing such countries as Japan to get peaceful access to our surplus raw materials—adding to our standard of living the commodities offered in exchange.

We want to know if you are going to challenge the private banks, which hinder such a procedure. Unless you are prepared to play *your* part in defending the Australian people from the *real* enemy, I am afraid that you will die a political death richly deserved. And there will be hundreds of thousands who will not shed many tears in that event. I, for one, am striving to play my part in the great army of democrats who are trying to save the Australian nation from ruin.

I sincerely hope that you will make a belated effort to help. If you do this and make Australia a fit country to live in, the defence of the nation will automatically look after itself.

Trusting that you will give the above suggestions some careful consideration,

I am,
Yours faithfully,
ERIC D. BUTLER.

Melbourne.

WORSE THAN BARTER!

A St. Ives farmer writes to the "Christchurch Times":—

"Dear Sir,—Mr. Hawkins suggests that our present financial system is probably 'neither better nor worse than South Sea Island bartering.' Pardon me, it is much worse, for we are often in the position of being prohibited from producing food for people who need it, who are prohibited from producing goods for us who need them.

"Even barter would be better than less money-to-spend than (the prices of) goods and foods to spend it on."

TOPICAL TIT BITS FROM THE NEWS

By "LEXICON."

It is very nice to read in the daily papers from time to time that we are a democratic people; "free, white, and twenty-one," and so forth; freedom of the press (freedom to withhold from the public any information that might not be "good" for them), freedom to sleep in a park if one hasn't enough money to buy a bed, and no one catches you sleeping there; freedom to object to National Insurance as long as you pay up and look pleasant; free air, free speech, free meals—sorry, I mean *three* meals, as long as you have the money to pay for them, and last, but by no means least, free fight, or the right to fight for freedom on condition that we fight the enemy stipulated by an all-wise Government.

* * *

With regard to the free press and the prospective free fight we would like to make an apology for the former regarding a meeting that was held in the Brunswick Town Hall on Sunday, December 4. By some strange coincidence, the *Argus*, *Herald* and *Sun* reporters only heard a portion of the motion that was passed at that meeting, and, what was still more unfortunate, the portion of the motion that they all missed was the most important. For their information, therefore, we have pleasure in reporting the whole of the motion, of which the last paragraph only has hitherto been published:

"This meeting of citizens expresses its conviction that the causes of modern war are mainly economic, since 'production, obviously, is not for man but for markers, in the service of which Frankenstein the dignity of man sinks to sub-Christian levels.

"We recognise that 'we have progressed from the horrors of employment under George III. to the horrors of unemployment under George VI.'

"We declare 'that economic secularism, combining a self-satisfied rectitude with a dehumanising callousness, was rationalised into an unsocial science by its scribes, the Victorian economists, and has culminated in the complete social irresponsibility of "Sound Finance," which is ready with good conscience to mutilate man physically and psychologically, in order to preserve the validity of economic laws,' involving him, finally and inevitably, in scientific mass murder.

"Believing that mankind 'has revolted against war,' and that Governments, dominated as they still are by obsolete business interests, are pursuing policies that must produce a new serfdom for the people, this meeting calls upon the Christian Church to accept responsibility for the character of civilisation, and to give a clear and unequivocal lead towards the promotion of peace through the establish-

ment of social and international justice."

* * *

Speaking of freedom of speech and so forth, we would like to explain to our legislators that they have our full permission to come out on the platform and state the case (if any) for National Insurance. It was probably because he thought we wouldn't like it that Mr. Casey refused an invitation from his Geelong constituents to address them from the platform of Geelong Central Hall. It was very kind of him, however, to deputise a civil servant to take his place. The servant was a charming man and undoubtedly civil, but it is highly probable that he would not voluntarily have offered to take the kicks that are the due of Casey and his friends.

* * *

Which reminds us that Mr. Casey was asked to answer some rather difficult questions in the House the other day. Mr. Rosevear asked who was responsible for the issue of a pamphlet entitled, "What National Insurance Means," and who was bearing the cost of publication, which, in his (Mr. Rosevear's) opinion, was full of subtle inaccuracies.

Mr. Casey, ably supported by Mr. Speaker, was successful in evading issue on all the questions asked, with the exception of the first. He admitted that the N.I. commission compiled the pamphlet, but refuted the suggestion that it contained inaccuracies. When Mr. Scully drew his attention to one of the inaccuracies, however, Mr. Casey replied: "I am not prepared to enter upon a discussion of this subject on ex parte statements."

Mr. Beasley's statement that "the pamphlet contains lies" went unchallenged.

After all, a politician may make deliberately inaccurate statements, but no gentleman, or even a politician, would tell a deliberate lie, not unless he thought he could get away with it anyway.

Later in the week Mr. Holloway produced a letter from the Town Clerk of Williamstown, which contained the following resolution:

"This council condemns the National Health and Pensions Insurance Act, demands its repeal, and the substitution of a non-contributory social insurance scheme."

"The Government does not intend to postpone the operation of the Act. The Treasurer will submit proposals to the Parliament tomorrow which will indicate the definite character of the Government's intentions," said Mr. Lyons in reply.

Mr. Lyons has not yet decided whether he would like to be called Emperor Joe or the Emperor Aloysius, when and if we crown him King of Australia, giving him absolute sway over the continent

and its dominions across the Bay, including Phillip Island. When we do, however, he will, no doubt, be able to enforce the National Insurance Act.

* * *

The total cost of explaining to the people of Australia the fact that National Insurance, if not, good for them, will, at least, provide a good rake-off for somebody else, and is, therefore, in the best interests of democracy, or, at least, the section of it that gets the rake-off, so far amounts to £7300—£1650 for printing 1,820,000 pamphlets, postage of same to aforementioned democracy, £5000; cost of envelopes and wages of female staffs for enveloping leaflets, £700.

The cost of trying to force democracy to accept the imposition of this dictatorship is incalculable, but it is possible that the Government will be able to persuade us of the benefits of National Health Insurance when and if they achieve the militia strength for which they are aiming.

CASEY'S FAREWELL

Drink up, boys! then I must go,
To meet the lads of Co-ri-o;
They're winding up that thing of mine,
The Bill they call "My Frankenstein."

The boys all know what it will mean,
So they denounce my Pension Scheme;

It will not work, they tell me so,
But we'll dress it up for Spring-time Show.

It's wonderful what you can do,
Said Page, and Lyons, and Menzies too;

We did not visualise in time
That Butler was to spill the wine;

It's now no show, the boys all say,
They've tried it out down Wakefield way;

The numbers there, though incomplete,
Sound the knell of our defeat.
I'm frightened of this Dream of mine,

It's sure enough
"My Frankenstein."

