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. 51.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1938.

Every Friday, 3d.

The Great Australian

Wail

It is possible that Kipling's primitive man was not gifted with a sense of smell; it is more probable, however, that, though in full possession of his olfactory sense, he had not the knowledge to enable him to connect cause with effect.

Of course, we in Australia are not primitive, we are highly civilised, but, unfortunately, we have a pain. The pain, like that of the unfortunate victim of the whale, is right at the centre of our system. We are doubled up with it, and from time to time, when we have an extraordinarily bad spasm, we press our hands on the bad spot and cry aloud to high heaven, "Why has my God afflicted me." Our last spasm partly passed over in 1932. We thanked God for relieving the pain—and went on eating the whale.

For the benefit those who object to a dissertation on such a subject as a pain in the centre of the system, we would point out the fact that it is only by talking about the pain, describing the symptoms and so forth, that its causes can be ascertained and a cure affected. The great Australian pain has been discussed, of course, but as soon as the matter of symptoms and causes comes into the conversation someone says, "Hush; don't be rude," and the subject is changed.

During the last spasm, when the pain was particularly bad, the (witch) doctors got together in conference, and, after several months, during which the patient squirmed and groaned, they finally came to a decision. They called the patient into the consulting-room and said: "Now, old chap, we know you're having a very bad time, and, after thinking over your case for twelve months or so, we have decided on the treatment that you are to undergo. First of all, however, there is the little matter of the fee. The cost is incalculable, er......

"Never mind the cost," groaned the patient. "Tell me the cure."

"Quite, quite!" murmured the specialists in eager chorus. "As

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.

"I ate my fill of a whale that died
And stranded after a month at sea.......
There is a pain in my inside.
Why have the Gods afflicted me?
Ow! I am purged till I am a wraith,
Wow! I am sick till I cannot see!
What is the sense of Religion and Faith?
Look how the Gods have afflicted me."

—Kipling.

long as you understand that the cost will have to be met, and as long as you strive to meet the payments, we will endeavour to keep you alive, if not for your own sake then for ours."

own sake, then for ours."

"Yes, yes, I'll pay anything—
anything you want," shrieked the
patient. "But for God's sake, tell me
the cure."

The leading surgeon rubbed his chin gravely and surveyed the patient for a moment before speaking.

"Your condition," he remarked at length, "is very grave."

"Yes, yes! I had that idea myself," groaned the patient.

"In fact," remarked the physi-

the surgeon removed the cushion from his face and continued.

"Well, my friend, as I have just told you, we have considered vour case very thoroughly, and have come to the conclusion that, if you do exactly as we tell youit will mean that you will have to undergo a lot more pain at first, of course—you will finally get so much better that we will be able to-er-make you believe that you are quite well again. In fact, the suffering that you will go through during the next few months will be so great that what you feel now will seem like perfect health in comparison. Now, won't that be nice? We now pro-

"You foolish young man," he remarked at length. "Here we are trying to do our best for us all, and you try to undo all the good work that we have done. Another cheep out of you, young fellow, and we'll smother you properly. The corner is in sight. All you have to do to be cured, as I said before, is to keep quiet about the pain, submit to our treatment, and in a little while you will have turned the corner. Of course, as we told you before, you'll get a lot worse before you get better, but there is grave danger that you'll die if you even whisper the fact that you are in pain, or seek to dodge payment of the fee. After all, there'd be no point in our trying to keep you alive if you found the absolute cure for the disease, or decided that you wouldn't pay us our fee. When all is said and done, we aren't practising for the good of your health, are we?"

"I don't suppose," remarked the patient, "that it would do me any good if I stopped eating the whale?"

The leading surgeon grabbed the cushion. When he finally removed it from the patient's face he was lying quiet.

"We'll call it 'Recession' this time," remarked the leading physician.

The New Times trusts that the foregoing story will not spoil anyone's Christmas dinner, and that no crank will suggest that a bellyful of "Sane Finance" is the cause of THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN PAIN.

"The New Times" extents Christmas Greetings an Best Wishes for the New Year to its readers

cian, "it is a condition that you have suffered for some considerable time; a condition that, I fear, must recur not once only, but again and again and......"

"But isn't there any cure, doctor? You said there was a cure."

"Now, now, my friend, don't get so excited. Of course, there's a cure. Our science is a most marvellous example of the iningenuity of man. We have discovered that the pain from which you are suffering can be so controlled that we will not only be able to keep you alive, but we will also be able to keep ourselves in very excellent circumstances as a result of it."

A loud shriek from the patient disturbed the professional calm of the doctors for a moment, but with great presence of mind the leading surgeon pushed the sufferer on to a convenient lounge and gagged him with a cushion.

"As I was saying," he went on, "we will not only be able to keep you alive for your own sake, but we have the added incentive that it is absolutely essential that you should be kept alive for ours. Can you hear me?"

The patient kicked out with his left leg to indicate that he could. Signaling to one of his confreres to sit on the unfortunate's chest,

pose to take in another two holes in your belt, with the idea of squeezing the pain out of you. All that remains for you to do is have perfect faith and confidence in our treatment, and say nothing about the pain you are suffering."

With great presence of mind the doctor jammed the cushion down on the patient's face before he managed to shriek his protest.

"This is an awful nuisance," remarked the leading physician, when the patient was properly under control again. "If anyone hears his shrieks they might discover the real cause of the poor fellow's condition and tell him the right cure."

"My goodness!" remarked a junior surgeon. "Death would be better than that."

"Quite, quite," remarked the older man, "as long as it's the patient who dies. Tell him to waggle his left foot as a sign that he won't shriek again, and we'll take the cushion off his face."

The patient, having waggled his left foot just in time to save himself from suffocation, found the cushion duly removed from his

Looking gravely at him for a moment, the doctor shook his head sadly.

SONNET

(With sincere apologies to Wm. Wordsworth.")

Australia hath not anything more

unfair. Dull would he be of soul who could

pass by
This National Insurance and not try

To stop his country being forced to bear This rotten racket, which our M.P.s swear

Will save the land. The knaves! We know they lie.