MAIZE FOR EXPORT WHILE NATIVES EAT ANTS

The *Trade Report* of the Standard Bank of South Africa, states that this year's maize crop is 18,156,000 bags. Owing to a fall in prices, the Government is increasing the subsidy on maize exports from 2/3 to 3/3 a bag, and the levy on maize sold in the Union from 1/- to 1/6 a bag.

Here is yet another instance of home consumers being penalised to enable goods to be sold at lower prices overseas. Two similar cases were reported recently—wheat from U.S.A., and butter from Canada. This form of trade war, known as "dumping," whereby the foreigner is sold goods under cost, leads eventually to giving the foreigner goods for nothing—shells, bullets, and bombs!

Incidentally, 2000 native children and their parents are starving in Namaqualand, in South Africa's League of Nation's mandated territory, South-West Africa. These poor people are eating *ants* as food. Meanwhile, the Government responsible for their welfare subsidises the export of what is normally their staple diet—maize.

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 2) BRUNSWICK.

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(Continued on page 7.)

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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. 50.
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16.

Renegade's Swan Song

The last chapter in the discreditable story of our present Government is now being written.

After seven years of vacillation and inefficiency, during which the interests of the people were subordinated to political opportunism, the Lyons Government is reaching the end of its political life.

Apparent though this must be to everyone else however, the Prime Minister himself still seeks, at all costs, to cling to the power that he gained at the expense of his friends and has held by means of inexcusable compromise and sacrifice of political principles. His last fight for retention of office will commence on Monday night at the Melbourne Town Hall, when the renegade politician will make an appeal to the people of Australia.

As the main purpose of this appeal has to do with the raising of men and money for the defence of the country against enemy invasion, it is of interest to recall the fact that it is as a direct result of Mr. Lyons' Finance-dictated policy that potential enemies were created.

In the *New Times* of July 3, 1936, we dealt with Mr. Lyons' policy regarding trade with Japan and stated in no unmeasured terms that *as a result of that policy* we would find that an erstwhile friend in so far as trade relations were concerned, would eventually be converted into an enemy. It was necessary to the continuation of our *present* financial system however, that an embargo be placed on the importation of Japanese goods to Australia. Despite the fact that such an embargo would, and did have the effect of crippling our huge export trade of wool and other raw materials to that hitherto friendly country, to the detriment of the people of Australia and Japan, the

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Lyons Government took the course of "selling" the people of Australia, with the result that to-day Japan is regarded as a potential enemy from a long-term military point of view.

It is as a consequence of this sacrifice of the people of Australia in the interests of the financial monopolists, that we are now asked to arm against "possible invasion."

The majority of those who listen to Mr. Lyons on Monday night will not be so much concerned about the alleged necessity for re-arming as about the prospects of finding men who will administer Australia to the benefit of its people instead of its bankers, and who will seek, by the substitution of sane means of distribution and exchange to placate our friend and former big customer.

When speaking in Adelaide some time ago, Mr. Lyons announced that he was enabled to carry on *because the Banks had confidence in him.*

It is because he has *sacrificed the confidence of the people in order to retain the confidence of the Banks* that Mr. Lyons' Government will probably be a thing of the past within six months. It was in order to retain the confidence of the Banks that it aimed a deliberate blow at our wool industry in an attempt to cripple trade with our greatest individual foreign buyer and only rapidly expanding wool market. In a further attempt to retain the confidence of the Banks our present Government has entered on a programme of expenditure in armaments of over sixty million pounds, on most of which sum the people of Australia are to pay usury those concerns whose policy, when put into effect by the Government, resulted in the excuse for this expenditure. It is in order to retain the confidence of the Banks that over thirteen millions pounds of that defence money is to be raised by means of a so-called National Insurance Bill, which is in reality a form of direct and indirect taxation imposed on the most impoverished section of our community.

We make this point in order that it may be realised that any alternative Government which we elect must of necessity sacrifice the confidence of the Banks if it is to function for, and retain the confidence of, its electors.

It will be remembered what happened to the Scullin Government when it was returned to power. The Banks expressed a lack of confidence in Scullin's policy and were allowed to paralyse his Government and the trade of the country, Scullin tamely submitting to their dictatorship despite the mandate of the people which authorised him to carry out his platform programme. The mandate, under the terms of British constitutional Government, gave him the right to enforce his demand that the Banks cease operating to the detriment of the people, and reorganise their system for the general good of the community.

Scullin failed because he failed to use the power he was given by the electors. Lyons fails because he is the willing tool of his country's real enemies, and is, therefore, betraying his fellow-Australians as he betrayed his erstwhile party.

As we have indicated, we, the electors of Australia, will shortly be

called upon to elect the representatives who are to carry out our wishes in the matter of governing this country. It will be absolutely necessary for us to insist that our new legislators, as a first step towards correct Government, employ independent experts (not servants of trading banks) to go into the matter of the correct distribution of all the wealth we can produce. On receipt of the report of those experts we must insist that the Government take *immediate* steps to implement the alteration of the present system of distribution in accordance with that expert advice. Any attempt to hinder this logical function of Government by the Banks or any other section of the community which seeks to benefit by methods which have a detrimental effect on the community as a whole, should be treated as an offence against society and punished as such.

Individual members of Parliament returned with such a mandate and carrying a majority in the House, voting in accordance with the expressed desire of their electors and confident of their electors' support, can act without fear of the party machine and proceed towards the desired end quite irrespective of the attitude of the Banks.

If, on the other hand, we return a Government which will accept the sovereignty of the Banks, it will not matter what platform that Government is returned on, it will only implement its programme if the Banks approve. Past experience has shown that any policy approved by the Banks must necessarily mean the poverty and suffering of the majority of the electors and the probability of war with our foreign trade competitors.

Whatever may come to pass in the future, however, it is safe to predict that Lyons' meeting on Monday night when, assisted by the oft-repeated and seemingly inexhaustible flow of crocodile tears obligingly supplied by "Mother of Twelve," he will make a last desperate attempt to regain the confidence of the electors, will be the beginning of the end of the political life of the most futile opportunist in the history of Australian Federal politics—The Swan Song of a Renegade.

Japanese farmers, with an average holding of 2½ acres, and an average income of only £20 a year per family, have an average indebtedness of £47.

"MOST SHOT-AT MAN IN THE WORLD"

Sir John Anderson

Each of the candidates in the Scottish Universities by-election (England), in February of this year was asked to sign the following undertaking:—

I..... of..... hereby undertake if elected to act promptly in accordance with the clearly expressed wishes of a majority of my constituents as manifested to me from time to time.

Two of the four candidates signed the form, one of them adding an immaterial clause.

Sir John Anderson replied to an elector's request as follows:—

In reply to your letter of the 5th inst., I regret that I can only say that I am not prepared to give the assurance for which you ask.

Apart from the fact that I know of no machinery by which the wishes of a majority of the constituents could be ascertained—except by their votes at a general election—I consider that a Parliamentary representative is entitled to exercise his own judgment subject to the right of the constituency to refuse his re-election if they disapprove his conduct.

The *News Chronicle* states that Sir John Anderson is "something more than a 'lad of pairs' which it is the privilege of Scotland to produce. He is a 'lad of many pairs' . . . During his five years' governorship [of Bengal] he earned the invidious title, 'the most shot-at man in the world' by escaping the bullets of assassins on three occasions. . . . Last December, Sir John returned to Britain. Within three months of his return he had—

- (1) Been appointed to the Privy Council.
- (2) Joined the board at Vickers Limited.
- (3) Been elected National Government M.P. for the Scottish Universities.
- (4) Joined the board of the Midland Bank."

The newspaper goes on to say that in May, Sir John Anderson was appointed a director of Imperial Chemicals, and that he refused the chairmanship of Imperial Airways.

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AMERICANS HEAR THE TRUTH "Monopoly of Economic Power"

From an Address Delivered by Rev. Patrick O'Leary, Over Station WNYC, on October 15. ("Irish World," New York, Report.)

The political slogan that has resounded both in the press and on the air during recent years has been that of democracy versus dictatorship, but the man in the street fails to reflect that political democracy without economic freedom is so much eyewash for the plain working man. It lulls him to sleep with the happy thought that he elects the President, the Governor and the members of Congress, but he wakes up only too frequently from his golden dreams of government by the people and for the people only to find the sheriff with a decree of dispossession at his door. The most respectable of the democracies do not present a very creditable picture in this respect. Figures published by Sir John Boyd Orr, an eminent English authority, show us that in Britain only a very short time ago, there were 4,000,000 persons living on one dollar per head per week, 9,000,000 on one dollar fifty per head per week, and 9,000,000 more on two dollars.

English and American Press Campaigns

This makes a total of twenty-two million persons living on two dollars or less per head per week. No Boyd Orr has arisen here to publish figures which would be far more appalling, at least with reference to a depression not yet ended. Meanwhile the press, both in America and in England, has rent the air and made the welkin ring about the threat to democracy from the Fascist dictatorships, but when the capitalist press raises the cry of dictatorship which system indeed we hold no brief—we strongly suspect that a subconscious effort is being made to distract attention from one kind of monopoly to another, from the monopoly of economic power to that of political dictatorship. Let us cry aloud as long as we may against the monopoly of political power, our indignation will never ring righteous or sincere, whilst we tolerate without protest the unrestricted monopoly of financial power. Sometimes we have gasped as we have read of State-made famines in other lands, like the black famine of 1847 in Ireland. I wonder if we have ever heard or ever dreamt of certain depressions made to order; not, if you like, with the object of destroying the population, but because certain financial magnates believed that a reasonable depression in business might be as good for the economic body as a certain letting of blood might be for the physical body. The high lords of finance, according to evidence now made public, put their heads together, in secret conclave, and said: let us restrict credit.

Atheistic Economics

They know that the fixing of high interest rates and the contracting of credit must mean the contracting of the volume of business, the reduction of wages, and an increase in the volume of unemployment. Wedded to the mechanical economics of the capitalist school, they just wanted to create a depression which, according to their lofty wisdom, might result in an ultimate gain for the country or at least for the financiers. It is quite evident that neither charity nor humanity has any place whatever in the crude atheistic economics of Adam Smith.

But the point at issue now is not to inquire into the mystery of a depression made to order or into the preternatural wisdom of the gods of finance. The indisputable fact remains, however, that they knew it was going to happen, and some of them declared explicitly that it might be a good thing if it did happen. One would think that they were smitten with jealousy at the growing prosperity and comfort of the plain people. The point at issue is not the ruthlessness or the callousness of the procedure, but its utterly despotic and undemocratic character. The most absolute autocrats in the world to-day boldly come out into the open at times and take the public into their confidence when some decision of great moment has to be taken. Not so the high functionaries of the Federal Reserve Board. By a kind of divine decree they decided and foresaw that credit was to be contracted, interests on loans increased, that would be the order of the day and, incidentally, of course, that the banks would emerge as the great landlords of the country and that all would finally redound to the exaltation of their own monopoly. But did those makers of depression prosperities, these arbiters of life and death, of peace and of war, consult a single representative of the people, a single member of Congress when the fate of millions was being decided? Far from it.

Concentration of Wealth

They took every precaution to conceal any such knowledge from the public. Say what we will; no political dictatorship that ever was exercised such a monopoly as this. To quote the words of a distinguished contemporary authority, "It is the perfect mechanism automatically to concentrate all the wealth produced by the genius and labour of the nation into a few unproducing hands. It endows the controlling banking groups with a power that is greater than that held and exercised by any democratic government, or king, or emperor, or dictator."

Political and Economic Freedom

Political Freedom shrieked as Benes fell in Czechoslovakia recently but when will Economic Freedom celebrate the fall of this financial Bastille which seems to hold power of life and death over the masses so that none may breathe against its will? The parallel between the economic and the political monopoly is complete, the former being even more formidable than the latter. The one gobbles up small States, whilst the other gobbles up small business. For both, the weak have no right to exist. The one destroys the civic independence, the other the independent livelihood of the people. For, what lies at the root of economic slavery in America? It is the monopoly. The individual is but a cog in the wheel of the industrial machine. The mass of the people, unable to meet the grinding competition, and unable to set up in business of their own, whereby they might acquire some stable property, are compelled to live from hand to mouth on a job, and on a starvation wage. The same as in the field of political

autocracy, it is always might against right. And whilst it is better to suffer injustice than to do injustice, better than either, at least when it is a matter of public duty, is to resist, to fight and to overthrow it. We have a splendid example of the spirit in which law-abiding citizens should oppose these unholy monopolies in that system of Christian solidarity, which, even in the economic field, prevailed among our forefathers in medieval times. Upon unbridled competition they declared a holy war. It was repugnant to their Christian conscience that any man should, by underselling his neighbour, ruin his business and cast him upon the street.