For how, when there's less money, shall we buy Goods which will Cost us more. Let's

do our share By signing that petition which will

keep
Our people free from such a filthy
Bill

And tell those politicians that they'll reap

A meagre harvest if they work their own sweet will.

Dear Joe, not all we voters are asleep,

Although your mighty heart is

"lying" still — "FAIR GO."

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(Continued cm page 3.)

THE WHEAT INDUSTRY AND THE PRICE OF BREAD

People to be Further Taxed for the **Bankers**

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

at the present time about the present to face the issue will mean further increase in the price of bread and enslavement of the Australian matters pertaining to the wheat in- people by the private banks; while dustry. An outstanding fact is that the people are being further divided might remember before it is too late into two warring sections, instead that there are quite a number of of realising that they both have a wheat growers who are getting common problem, produced by a more than "fed-up" with living on common enemy. The vast majority a semi-starvation basis, and may of the people, with whom bread is a contemplate violent action, unless major item of diet, naturally object to the recent rise of twopence per four-pound loaf, as it is going to still further reduce their already low standard of living-while the wheat farmers, on the other hand, naturally desire sufficient monetary compensation for their labours. However, all that the present futile, impotent scheme is going to do is to take a little of their inadequate supply of money from one section ary producers by the throat. of the community to give to another section of the community. It will in on the wheat industry revealed that no way increase the total, supply of the total indebtedness of Australian money in the hands of the Australian public; on the contrary, it will probably reduce it, by the very fact, total of £150,000,000. With wheat which a survey of the wheat industry at its present price, can we wonder indicates, that the real government that the banks are concerned as to of this country—i.e., the private whether they will get their interest banks, are much more concerned with recovering their interest charges than with the plight of the wheat farmers. Furthermore, when it is recognised that the vast section of the people getting less than £4 per from this number they provided half week are the section who are going the bankruptcies of the whole State! to pay the bulk of the tax, and that Comment is superfluous. such semi-luxuries as many breakfast foods will escape the excise, we see still further evidence of the tendency of our Government to bring about class distinctions. It is very interesting to note that dog biscuits will escape the tax. Apparently dogs are much more important than human produce, we seek to foist much of beings—although this is what one might expect in an alleged democracy which allows 15/-per nearly starve. Of course, we always week to be spent on warming the water for the shark at Taronga Park generosity! A brief survey of the in Sydney, while the average dole rate is about 7/6 a week per head.

How the Wheat Farmers Have Increased Real Wealth

A brief survey of the efforts of the wheat farmers over the last thirty-eight years very definitely indicates that they have given every satisfaction in their sphere of production. Whereas in 1900 the total yield for Australia was approximately 48,000,000 bushels, the most reliable estimate for the year 1938 is approximately 150,000,000 bushels. It might be pointed out that year, the yield would probably have reached 180,000,000 bushels. The total acreage planted this year was in excess of 14,000,000 acres. But, in spite of this increase of the real assets of the country, by bringing new country under cultivation and thereby increasing the productivity of the country, we actually find that the wheat farmers on the whole are working mainly for the private banks. They are going still further into debt every year, and the fact must be faced that, while the present debt-finance system operates in Australia, their position cannot be improved. The result is going to be chaos, and, as this industry affects every person who produces wheat, or the products from wheat, as well as the consumers of these products, it behoves us all to do a little clear thinking about this im-

Much discussion is taking place portant primary industry. Failure many smug and complacent people something is done to alleviate their

"Produce More Wheat" -And More Debt!

In spite of the great achievement of the farmers in increasing the wheat yield of Australia, a brief outline of their financial position gives further illuminating evidence of how the banks have the Australian prim-

The Federal Royal Commission wheat growers (principally to the banks) has reached the staggering payments? Recent figures in connection with the wheat growers of South Australia tell a tragic story. There are approximately 60,000 wheat growers in this State, and

Overseas Markets Have Collapsed

As the Australian people have not yet shown sufficient brains and determination to demand that sufficient money be distributed in Australia to buy all the cereal products we our wheat on to foreign markets, while many of our own people have been noted for our great world position of the wheat industry shows how hopeless this export fetish is becoming. Excluding Russia and China, world wheat production for 1938 has been estimated at about 4,050,000,000 bushels, compared with 3,827,000,000 bushels for 1937. Probable world stocks of old wheat for July 1, 1938, were estimated at 650,000,000 bushels, as against 556,000,000 bushels on July 1, 1937. This indicates an increment of 94,000,000 bushels on the 1937 crop, with a big addition in the next few months if the estimates for the present crops are realised. We are informed by allegedly sane economists that we have a world over-production of wheat and must decrease production in the future and rationalise our present production. Yet the League of Nations Economic Survey points out that over 2,232,000 people died of starvation in the world during last year. Why? Because practically every country in the world is suffering a shortage of

Further Blows to Overseas Wheat Markets

Apart from the general world position of wheat, two important moves have been made by other countries which will still further reduce the prospects of the Australian wheat farmers selling their wheat overseas at a reasonable price. The first move which I refer to was the American-Canadian Trade Treaty, signed on November 17, 1938. The position can be best summed up in

the words of Mr. W. Cambridge, secretary of the Farmers' and Settlers' Association:

'Before Sir Earle Page's trade delegation left Australia it was rumoured here that the 2/- a quarter preference on Australian wheat entering the United Kingdom was to be wiped out.

We protested then, and we have protested since, but this is our answer. The seriousness of the position can be realised when it is known that at present Great Britain is practically our only customer for wheat. America, with its white wheat, is Australia's competitor, despite the seasonal differences. The result must be a lowering of prices for Australian wheat."

Apart from this, the recent import duty of 45/- a ton imposed by India is having its effect upon Australian wheat prices. It must be realised that the best market for our wheat is waiting right here in Australia. Unfortunately, the great bulk of the people who comprise that market have very little of the thing called money in their pockets. If that matter were rectified, the problem would be solved.