Reckless Competition

They recognised, in other words, that economics, like every other department of human activity, must be subject to a moral law. For this reason, as a matter of self-protection, they ostracised and boycotted the forestaller. The forestaller, a hated figure, was one who bought up the whole of a commodity then raised the price at his own discretion in the market. Were they right or were they wrong? Right, certainly, if the commercial activities of men are not to be governed by that of greed and rapacity, or merely by the iron law of supply and demand. Owing to the prevailing spirit of selfishness and of greed there are many today, and perhaps the majority, who would not see anything wrong or unworthy in the action of the monopolist or of the forestaller. According to the gospel of rugged individualism, of free competition, he is making use of his own right. Let us say clearly that he has the power, but not the right. He has no right to set money and property over the souls and bodies of human beings. And just as the ambitious military autocrat has not the right to fling millions of human beings at one another's throats for the sake of a little territorial expansion, so no financial autocrat or group of autocrats has a right to sacrifice the happiness of millions on the altar of a soulless corporation, of a huge industrial combine. When monopolies are inevitable the State must take them over. Where they are not inevitable, the State must intervene to prevent economic slavery. The system of reckless competition has run its evil course.

Masses Bled White

In the halls of this modern Pandemonium of financial monopolies, the mighty lords of Capitalism like Milton's fallen Cherubin retain their proud dimensions, gambling with other people's money, in secret conclave, upon golden seats. Their unwilling victims have been reduced to insignificance. The factory worker in particular has been ground to death in this mad competition for gain; his shoulders stooped from bending long hours over machines; his cheeks grown pale from constant indoor labour, his frail body converted into a money-making machine, his condition being not very much better than when our brother in Christ, the Negro, was harnessed to a waggon or to a cart. And all to what purpose? In order to make an aristocratic holiday—for this were the masses bled white upon the altar of industrialism—in order to build up that system of exaggerated Capitalism, under which the pet dogs of great ladies were treated infinitely better than the children of the wage-earner, and a thousand dollars were sometimes paid for a dog's casket, whilst the body of the son of man was lowered coffinless into the grave. It is to overthrow

SYNTHETIC WOOL

Method of Manufacture

Broadly speaking, the base and manufacture of synthetic wool is practically identical with that of artificial silk (viscose). It is produced with cellulose made from the wood of slowly growing pine trees. The wood is cut into pieces and the chips are boiled together with sulphite lye, by which process the cellulose is gained out of the wood. The cellulose matter is rolled into sheets and these are saturated with caustic soda, by which means the so-called "alkaline cellulose" is received. The excessive caustic soda is pressed and the alkaline cellulose is then reduced to fibre by treating with carbonic disulphide, giving xanthogenate, which is then dissolved in caustic soda and water. The solution obtained is of a very viscous nature, strongly resembling thick brown syrup. This syrup is then forced with high pressure through extremely fine holes or spinnerettes of the so-called "spinning nozzles" into the precipitation or coagulating bath in which the fibres leaving the nozzle are coagulated at once, after which the fibres are desulphurated and washed out, crimped and dried. At this juncture it may be interesting to relate that the credit for making possible the manufacture of synthetic wool goes to a German watchmaker, who discovered a means of drilling very fine holes required for the spinning nozzles making the imitation of the silky, fine lustrous fibre of wool possible. Generally speaking, it can be said that only at the spinning process does the production of synthetic wool differ from viscose, as here the fineness of the fibre is determined and then "crimped," by which we understand the wavy nature of wool is imparted, and also, later, the fine filaments are cut into lengths, according to the practical requirements for which it is destined. The dyeing of synthetic wool is practically identical with the dyeing of vegetable fibres, particularly artificial silk (viscose).

The foregoing is the German method. The Italians have also experienced a measure of success in utilising casein from milk for the same purpose.

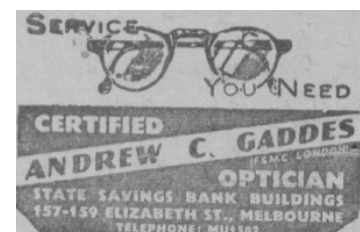
BARRAGE!

Sir,—I am sure it will interest you to know that the Williamstown and District Citizens' Anti-National Insurance Committee have just forwarded 7000 signed forms demanding Repeal to Mr. E. J. Holloway, M.H.R., with more to follow.—Yours, etc.,

E. J. HOWEY,
Hon. Secretary.

Williamstown, Vic.

this godless system, this Moloch of financial monopoly to whom so many bloodstained victims have been sacrificed, that all good men must cooperate so as to restore once again the spirit of human solidarity not only among the workers, but between the workers and their employers.



MOTIVES BEHIND THE INTRIGUE

Why B. S. B. Stevens is Wanted in Federal Cabinet

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H. BROWN.

Sir, —Why all the feverish activities about armaments? Why is it being urged that Mr. B. S. B. Stevens, Premier of New South Wales, should be transferred to the Federal political sphere as coordinator of Defence? There must be a motive, and it is certainly NOT to "defend" Australia from attack. If another nation did decide to attack us our efforts would necessarily be comparatively puny, because of our small population and the alleged lack of financial resources. On those grounds alone we must conclude that the defence of Australia is NOT the reason for the expenditure. This being so, there must be some other reason, and we are all entitled to know what it is.

Investments Gone

Can it be that it is all a question of "investment"? That is to say, is it that the bottom has fallen out of "trade," that the stock exchanges are becoming chaotic, that Governments afford the only hope for the extraction of additional interest payments, and that defence hysteria is calculated to be the most likely thing to cause the people to accept additional taxation? This view, I suggest, is worthy of consideration. As I write this on Sunday December 11, I read in the Adelaide Mail that there are further signs in London of slackening trade. Here is an extract: "Suspicion also is strengthening that the much-discussed upward trend in trade is not making a convincing appearance. Indeed, increased unemployment is attributed to a new slackening of trade....Moreover decreases in rail traffic figure's, adverse revenue returns, a large fall in clearing bank advances, a drop in motor registrations, drooping commodity prices, and the lack of stimulating trade news from the United States are all regarded as significant."

Trade Wiped Out

In the same paper, on the next page, there is this further and equally significant report: "Hong Kong, Saturday. —As a result of the encirclement of the area by Japanese troops. Hong Kong's imports in November, compared with November last year, declined by 64 per cent. Exports dropped 68 per cent, and trade with the interior was wiped out." A few days previously we had been told that Sir George Paish, the noted economist, had issued a warning that, if we go on as we are going, there will be a complete breakdown of world trade within a year, leading first to world revolution, and then to world war. That is an alarming prospect, but the sad part is that, instead of taking notice and altering the financial system which renders such a result inevitable, people have ridiculed the man who warned us of it nineteen years ago. He not only warned us, but unerringly explained the reason for that inevitable result, and told us with equal certainty how to avoid it. Perhaps we will get some sense in that direction when we have suffered enough.