Home Consumption Scheme Force

In the issue of the New Times of September 9, appeared a splendid article, in which the fallacies of this home consumption scheme were pointed out. As we only consume about one-quarter of our total wheat production here, it will mean that the price of wheat at country sidings, 2/1 per bushel will be still well below the cost of production, which has been estimated at approximately 3/6 per bushel. Apart from this, quite a large number of growers will have no wheat at all to sell this year, with the result, in these cases, that the scheme will actually increase their losses—because they, along with the rest of the community, will have to contribute to the flour tax.

Divide and Rule

As pointed out earlier in this article, the people have been divided on this issue. If the people of Australia had sufficient purchasing power they could consume up to 50 per cent, of our wheat production. Furthermore, if the real wealth produced in Australia was properly monetised we could exchange our surplus on a pound-forpound basis with those countries which are anxious to get access to our raw materials. To do this, the Australian people must control their own money supply through their Parliamentary representatives, and hold these men responsible for getting results or getting out.

The wheat growers and the bread consumers must not become involved in a bitter scramble for the present inadequate supply of money. They must unite and, with a majority of Australian people, inform Parliament that they refuse to continue being slaves to a small group of financiers, who are bringing the wheat growers and the whole Australian nation further under their domination.

"A single monetary standard has been the direct cause of economic friction between the nations.—Late Sir Basil Blackett, p. 172, "Planned Money"

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THE CASE FOR JAPAN

An Address Given at a Meeting of the Rotary Club of Barry, Glam., South Wales, on March 10, 1938, by Rev. G. N. Strong.

Anyone who attempts, to-day, to state the case for Japan is very conscious that he voices the unpopular side. But to offer an opportunity for the stating of the unpopular cause is a very real piece of social service: it is the practical expression of that British spirit of fair-play by which we set, and rightly set, so great store. Rotary, in giving such an opportunity, declares itself to be a body of men who recognise that the "open-mind" willingness to hear the other side, though it be unpopular, as a fundamental principle of social order and of international goodwill.

It is, then, simply to that British as a race. But it is possible to hold spirit of fair-play that I would a deep conviction about the greatmake my appeal, in attempting to ness and worth of those achieve-State Japan's case. The most ardent ments, and yet realise that, when friend of Japan would not desire to facing the problems of other races, justify all Japan's doings; any more and the problems of the Far East in than the ardent British patriot particular, there is a very special would wish to defend all the actions need of vigilance against the menace which have contributed to the build- of what can only be described as ing up of the British Empire. My sheer cant and hypocrisy. The lover claim is simply that Japan has a case of Japan does not desire to justify which deserves consideration; and all the actions of the Japanese Govthat in the interests of international goodwill, that case ought to be

Capacity for Friendship

In my own case, there are more personal grounds for wishing to be allowed to state that case for Japan. For eleven years I have enjoyed the charming hospitality of Japan. I have been allowed to share the most intimate companionship of a people who possess to an uncommon degree the capacity for friendship, and a sensitive regard for others' feelings. Courtesy, the sensitive appreciation of another's feelings, and the desire to guard against their injury, is almost a law of life in Japan. And anyone who has ever experienced that sensitive courtesy cannot but strive to understand his friend's outlook and to secure for him a like measure of consideration. Often this courtesy reveals itself in ways that are strange, and not seldom

A Duty

The point of view of another race often is strange and unexpected. But the effort to try to understand that point of view is never wasted. And there are occasions when that effort becomes a duty. And such I believe the present to be. Behind the Far Eastern conflict lie farreaching issues. The peace of the Far East, the stabilising of the political, social, and economic life of the vast East Asian hinterland, is something which concerns the whole world. And a right understanding of Japan's enormous problem is vital to the peace of the world.

A Delusion

For us Britishers, the effort truly to surmount prejudice and see the other person's point of view, is, without question, specially difficult. We tend to assume that, as a race, we are instinctively liberal and broadminded. A trip to the Far East quickly destroys that delusion! The reason for our difficulty is probably to be found in our own history. For us, expediency and self-interest have so often coincided with honourable duty. It is only necessary to recall our interest in Belgium to realise that. The assumption is, then, not difficult, and tends very readily to become a conviction, that the British way is God's way, and that the British race has been specially ordained to carry out God's plans. There is no need to belittle our achievements



ernment. He happens to know that there are very many among the Japanese themselves who, did they but enjoy that freedom of knowledge and discussion which we here enjoy, would be the first to condemn much in the policy of the present military party in Japan. But when he hears full-throated British moralists holding forth in strident tones on the wickedness of Japan, he cannot but feel anxious! Hypocrisy is a horrid vice.

Pot Calling the Kettle **Black**

And, as he listens to these champions of national virtue, from their lofty pedestal of moral superiority, indulging in wholesale denunciation of Japan as a nation, he is bound to remember that only seventy years ago a British Government allowed Canton, full of helpless women and children, to be bombarded by British men-of-war; that under that threat we exhorted from the helpless Emperor of China permission to carry on the odious opium traffic—to the ruin, physical and moral, of his people; that under the same threat we extorted (God forgive us!) permission to carry on Christian missionary work in China! These things are ugly facts which we prefer to forget. But they are well known in the Far East; and they do expose us, very seriously, to the charge of hypocrisy when we assume a lofty attitude of moral indignation towards the doings of another

(To be continued.)

WANTED

God give us Men. The time demands

faith, and willing hands;

Men whom the lust of office does

not kill; Men whom the spoils of office can-

not buy; Men who possess opinions and a

will: Men who have honour; men who

will not lie; Men who can stand before a dema-

gogue And damn his treacherous flatteries

without winking;

men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog

thinking. For, while the rabble, with their

thumb-worn creeds.

public duty and in private

Their large professions and their little deeds-

Mingle in selfish strife, lo! Freedom

weeps Wrong rules the land, and waiting

Justice sleeps. -Josiah Gilbert Holland.

National Insurance Repeal

Activities in Queensland

Over the past few months an intensive campaign has been waged in Brisbane, and other parts of the State, against the National Insurance proposals.

In the city, meetings have been held every Friday night in various parts, and the audiences have ranged from 30 to 200. The iniquities of the scheme were outlined by various speakers, and the series of meetings must have some appreciable effect upon the members of Parliament who are still supporting the National Insurance proposals.

Those who have taken the most active part in the city campaign include Messrs. D. Laing, W. Moore, P. K. Cameron, and W. Wood. Country centres are also taking an interest, and Major D. V. Hannay, who is touring the State is doing his utmost to arouse a sense of indignation amongst the farming sections. On several occasions the local producers' associations in various districts, like Moggil, suspended all usual business to hear the Major outline the case against taxation and National Insurance. Leaflets are being distributed widely, and people throughout the State are urged to write letters of protest to their local members. İn numerous cases replies have been received which exhibit the ignorance of many of our Federal members in respect to the problems confronting Australia at the present time.

THE EXEMPLAR

Gentle, yet adamant of purpose; Crystal-clear of thought; Loving, compassionate, owning no

power, Except the power of His Father and

ours-Such were the attributes of Him

who said: "Not to destroy, but that ye may

have life. And have it more abundantly, I

come. Full nigh two thousand years Have writ their record on the page

of Time Since He with shining feet, Passed up and down the roads

About old Palestine; and sailed the Sharing its perils and its harvests

With men who learned to follow him.

And do the work which He Himself performed—

The work of doing good; and children, too,

So simple were His words, grasped the purpose

And the meaning of life, undimmed by fear.

Strong minds, great hearts, true And free from all frustration, greed or hate;

Yea, that very life which should. and could,

Be ours to-day, but for the thral-

dom of The money-changers.

Come, people, let that Mind which was in Him Be also in us. Purge the high places Free the hands and feet of all God's

children From the chains forged by the

priests of Mammon. This is our task, our right, our sacred trust.

The way is clear, the time is NOW-

On, men and women—God is on our side!

-"Electora."

"War is the mathematically inevitable outcome of the present system."—C. M. Hattersley, p. 16, "Men, -Machines and Money"

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MELBOURNE (Cent.)

(Continued from page 2.)

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. (Continued on page 7.)

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A Message of Hate for Christmas and the New Year

As the printers of the New Times will be on holidays for ten days after the publication of this issue, we take this opportunity of combining our Christmas and New Year greetings to our readers.

Christmas, of course, is the time when those of us who are lucky are inclined to over-eat and the normally unlucky ones are often the recipients of a small share of the goodwill which overflows for a day or two. New Year, on the other hand, is something that we look forward to, in the hope that it will be an improvement on the old. In order to assist to a certain extent in the bringing about of the hoped-for improvement, some people make resolutions to the effect that they will give up smoking or drinking, or make friends with their enemies and be more charitable to their neighbours.

The New Times, too, has made its New Year resolution, one that we commend to all our readers. We suggest that a good, sound policy of constructive hate would, if carried out by a sufficient number of people, be of more benefit than the general and rather negative proposal to initiate a special spirit of goodwill over the festive season, followed by a feeble attempt to make friends with our individual enemies during the New Year.

It was our own Australian essayist, Walter Murdoch, who wrote on the importance of choosing one's enemies wisely. In effect, he pointed out that it was a waste of one's capacity to hate if one expended it on unworthy objects. One may hate a club bore, the girl in the upstairs flat who practises singing, or the woman who finds her way into a crowded smoking carriage, but such hates are a shocking waste of a good honest feeling. Professor Murdoch suggests that, in order to obtain the fullest satis-

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faction from a hate point of view one should first find an object worthy of the expenditure of the mental concentration demanded by hate, and then apply the hate in the intense form that will be possible as a result of such concentration on a single object.

The New Times suggests a worthy object for its readers' hate during the coming year: poverty, and its consequent ills, and the institutions that gain power for their principals as a result of it.

Hate is one of the most potent driving forces in the universe. It launches battleships and bombing 'planes. It can change the map of the world.

For the New Year, then, we would suggest to our readers that they transfer their private hates of individual people, or of nations, to a constructive hate of the greatest evil of the universe, unnecessary poverty in the midst of plenty. If a fraction of the time, energy and mental effort expended on the conduct of personal feuds in 1938 could be organised and directed against the great enemy-Poverty, in the coming year, Christmas 1939 would be something to boast of. This, then, is our message and wish for you in the year 1939: that you shall hate wisely, well and constructively those things that were the cause of so much suffering in 1938. May the hate that launched battleships this year be changed to a hate that shall launch an era of happiness and plenty next.

Better Days Are Coming If—

One of the most extraordinary things about National Insurance is the fact that the Government, while it is willing to spend something like eight thousand pounds on the printing and posting of pamphlets putting the case for the Act to the electors, apparently will not permit any of its members to speak for the Act from the public platform.

Evidence of this attitude was given to the citizens of Geelong recently when Mr. Casey, Federal Treasurer, and consequently the policy of the banks to arrange for Minister directly responsible for the shaping of the Act, refused to accede to a request of a represen- view of the extremely unpopular tative body of his electors asking attitude taken by the Government that he address a meeting of his regarding National Insurance, it constituents on National Insur- seems quite feasible to suppose ance. Mr. Casey refused on the that that attitude has been regrounds that he was too busy! quired of the Government for the What an outrageous excuse for an purpose of assisting the return of employee to make to his bosses! Labor to office at an early date. He did, of course, send a repre- The fact that the implementing of sentative in the shape of a quiet, National Insurance was postponed inoffensive gentleman named from January until May suggested Brown, who was instructed to ex- that the Government intended to plain the terms of the Act to Mr. go to the country before May, and Casey's electors, although they, by the further postponement until the way, were already somewhat September that for some reason informed on the subject. Mr. —a reason that may have to do Brown, however, was in the un- with defence-Lyons and Co. are fortunate position of not being required for an additional month able to answer any questions of a or two of office, and may arrange "political" nature, lest he lose his for an election to take place durjob.

Asked what penalty was provided in the Act for those people at present governed by fledgeling

as contributors, Mr. Brown informed the questioner that up to the present it appeared that the only penalty would be that the citizens referred to would not be entitled to the benefits that would be granted to insured persons. The reply, needless to say, evoked roars of laugher. Another questioner asked Mr. Brown whether he did not consider it an anomaly that a woman who payed her weekly contribution with unfailing regularity until she reached the age of sixty, would only be entitled to a pension of fifteen shillings per week, whereas if she defaulted in her payments as a result of unemployment, would be entitled to an old-style pension of a pound a week?