A "Mild" Depression

The Bank of New South Wales does not go quite so far as Sir George Paish, but it admits that things are not likely to be too good in the near future. In its latest monthly summary it says this "Taking only economic circumstances into account, we may therefore, reasonably expect a recession much milder than that of 1929-32." It will be much milder than 1929-32 only because Governments will

be permitted to continue borrowing for "defence." In other words, if it were not for the vast sums being expended on armament works in England it is probable that there would have been a revolution there already, for, despite this huge expenditure, unemployment is increasing. The same applies here, to a lesser extent. Unemployment is already increasing, and, if Governments ceased spending as they did in the years 1930 and 1931, the "recession" spoken of by the Bank of New South Wales would, undoubtedly be even more intense than the last.

They Work Together

With this in mind, now let us look again at the, connection between the firm of J. B. Were and Son, the Bank of New South Wales, the Right Hon. R. G. Menzies (who is insisting upon the imposition of National Insurance, against the wish of the vast majority of the Australian public), and the Hon. B. S. B. Stevens (who has been put forward as the most capable man available for a position in the Federal Cabinet). The Melbourne Argus, whose chairman of directors is also the chief man in the firm of J. B. Were and Son, has been one of the main channels of publicity for the campaign to secure the advancement of Mr. Stevens. The Right Hon. R.G. Menzies has been financially interested in the same firm and its group of "investment" companies, and the Hon. B. S. B. Stevens was a former employee. The Bank of South Wales is banker for the Argus and also the Labour Daily in Sydney, and everyone is recommended to read the statement of Mr. Beasley, M.H.R., in regards to the activities of the bank's managing director - - Sir Alfred Davidson.

Employees of J. B. Were & Son

These facts, combined with the happenings of a few days ago, give the cue, I think, to the motive behind the "defence" propaganda. On November 29 no less than three of the leading executive members of the firm of J. B. Were and Son were specially featured in the columns of the Argus on the subject of defence. Only one of them was directly bracketed with the name of J. B. Were and Son. The other two described as representatives of Capel Court and the Jason Trust. Perhaps the joke would have been spoiled by stating the truth that all of them belonged to the same group, particularly when every one of the three was plumping for the community to be placed further in debt to the interests they were representing.

Bogus Authorities

The three men referred to were G. R. Lindner Clark, who has been manager of the London office of J. B. Were and Son since 1934; N. K. Miller, manager of the Capel Court group of investment trusts; and Staniforth Ricketson, chairman of the Jason Investment Trust (Australia) Ltd. This is the same Mr. Ricketson who is chairman of the Argus and senior partner in the firm of J. B. Were and Son, and who only a few years ago took "the most capable man available," Mr. B. S. B. Stevens, as manager of his Sydney office when he relinquished the position of Director of Finance in New South Wales, as the result of a conflict with the then Premier, Mr. Lang. Why the three men referred to should be quoted as authorities

was not explained, but it is fairly obvious from what they said.

"Sacrifices"

Mr. Lindner Clark said that sacrifice, for defence is the urgent need. "The democratic peoples must realise now," he said, "that they must make sacrifices for defence. . . . Unless the Empire is prepared to meet force with force there will be no real peace." The question that naturally arises from this is: "What are we to 'sacrifice' and WHO is to get it?" The answer is that we are to sacrifice a greater portion of our all-too-limited incomes and that it is to go to the people who control the "funds" available for "investment." Investment is the very life of J. B. Were and Son, and as the normal channels of investment are rapidly drying up, we are now to make the sacrifices through taxation for the benefit of this firm and those few people who work through it. We are to do with less money so that more can be paid as interest to the "investors."

Force v. Force

And, if we meet force with force, Mr. Clark demands, then, presumably, we shall have "real peace" when the combatants are exhausted or extinguished. With such brilliant ideas this Lindner Clark must surely be the runner-up to Mr. Stevens as "the most capable man available"; and as a local preacher in the Methodist Church (to which I, too, belong) Mr. Stevens must feel thrilled at being one of the marionettes for a group of men advocating the very opposite to that which was advocated by the founder of Christianity nearly two thousand years ago.

Banking Situation "Sound"

Mr. Miller had just returned from London and New York, where he had been "on investment trust business." His remarks were reported immediately below those of Mr. Clark, under the same headlines. He said the banking situation in America had never been sounder, even though in another breath he had to admit to eleven millions being out of employment. *But what does destitution and apprehension among millions of human beings matter, so long as the banking situation is "sound"!* You will remember that Mr. Stevens was also full of praise about the soundness of Australia's banking system. Mr. Miller went on to say that the chief trouble in America had been lack of long-term confidence, and it is fitting that Mr. Stevens should also have spoken so fervently about the same thing here. Apparently, the big idea being put forward now is that if we "sacrifice for defence" we will get "long-term confidence." In 1930 and 1931 we were told that if we "sacrificed" then we would get long-term prosperity! It looks very much like another attempt at a confidence trick.

Mr. Stevens Contradicted

Mr. Miller also said that we should understand that the economic position of the United States reacted more closely on Australia than did the economic position of Great Britain, and that, if the United States was prosperous there would be a favourable reaction here. This indicates very bad staff work between Mr. Miller and Mr. Stevens, because in 1934 Mr. Stevens told us that it was the United States that reacted to the economic position in Australia! He even said that America had decided to adopt Australia's Premiers' Plan, and that it was finding its way back to "recovery" by treading much the same path that Australia had trod! Mr. Miller could not have known about this Evidently America got lost again.

More Taxes "Inevitable"

Mr. Ricketson's part, apparently, was to follow up the good work of the other two men by setting out a little more explicitly just what he had in mind for himself and for his nominee. He said this: "Adequate measures for defence preparedness would inevitably involve heavy imposts in the form of taxation." There you have it right from the mouth of one of the men who help to pull the strings. The "sacrifices for defence" are to be in the form of the money we pay in taxation. They mean that we must be willing to place ourselves further in pawn to the private banking system, by allowing the controllers of that system to go on manufacturing money and lending it to the Governments on the condition that we, the simple mugs constituting the nation, will continue to pay them interest on it forever. This privately-manufactured money is known as "capital," and when it is "invested" it means that tribute is to be paid to those who produced it. The firm of J. B. Were and Son, and the several "investment trusts" connected with that group, in which the Right Hon. R. G. Menzies has been so closely interested, prosper by the "investment" of this morally-fraudulent and utterly-fictitious money. That is the sort of money that will be used for defence, and we will have our incomes reduced by taxation, so that our Governments can pay interest on it. Hence we begin to see the motive behind the political intriguing to get Mr. Stevens in the Federal Cabinet. It is to help enforce the wishes of the Bank of New South Wales and men like Messrs. Ricketson, Clark, and Miller. What the PEOPLE really want, however, is better defence and LESS taxation.