Mr. Brown could only make one reply, "Since you put it that way," he said, "yes, it is an anomalv."

In view of the censorship imposed on Mr. Brown by reason of his position as a civil servant, it was fortunate for the large audience that Mr. F. C. Paice was present by invitation for the purpose of dealing with those questions that Mr. Brown was not in a position to answer. In this capacity Mr. Paice functioned to the complete satisfaction of the meeting which, in passing a motion of censure on Mr. Casey on the grounds that he had refused to meet his electors on a matter of national importance while able to find time to attend social functions in the electorate, made it clear that it was grateful to Mr. Brown for the courteous manner in which he had attempted to answer the questions put to him. A member of the audience also expressed sympathy with Mr. Brown in regard to the unfortunate manner in which Mr. Casev had used him.

For some time it has seemed that the present Government was not intended to remain in office during the thick of the "new" depression. It has always been the a Labor regime to hold the baby during a depression period. In ing July or August. After all, while a suggestion that we are

who would refuse to recognise it Fascists may not meet with genas law, and whether the Govern- eral disapproval, it would be hard ment had arranged for prison ac- to believe that the Government, commodation for the large body of wishing to remain in office, would Australian citizens who have de- not only seek to force acceptance cided that they will not co-operate of such an unpopular Act as the N.H.I., but further, realising its unpopularity, omit to take adequate steps to defend it, and actually discredit it by permitting the adoption of Casey's flagrantly cavalier attitude towards his Geelong electors.

> The alternative diagnosis is that the Lyons administration is being invisibly assisted to the exit by the Lords of Finance—but only with a view to replacing it with a virtual political dictatorship (unlabelled) headed by a strong, silent and (above all) "safe" man, such as R. G. Menzies or B. S. B.

In anticipation of either event it behoves electors to bestir themselves. Should they fail to do so, they will either find themselves, as in the heyday of poor Mr. Scullin, stripped of most things earthly except their votes, or, in the second event, stripped even of

The politician who is willing to serve must be given the solid backing of a majority of his constituents on issues specified by them, so that be can defy Finance and the Party-Machine, and the unwilling politician must be given his marching orders. Then may we expect better days.

Heil, Aloysius

Whenever there has been some demonstration in favour of Heir Hitler, our papers invariably remark on the fact that the demonstrators were guarded by Nazi Storm Troopers, thus giving the, no doubt correct, impression that a certain amount of pressure was brought to bear on a crowd who otherwise might not have been so enthusiastic. During the recent French crises the reported fact that the streets of Paris were lined with troops and armoured cars somewhat detracted from the value of the French Government's statement to the effect that the people had shown their confidence in the Government by not demonstrating against it.

On Monday night Mr. J. A. Lyons addressed a large, but carefully selected, audience (invitation only) in the Melbourne Town Hall. When the hall was sufficiently filled with Mr. Lyons' friends to ensure the fact that he would be supported by a majority at the meeting, a few of those who were not within the charmed circle of ticket holders, were admitted to the gallery, the three back rows of which were occupied by troops. Police and troops paraded the aisles for the purpose of ejecting hecklers. Clapping and cheering was "organised" from the platform end of the hall, the broadcast was "cut" down during hostile demonstrations, a sergeant of the militia, assisted by five of his men and a policeman, removed a member of the audience who did not stand up during the singing of "Land of Hope and Glory,"

ANOTHER VOICE AGAINST NATIONAL INSURANCE

"A Stab in the Back.... Repeal It!" —Says Business Journal

"Benefits" Not Value for Money

In an editorial, headed "Repeal National Insurance," that wellknown business journal, "Rydge's," says, inter alia:

"It is most unfair to employees that their earnings should be further reduced. At the moment they have deductions made on account of the Unemployment Tax, and, in many cases, deductions are also made on account of Group Insurance schemes into which the employee has voluntarily entered. To make this additional deduction of 1/6 for men and 1/- for women must, in many cases, mean taking away some little luxury which makes life more tolerable; in many other cases it will mean actual hardship.'

Taxed—For What?

"But when we examine the benefits which employees will receive, we come to the conclusion that they will not be getting value for the payments they are compelled to make. In many cases, employees will receive no value at all. For instance, take the case of the young girl of seventeen years of age who enters an office and who follows the way of most young girls and marries when she is in her early twentiessay, twenty-two. This girl and her employer will have contributed in a period of five years, the sum of £13 to the National Insurance scheme and yet it is likely that she will not have received one single penny's worth benefit during the

and later a policeman removed a girl who had also remained seated. -shades of the Eureka Stockade, what have we come to?

It may be deemed inconsiderate of other people's pet prejudices to remain seated under such circumstances, and the mere fact that one or two hecklers were removed from a political meeting would not be of much significance, but the point that is of significance is that probably for the first time since the bad old days, an Australian politician has used soldiers for the purpose of muzzling public criticism.

During the last few weeks the New Times has warned its readers that the coming year may prove to be a crucial period in the history of Australia's fight for deerty in various subversive ways. It suggests that the whole conduct of the meeting in the Town Hall on Monday was undemocratic, savouring of Fascism, in that justifiable criticism was suppressed by force. The Australian Government may find, if it persists in the newly established practice of using the army to suppress the people, that there will be two armies in Australia. The Australian is slow and easy-going as a rule, but not easily suppressed or calmed when roused, and any attempt to make him sing "Heil, Aloysius," or Heil anybody else, to order, would be almost certain to rouse him.

whole of that period. Both she and the employer have been taxed, for what? This case is illustrative of thousands which will happen in practice.

"Then, again, take the case of a male employee who is receiving, say, £5 or £6 per week, and who, after a certain period of time, earns in excess of £7 per week, and so ceases to be within the range of National Insurance. What happens to his previous payments? It is true that he has the option of continuing as a voluntary contributor to the scheme, but how many will make these weekly payments in return for comparatively infinitesimal benefits?'