A Teacher of Morals

When we realise how immoral this business really is, there must have been something providential in the fact that a gentleman on Friday last, without design, brought me a copy of the Sydney Morning Herald of December 5, containing a report of an address given by Mr. Stevens the previous evening at the Malvern Hill Methodist Church. This address was on the need for "Moral Rearmament," and when I had finished reading the report my mind went back to the address he had given in the Premiers' Plan (which should have been called the Bankers' Plan) time when he was described by Melbourne's leading daily as "The Man of the Hour." There is not space to say anything about these addresses now, but perhaps they may form the subject of another letter next week. In the meantime, I think it not unfair to suggest that, in view of the part he played in connection with the Premiers' Plan (which should have been called the Bankers' Plan) and the thefts committed under its provisions, to say nothing of his associations with the Loan Council, his "borrowings" from the Bank of New South Wales, his personal support of an immoral financial system, and his continued surrender of his State to the control of private money-manufacturers, he is one of the last men who should get up and talk publicly about morality. The possibility of some of the outraged citizens demanding the return of stolen moneys has been recognised by the Government of South Australia, which has actually passed legislation to prevent the recognition of such claims. That and similar actions do not, however, remove the immorality of the course pursued in 1930 and 1931, and preaching from church pulpits will not absolve the men concerned from personal responsibility for the unnecessary suffering they caused. —Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H. BROWN.

MELBOURNE "AGE" TAKEN TO TASK

Discontinued Subscription to Retain Self-Respect, Says Erstwhile Reader

The following letter to the Editor of the "Age" speaks for itself:—

December 13, 1938.
The Editor, "The Age," Collins Street, Melbourne. C.I.

Sir,—For more than twenty years I have been a constant reader of *The Age*, but I have discontinued my subscription because my self-respect can no longer endure the assaults made upon it by a journal, which, while boasting of its allegiance to democratic principles, is so manifestly undemocratic in its editorial policy.

When a half-million electors, whose numbers are daily increasing, record of their own volition in no uncertain terms their disapproval of legislation, which, under the pretentious title of "National Health Insurance," is designed to confer illusory benefits upon a minority of the nation, at the expense of a further reduction of a deplorably meagre standard of living, your paper is pleased to refer to that protest in these terms:

"The scheme has been most vigorously denounced, the Government has been most persistently embarrassed by an unusual combination of all sorts of interests, of diverse groups of men and women more concerned with their pockets than with the health and well-being of the people of this country."—(*The Age*, sub-leader, December 9.)

Apart from the fact that the health and well-being of the people are conditioned by their ability to procure adequate food, clothing, shelter, and relaxation, it must be remembered that these amenities, which cost money, can be enjoyed *only in proportion to income*. If that income is to be reduced to provide for future sick and old-age contingencies, when it is already insufficient to meet the bare necessities of life, then surely the people most vitally concerned are entitled to protest against legislation which will be harmful to the nation without being labelled selfish and unpatriotic by the self-styled "Champion of the People's Rights."

Is *The Age* so insensitive to monetary considerations that it can afford to run counter to any policy sponsored by the Financial Monopoly? If so, we have yet to see evidence of it, for in every big issue of recent years *The Age* has consistently been on the "safe" side of those whose interests are not the interests of the Australian people. For example, the remarkable volte-face performed over night on the occasion of the visit of Sir Otto Niemeyer would suggest that *The Age* was then "more concerned with its pockets than with the health and well-being of the people of this country."

In September last year a pretentious poster announced:

"TO-MORROW IS THE BIG DAY FOR *THE AGE*," and under the caption, "Responsible Journalism," the public was heartened to read this message:

"With public support a responsible newspaper can be a most effective instrument for securing good government and improving conditions of the people. It is in this regard that *The Age* is performing outstanding service."

"The very existence of *The Age* as a 'champion of the people's rights,' has, and must continue to have, a restraining influence upon monopolists, vested interests, anti-

democratic activities, and anti-social tendencies of all kinds."

Then, with that innate modesty, which is so outstanding a feature of your journal, the passage concludes with this statement:

"*The Age* to-day is Australia's greatest newspaper . . . and is ever the champion of the people's rights."

I regret, Sir, that I find it impossible to reconcile this extravagant claim with the evidence of contemporary history.

In December, 1936, when unconstitutional and undemocratic steps were being taken by politicians, press and pulpit to drive the King of England off the throne, *The Age* offered no protest against the deliberate gagging of the British and Australian Parliaments by the Prime Ministers of each country. But when a responsible body of citizens of Melbourne, whose loyalty to their King was not qualified by any allegiance to the Financial Dictatorship of International Money Lenders, decided to convene a public meeting of protest against the scurrilous attacks being made upon

their Sovereign, *The Age* again ran true to form by refusing to publish the advertisements, for which it had accepted payment in advance.

When recently the Prime Minister of Great Britain betrayed Czechoslovakia—thereby renouncing sacred treaty obligations—to appease the imperialistic frenzy of a megalomaniac, *The Age*, with remarkable consistency, again adhered to its policy of self-preservation. It even refrained from commenting upon the autocratic refusal of Mr. Lyons to permit Parliament to discuss the situation, and then with scathing contempt berated those irresponsible persons who had the temerity to suggest that by a show of firmness and courage England and France could have halted Hitler without plunging the world into war.

Because the views which I have herein expressed are shared by a considerable and rapidly-growing body of intelligent people, I am submitting a copy of this letter to the *New Times*, in the hope that it will be assigned to a more worthy resting place than the waste-paper basket, which has been the receptacle for so many letters which, in the course of years, I have addressed to *The Age*.—

Yours faithfully,
N. R. WORRALL,
Stewart Street, Boronia.

NATIONAL INSURANCE

Protest at Collingwood

A public meeting of citizens was held at the Collingwood Town Hall on Monday, 12th inst., to protest against the Government's National Insurance Act. About 100 persons attended.

Scathing Criticism of Scheme

The chairman (Mr. F. Townley), in his opening remarks, pointed out that if the electors allowed this Act to be enforced, it would take away their right to present pensions, which were free of contributions.

Compulsory contribution and regimentation through approved societies meant the introduction of industrial conscription. The pernicious procedure of compulsory deductions from wages was really a garnishee of wages for such purposes as defence or the reduction of the national debt, as Mr. Menzies had indicated.

The backbone of the whole scheme was the setting up of approved societies through friendly societies and such organisations. We could break these supporting strings if the members of these organisations would exert pressure upon the executive heads of the various bodies to drop this suicide idea.