A Pittance

"In the case of a man or a woman who is away from work sick, he or she receives £1 or 15/-, as the case may be, sick pay per week. Who can live on such a pittance? What use is £1 per week to a man who has been accustomed to receiving £5 or £6 per week? How far will 15/take a girl towards paying board and lodging, and leading a respectable life? And yet to secure this, together with medical benefits and pensions, on reaching the age of 65 years for men and 60 years for women, employers and employees combine together to pay 3/- per week in the case of men and 2/- per week in the case of women!"

A Comparison

"There is one company in Sydney which has a fairly large number of employees, and which has instituted its own sickness scheme. Each member of the organisation pays into a fund the sum of one-penny halfpenny in the £1 per week on his wages. Thus, in the case of a girl receiving £3 per week, her contribution is 4½d., and, in the case of a man receiving £6 per week, his contribution is 9d. It has been found over a period that this fund has been able to pay full rates of wages to every employee away sick. This means that the girl who paid in 4½d. got her £3 per week, and the man who paid in 9d. got £6 per week. Contrast these payments of £3 and £6 with the paltry 15/- and £1 per week made under the National Insurance Act. And, in addition, out of this fund instituted by the Sydney company, it has been mocracy. It has suggested that found possible to buy presents for under the guise of national emer- members of the staff who gency legislation the present Gov- were about to be married, ernment will seek to curtail libpassing around the hat. All this on 1½d. in the £1 per week on wages! And this is cheerfully and voluntarily paid by the employees themselves—the employer does not contribute a penny piece.

. . . The present is perhaps the most disadvantageous time that could have been chosen for its introduction. Business to-day needs the plunge of a hypodermic needle to pep it up, rather than another stab in the back.

There are many disadvantages in the National Insurance scheme, and it is impossible to discuss them all here. But we aver that it will prove the most unpopular Act ever introduced by any Australia Parliament, and, in our opinion, the wisest course is to repeal it. Save the short pay for employees, and the direct tax on employers!"

HAVE YOU CONVERTED YOUR BONDS?

Cruel Irony of Bankers' Propaganda

By "MANCUNIAN."

(Condensed from "The New Campaigner," Sydney.)

It caught my eye as the train passed through one of Sydney's suburban railway stations—a district whose principal industry may be said to be relief works—a grimy, slummy suburb, badly hit by the depression, whose inhabitants are living largely on doles and "hand-outs."

There, printed in garish colours, was the object of my interest -a large poster. It took the form of a note of interrogation, and superimposed upon the latter was the bold lettering, "Have you converted YOUR bonds?

Debt and poverty; poverty and debt; the unholy result of an unholy financial system, which puts money first and humanity last. And, to add insult to injury, the poster gravely asks these half-starved and ill-clad victims of the bankers, "Have you converted your bonds?"

Bonds and Bonds

Theonly bonds these unfortunates know are the bonds of a vicious economic system. Lack of security, unemployment, malnutrition, bad housing, premature death these are their bonds, and they will never be converted nor removed while High Finance holds

Why are such posters exhibited in districts where the people are too poor to buy nourishing food, let alone bonds? It forms part of the bankers' scheme to divert attention from their deep-laid plot.

The idea they seek to popularise is that, in order to finance this nation, the people's savings must be mobilised, and that every Tom, Dick and Harry must lend a hand, so to speak.

This psychology is behind the vast poster and newspaper campaign, and radio appeals; it lies behind every canvas sign exhibited outside the banks exhorting citizens to convert their bonds.

While the people can be deluded into the belief that it is really the small-fry investors who are financing Australia with their savings, the bankers can safely continue creating costless ledger credit, lend it to the Commonwealth Government at interest—and get away with it.

Humbug

More humbug is associated with finance than, possibly, any other subject. Barnum, the great showman, once said that "the public loves to be humbugged." Certain it is that High Finance hands out humbug in particularly large chunks when loans are being negotiated.

The Commonwealth Government has been arranging a "Cash and Conversion" loan of £72,000,000. Of this £68,000,000 represents old loans, which have matured and cannot be met, because there is insufficient real money in existence to do

The balance—namely, £4,000,000 —is a new loan for defence purposes. Few people ask why old loans cannot be redeemed when they mature, and why it is essential to "convert" them—i.e., extend the period of their currency by incorporating them in another financial transaction. Fewer people still ask why this wealthy Commonwealth has to humble itself like a medicant to borrow £4,000,000 for such a vital need as defence.

The Federal Treasurer (Mr. Casey) won't "blow the gaff," and the bankers can be depended upon to remain silent. And yet the whole sordid swindle leaps to the eye

''Widows, Orphans . . . ''

It is well known that when the Commonwealth Government converts an old loan (or loans), or floats a new one, the amount taken up by small investors is scarcely

worth considering. It is known, also, that the Commonwealth Treasurer steadfastly refuses to let the public (his master) know what proportion of any loan is subscribed by the financiers.

However, the information has leaked out, and it has been elicited that the trading banks take up the lion's share (about 80 per cent or more) of all loans floated or converted. They obtain an excellent-investment, for Commonwealth bonds are interest-bearing securities, free of tax and the entire nation stands behind each bond. Because of this, Commonwealth bonds are also a splendid liquid asset for the banks, as they can be sold readily on the money market.

Each Commonwealth bond is a promise to pay, but the trading banks do not use legal tender money to buy them. On the contrary, they write cheques, which are also a promise to pay. And so it is that the inferior credit of the trading banks, expressed by their promise to pay (cheques), are exchanged for the superior credit of the nation, expressed by its promise to pay

This arrangement purports to make the inferior bank credit superior to the national credit of Australia. By the hocus-pocus of banking, the lesser becomes the greater, and the greater the lesser. In short, what is *not*, is; and what is, is not.

The recent Banking Commission's report (section 504, page 196) confirms us in our statement that the Commonwealth Bank can make money available, without cost to the nation, for financing Australia's national needs.

Why?

When, then, is this loan racket perpetuated? Why are private bankers permitted to create financial credit at no cost to themselves by writing entries in their ledgers, and then, by drawing cheques against such entries, obtain possession of valuable national securities, upon which the p eonle are taxed to meet interest payments, under pain of imprisonment?

This racket, like other rackets, can only be worked while ignorance prevails. You cannot cheat a "knower," because his awareness sheds a bright light in dark places.

There is no darker place in our national economy than the subterranean cave of finance—for it is here all underground engineering takes place—here it is that the wires are pulled which connect with certain puppet politicians on the

To-day we are shackled to the burden of irredeemable debt. The bankers know this and each year another £30,000,000 or £40,000,000 is added to the total. This is social debt—this is bondage, indeed.

MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

Mr. Stevens Clutches at Another Straw

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H. BROWN.

Sir,

There is no doubt regarding the aptitude of Mr. B. S. B. Stevens, Premier of New South Wales, to jump about the stage according to the way the strings are pulled in London. As a loudspeaker for the financiers he is nearly as good as Mr. Menzies and other members of the Federal Cabinet, who have had frequent trips to "The City of London" and first-hand opportunities to attend bankers' banquets there. He never loses the chance to act as their mouthpiece and to further his personal interests by currying their favour.

New Stunt, But Same

The latest development in "The City" is "a very strong movement of all parties in England, emphasising the need for what is termed "moral re-armament.' " According to newspaper reports, eminent leaders —political, industrial, military, and financial — had written to the London Times on the subject, and this was a splendid cue for the "most capable man available" in Australia, who promptly took it as his subject for an address from the Methodist pulpit at Malvern Hill, Sydney, on December 4. That these "eminent leaders" are the same old men who have led us into a condition of chaos and to the very brink of the precipice of destruction is calmly disregarded, and we are asked again to take notice of their to live in a condition of perbleatings.

Strong But Futile

But before we take a look at that particular address on Moral Rearmament, we should briefly consider the address he gave at is any shortage of food and the Rev. C. Irving Benson's church in Melbourne on February 18, 1934. At that time Mr. they could buy them? Can the Stevens was being described by the hireling press as "the man of the moment," "Australia's their wealth to other countries, strong man," and so on. Many who do not want it—not being of us were silly enough to believe it, despite the fact that he selves? The answer to each of was merely a yes-man for the these questions is No, and even thieves who had brought about if EVERY man were to join a severe cut in wages and a the Church," as advised by Mr. heavy reduction in salaries. An- Stevens, there would be no disother such man, in the person of sipation of the forces of evil un-R. L. Butler, of South Austra-less and until the nation abanlia, also obtained considerable doned its so-called "sound finlimelight of a similar nature, ance." Indeed, not even God but he has since been found out can get His bounty properly politically, and appropriately distributed to His children undealt with. That will happen der the existing financial systo a lot of others, too unless tem, and His Church on the they use their intelligence in earth has, up to now, been the the interests of the community tool of His most deadly enemy, instead of continuing to act in

the interests of the country's enemies.

Join the Church

On the occasion referred to, Mr. Stevens exhorted his hearers in this strain: "Every man owes it to himself, to his children, and to his country, as well as to his Church, to join the Church as an active worker for the forces for creating good, contentment, and peace; and for dissipating the forces which tend to cultivate passion, violence, and hatred." It is difficult to believe that this was said in the pulpit of a Methodist church by a man who had been, and still was, in active cooperation with the very forces he professed to denounce. "Sound Finance," for which he has been, and still is, one of the leading apologists and defenders, is undeniably the very thing that cultivates passion, violence and hatred. Because of the chronic shortage of money imposed upon the community by the controllers of the banking system, every family is set against every other family in a terrific struggle to obtain a bigger share of money from a shockingly inadequate supply. On this fact alone he has exposed himself to the charge of being a public hypocrite.

"Good, Contentment, and Peace"

What are the forces for creating good, contentment, and peace? Can the people be really "good" when they are forced petual apprehension because of the smallness of their income or the uncertainty of their employment? Can the people be really "content" when they are forced to go without food and clothes - not because there clothes, but because they are denied the money with which people be really "peaceful" allowed to make use of it them-Mammon.

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Meeting Force With

Mr. Stevens's colleagues of J. B. Were and Son have stressed the view that it is a case of "meeting force with force," and that the self-same Mr. Stevens should be appointed to speed up and coordinate our activities in making preparations accordingly. Is it not absurd that anyone should look to the meeting of force with force for bringing about good, contentment, and peace? Jesus showed us that kindly consideration for others was the effective way, and He was a living example of the truth of the words of St. Paul, that we should "overcome evil with good." Yet this "man of the moment" advocates that evil should be met with evil.

"Passion, Violence, and

And is it feasible that by preparing ourselves for war we can dissipate the forces which cultivate passion, violence, and hatred? It is NOT feasible, and all responsible men should rather be asking themselves, 'What are these forces? Where are they to be found? and WHO is responsible for their existence? A very good pointer to the direction in which we should look for the answer to these questions was given in The Social Crediter of November 5. In that issue conditions in England in the 13th and 20th centuries were compared as follows: -

THIRTEENTH CENTURY.

Debt: NIL. Meat: ½ d. per lb. Fat Goose: 2d. Beer: 1d. gallon. Shoes: 4d. pair. Holidays: 152 in a year. Week: 4 days. Production Power: Man and horse. Man's Achievement: Cathedrals, Guildhalls, Art, Literature.

TWENTIETH CENTURY. Debt: £8,000,000,000.

Meat: 2/- per 1b. Fat Goose: 8/6. Beer: 5/4 gallon. Shoes: 12/6. Holidays: 56 in a year. Week: 6½ days. Production Power: Steam, Electricity, Petrol (about a miltimes greater than the 13th century).

Man's Achievement: Slums, Crowded Hospitals, Distressed Areas, Public Assistance Committees.

Will "joining the Church" liquidate the DEBT and release us from the grip of the owners of the Debt? Will "joining a church" which profits from usury, bring about the discontinuance of usury? The system practising even its first prinof Debt and Usury has to be ciples. In any case, what is the tackled and remedied before the Church can prosper in the true values if we are not in the posisense, for it is a physical im-tion to observe this standard? serve God under the existing financial system.