The establishment of totalitarian States in Europe was becoming contagious. Strange to say, nations were becoming Nazified to avoid Nazism or Fascistified to avoid Fascism.

A great number of electors in Australia had adopted the idea of conveying by letter their desire to have this iniquitous Act repealed to the members representing them at Canberra. He commended such action to all present. Out of this action sprang the likelihood of scrapping the party system of government for a system of true democracy.

The intimation to members of Parliament that inaction would involve their replacement at the next elections should make the members, whom we paid well, to sit up and take notice. Hence, there was no necessity for a party system, but for a true democracy, governing itself by the pressure of the people

on their elected members. The people, by exercising this demand for a repeal, would have established a unique method of governing themselves. Instead of heterogeneous effort, we could take homogeneous action, which would have the direct effect of improving our future. We could take action ourselves without a dictatorship, under a military power.

Revelation by Mr. Paice

Mr. F. C. Paice brought under notice the pamphlet issued by the Insurance Commission, and distributed to electors all over Australia. Many statements, he said, were only half-truths. The statement that two men out of every three would enjoy the benefits was untrue. Everyone knew that men were needed in industry when sixty-three years of age; hence they became unemployed, even at the age of forty-five. Unless they were able to contribute, such men would lose all they had paid during the time they were in employment, and, in the event of death, their widows and children would also be deprived of the benefits. Replies from various members of Parliament to letters from their electors were read, and a letter from the secretary of the Druids' Friendly Society, in reply to a member, stated that "we do not care whether you leave us or not." In dealing with replies from various members, Mr. Paice was interrupted by an interjection: "This is a Labor constituency, so let Labor alone." Mr. Paice, in reply, said the National Insurance Act concerned the whole of the people, and he appealed for unity in the matter of repeal. "For heaven's sake," he said, "do not allow party prejudices to divide us on this issue."

"Would you vote against the U.A.P. should they fail to repeal this Act?" he asked, and a chorus answered, "Yes."

"Well, then, would you vote against the A.L.P. for the same

(Continued on page 8.)

New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 3.)

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. 1148.

BUTCHER, S. Daw. High Street, Opp. Union St. Satisfaction, S'vice.

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. 1452 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. 6606. "Burnie Salon," 81 Gotham Rd.

M. J. MARTIN, 167 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. Applncs.

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 drs. Moreland Rd.

NORTH FITZROY.

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. XW 2031.

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. F. TAYLOR, 81 Bay Rd. JLW8048.

LIBRARY, 5000 BOOKS. COUTIE'S NEWSAGENCY.

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. Tomkims, 166 Nelson PL, 76 Ferguson St.

WINDSOR.

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

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

VICTORIA

"Australia's Prosperity Depends on Oversea Markets" is the catch-cry of press, bank presidents, and most politicians. Thus primary producers are led to believe that their unfavourable position is due to lack of markets and over-production; and the public are similarly fooled in relation to general prosperity. Advocacy of home consumption to benefit both consumer and producer is taboo.

The deplorable and disgraceful fact that the majority of the Australian people are subsisting on an inadequacy of essential foods gives the lie to the lack of markets bug-bear; and a review, as examples of the Butter Industry and the Egg Industry will explode the over-production theory: Australian consumption of butter per head is 32.75 lbs. per year, or about three-fifths of a lb per week. Export. 1935-36 figures, is 174,109,146 lbs. Dividing this quantity by 7,000,000 shows that, if the Australian public consumed a little less than an ounce extra per day, or two pounds per month, it would dispose of the quantity exported. Eggs exported for 1936-37 season: 15½ million dozen. Again dividing by the population, it is found that an extra 27 eggs per year, or about two a month, would account for the quantity exported. These two examples clearly show that there is no over-production. The trouble is under consumption, and the purpose of the Electoral Campaign is to provide Australians with a medium whereby they can use their constitutional right to have such absurdities corrected by demanding that Parliament arrange that the wealth and production of Australia is made available to the Australian people.

The instrument of the Electoral Campaign is the *Demand* form, which, when signed, conveys the individual elector's instructions to his, or her, member of Parliament, that that which is set out on the Demand form be re-presented to Parliament.

U.E.A. Rooms, Fifth Floor, McEwan House, Little Collins Street, Melbourne. Tel., MU 2834.

ERIC BUTLER. - - Eric addressed a well-attended public meeting at Meredith on Thursday evening, December 15. He gave a very clear outline of the Campaign for the Repeal of the National Insurance Act, with the result that those present are very desirous of pushing on with the job of getting this piece of iniquitous legislation repealed. *New Times* were sold at the meeting, which should result in an increase in circulation at this centre.

During the next few days Eric is conducting a flying trip around Victoria on *New Times* work, and expects to cover over 1000 miles before Tuesday night, December 20, when he will address a public meeting at Yackandandah on the Campaign for the Repeal of National Insurance.

As he has a big programme ahead of him immediately after the holidays, he will have a week's holiday in the North-East before returning to Melbourne. We have been asked to inform all supporters, and people desirous of contacting him, that his postal address will be c/o, Mr. F. J. Sawyer, Upper Lurg, Benalla, Victoria.

GLENHUNTLY. - - On Tuesday, December 20, Mr. F. Paice will address a meeting in the Glenhuntly Public Hall, Royal Avenue, opposite railway station. The meeting is for the purpose of demanding the repeal of the National Insurance Act. All supporters and friends are urged to be present.

YOUTH SECTION held a small, but enthusiastic, meeting in Auburn Recreation Hall on Thursday night. The Youth Team apparently convinced those Kooyong electors present that pressure politics would work, even on aspiring-dictator Menzies himself. The local Youth Section was enthusiastically reinforced by several young people present. Bigger and better meetings and publicity planned for Kooyong and Balaclava in the New Year will speed up the Campaign in Australia's two safest U.A.P. "seats."

The general meeting of the Youth Section will be reported in the *New Times* next week.

Would boy (or girl) orators get in touch with: A. Fawcett, 11 Cowper Street, North Brighton?

HAWTHORN. - - The usual group meeting- will take place next Thursday evening at the home of Mrs. Allsop, 26 Grove Road. All welcome.

WEST AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL INSURANCE REPEAL. - - Great progress is being made with this Campaign throughout W.A. Requests for Demand forms are coming from all over the West. Bunbury reports a 96 per cent, sign-up. Fremantle, nearly 98 per cent. Merriden reports a complete hostility to the Act. Holyoake also reports great success, and great progress is reported from Kondut, Baandee, Kellerberrin, Manjimup, and throughout the whole of the wheat belt. Any campaigners wanting Demand forms are requested to write to headquarters -- Room 31, Bon Marche Buildings, Barrack Street, Perth—immediately.

PUBLIC OPINION AFLAME. - - Great pressure is being brought on all Federal members of Parliament to implement Section 504, page 196, of the Banking Commission's Report. Mrs. Kathleen Johnston, of the Women's Auxiliary of the Wheat and Woolgrowers' Union, has advised the Campaign Director, Mr. Dury, that she has written to the following W.A. representatives at Canberra: Messrs. J. H. Prowse, H. Gregory, J. Curtin, A. Green, W. Nairn (M.H.R.'s), and Senators Collett, Johnston, McDonald, Cunningham, Clothier, and Frazier, for her Union.

From Mr. Law, Merriden, comes a fine report of progress. A new Group has been formed, called the Avon Group, which is expected to gradually expand till it covers the whole of the Federal Electorate of Swan. Mr. Law requests all campaigners in South Perth to become as active as possible, and to get into touch with the Campaign Director immediately. The Merriden branch of the R.S.L. has forwarded a circular letter to all sub-branches throughout W.A. with the following resolution attached: "That the Merriden sub-branch of the R.S.L. draws the attention by circular of other branches to the grave position Australia is in as regards defence. That recent statements in the press, showing Herr Hitler is backing his military programme by huge credit issues from the Reichsbank, be given fullest publicity; and that our Federal Government be warned of the futility of endeavouring to finance adequate defence of Australia by loans and taxation. And that the Federal Government be requested to operate the powers it undoubtedly has to finance our defence measures by an issue of credit from the Commonwealth Bank in the manner set forth in Section 504, page 196, of the Federal Royal Commission's

Report on Banking. And that the terms of this resolution be conveyed to all Western Australian Senators and members of the House of Representatives. And that the attention of the Prime Minister, the Federal Treasurer, and Brigadier-General Street be drawn to this resolution. And that the State executive of the Returned Soldiers' League be advised of the action taken through this resolution."

Mr. C. Griffen, of Lake Grace, reports a large public meeting was held on November 26. The following resolutions were carried: "That the Federal Government be asked to stabilise the price of wheat at a figure that will give some hope to the grower. And that Federal members are to be told that they will be voted out at the next elections, unless they carry out instructions. The Lake Grace Zone Council of the wheatgrowers congratulates Senator R. Darcey re banking, and urges other members to support him, under threat of dismissal at the next elections."

The National Insurance repeal was also demanded at this meeting.

The countryside is aflame for the reforms, which are now long overdue. A new spirit of freedom is permeating, and each and every politician who wishes to retain his seat in Parliament will have to produce the results his electors want. Party must come last, not first. Campaigners in the metropolitan area are requested to redouble their energies in regard to the repeal of the National Insurance Act. Plenty of forms are on hand. Each campaigner should be able to do a street at least. What about it, campaigners?

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS. - - The State Executive takes this opportunity of thanking all those who have supported the executive in carrying out the important work. If any wish to donate a special offering towards the funds as a Christmas gift, it will be thankfully received. Finance has been the big problem, but it is felt that there are many who have not pulled their weight. H.Q. asks them to do so. It is *everybody's* fight.

DO NOT FORGET Subiaco Branch's Ocean Cruise on January 15. Tickets are on sale at headquarters, from Mr. Willcocks, 114 Gloster Road, Subiaco, or from Mr. H. Smith, 162 Stirling Street, Perth. Prices: 2/6, adults; 1/-, children. This is for a whole day's cruise, and should be taken advantage of by all campaigners.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL INSURANCE REPEAL. - - Marshall Foch said: "Take one trench at a time." The next trench is the repeal of the N.I.P. Act. To do this, campaigners in South Australia have joined the ranks of the National Insurance Repeal Association (N.I.R.A.).

Because this matter is one of national importance, his Worship the Lord Mayor of Adelaide granted free use of the Town Hall for the public meeting on November 29, at which about 1000 citizens were present.

At this meeting the last speaker, Mr. E. H. Hergstrom, applied pressure to the audience for the following:

(1) Those willing to help in the canvass—result: 390 signatures.
(2) Funds for the work, through a collection—result: £8, odd.
(3) Attendance at the first general meeting, to be held the following Tuesday, December 6, at the rooms of the Housewives Association—result: 200 present, being electors knowing what they wanted and prepared to work voluntarily to that end.

In the absence of the provisional chairman, Mr. D. Fraser, Mr. E. H. Hergstrom presided. The member-

ship of the provisional committee was reported to the meeting, the members of which confirmed these men as the authorised committee.

One member of the committee, Mr. E. C. Finn, came prepared with a sectioned map of the metropolitan area, and suggestions re area allotment. Mr. Finn was appointed Campaign Director.

Volunteers were called for as Area Leaders. The readiness to respond was most heartening. The thirty-five metropolitan areas were duly allotted. Mr. Hergstrom described this meeting as the most encouraging meeting he had attended in seven years, so far as reform work was concerned. The non-party political nature of the meeting was particularly evident.

South Australian United Democrats congratulate those in other States, especially in Victoria and N.S.W., who have been instrumental in promoting the game of pressure politics, in regard to the N.I.P. Act.

It's great stuff this pressure politics, especially when rightly timed.

SLUMS AND CRIME

(Continued from page 1.)

knowledge and practical experience to enable them to advise the Government as to what it should do. During the last few years we have had a Royal Commission on Banking and an Investigation Board on Slum Clearance, both of which bodies placed their findings and suggestions at the disposal of the Government. In neither case has the Government taken any steps to implement the more far-reaching reforms suggested by those commissions. Why?

The answer is "Money" or, to paraphrase Mr. Lyons' speech made in Adelaide Town Hall last year, "My Government must retain the confidence of the Banks in order to carry on", therefore women and children must starve, die of disease in filthy hovels, or live to fill our prisons. *Whose, then, is the crime for which our criminals are punished?*

NATIONAL INSURANCE

(Continued from page 7.)

reason?" and the same chorus answered, "Yes."

A motion demanding the repeal of the Act, and that a copy be forwarded to the Prime Minister and the member for the district (Mr. Scullin) was then put and carried without dissent.

The meeting was the result of the efforts of a young lady, Miss Slade, who, on hearing Mr. Paice address a meeting elsewhere, determined to do her utmost against the Act.

A vote of thanks was passed to Miss Slade, and a local committee of workers was formed from names handed in after the meeting. These workers are now busy in obtaining financial help from doctors, chemists and business people to enable them to get a supply of letters printed for distribution and collection of signatures of voters.

NOTICE

There will be no issue of the "New Times" for Friday, December 30, on account of the Christmas and New Year holidays specified in a new printing trade award.

The first issue in 1939 will be that of January 6.