War Declared

Even while we have men like Mr. Stevens talking meaningless drivel of the nature mentioned. we also have a member of the British Cabinet telling the House of Commons that a trade war has been declared on Germany, and that "we will beat her at her own game." The war is therefore on now, and the idea appears to be that, while the virtuous Mr. Stevens recommends us to join the Church, he will be put in to

control the preparations for the military war which is certain to result from the trade war. In other words, while professing to follow the Prince of Peace, he is feverishly working for the King of Strife. Trade war is the inevitable result of the financial system as now operated by the banking oligarchy, and the very thing Mr. Stevens preaches against is the very thing he is supporting. "By their fruits ye shall know

Christ and Economics

In addition to instructing us in our duty towards the Church and the State, he went on to say: "The teaching of Christ contains no economic programme, but the acceptance of its standard of values in a positive way by the majority of the people would make it felt in the economic and business life of the people." This assertion, in conjunction with the earlier quotation from his address, is yet another example of the improper manner in which Jesus and His teaching are made the sport and convenience of self-seekers. Perhaps it was because Jesus knew of this that He said. "The publicans and the harlots go into the Kingdom of God before the chief priests and the elders of the people." Can it be that Jesus saw more sincerity in people of the publican and harlot class than in men like the present Premier of New South Wales and the leader of the Wesley Church in Melbourne? No man should have the audacity to preach what he does not practice. Religious masqueraders have done incalculable harm not only to the well-being of the people, but to Christianity itself; and I make the suggestion that if Christ were here now in person He would use the whip, as He used it on the moneychangers of old. On that occasion He said: "My house shall be called the house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves." Thieves still seek to make the Church an instrument of their thieving prac-

A "Standard of Values"

It sounds well enough to say that the positive acceptance of the Christian standard of values by a majority of the people would make it felt" in the economic and business life of the people. The fact is that a very great majority of the people DO profess the positive acceptance of the Christian standard, and with amazing complacency believe they are practising it, when in reality, and through lack of proper guidance by the clergy at large in matters of religion and ethics, they are not use of adopting a standard of possibility for the Church to The economic and business life of the people is governed by finance, and 99.99 per cent. of us have no say at all in regard to the control in that sphere. Millions of faithful persons whose every action is beyond reproach, are suffering mental, physical, and spiritual torture because of the actions and ideas of that other .01 per cent., and it is this .01 per cent, that Mr. Stevens and most of the clergymen have hitherto been support-

What Could be Done

Official figures in the Commonwealth Year Book reveal

that more than 97 per cent, of our population definitely profess Christianity. I am well aware of the divergence in the interpretation of the term "Christianity" and of the lack the term of effort on the part of so many members of society, but the fact remains that they definitely associate themselves with the respective branches of the organised Church. We have 2½ million Anglicans, 11/4 million Catholics, and 1½ million Presbyterians and Methodists. What an enormous force for good could be exercised by any one of these groups under the accurate and faithful inculcation of the teachings of Christ! Unfortunately, some of the most prominent of the Church officials are the least Christian in their outlook, and seem to go out of their way to permit certain politicians to use their pulpit for personal glorification and the misrepresentation of facts. Irving Benson, for example, told one gentleman that Mr. Menzies was an eminently suitable man to speak at the Wesley Church because he was a member of a good Presbyterian family! Apparently what he DID was not so important.

God Betrayed

There is no escaping the fact that the Church as an organisation has not raised its voice against measures which could only bring further oppression to the poor—measures which in themselves contradicted the very purpose they were supposed to serve. To that extent the religious organisations have betrayed God. As a regular churchgoer, I often feel impatient with the platitudinous utterances of leading preachers, and incensed at the public actions of men invited to speak in church pulpits. In the light of these things it is easy to understand why Communists regard religion as dope. Religion is frequently preached in a dopey way, but true religion is not dope. Much of the trouble comes from the fact that it is espoused by people whose conduct is contrary to their religious professions; by people who fail to inspire confidence in the motives which actuate their public behaviour; and by people who hypocritically indulge in high-sounding religious phrases.

In my view, Mr. B. S. B. Stevens, Premier of New South Wales, ex-member of the firm of J. B. Were and Son, and local preacher in the Methodist Church, must be placed in this category, for it seems clear to me, on the evidence available, that he is seeking to perpetuate conditions which are a disgrace to civilisation, to the Church, and to us as individuals. These conditions are inevitable under the financial system which he supports. Because of this, he is one of the last to whom we should look for instruction about churches or for advice to church adherents. He is seeking a place in the Federal Cabinet, so that he may assist in enchaining us more securely to the discredited financial system, which makes it impossible for us ever to get out of debt, and which places the whole community under the power of private bankers—a system which thwarts the benevolent purposes of God at every point and prevents the fulfilment of the Lord's Prayer.

Yours faithfully, BRUCE H. BROWN. (To be continued.)

A REVEALING DOCUMENT

Annual Report of Bank of N.S.W.

By D. J. AMOS, F.A.I.S.

The latest report of the Bank of New South Wales, dated 25th November, 1938, makes very interesting reading, for it brings home to us, once again, what an extremely wealthy country Australia is, if that wealth is only measured in terms of goods and not in terms of the crazy symbols with which a rotten financial system persists in measuring it.

We produced our full average clip of wool, but Japanese and American buyers absented themselves from the wool sales, so that English buyers had it all their own way, and prices at the final sales of the season were 30% lower than at the opening sales. Growers were reluctant to accept these low values, and there was a carry-over of 236,000 unsold bales, as compared with 47,000 unsold bales last year. Yet our own people are in dire need of this wool for clothing, blankets, upholstery, etc., but the idea of making our financial system supply them with the necessary symbols (money) to enable them to purchase it, never seems to have entered the heads either of disappointed growers or of shivering consumers.

Wheat

Our wheat crop was the fourth largest on record (188 million bushels), but there have also beenrecord harvests abroad, and they are likely to continue. These facts "have forced prices to a low level, from which there is little likelihood of a substantial rise, unless through some unfavourable political development." It is to be presumed, therefore, that we must pray for a war soon, in order to sell our wheat; meanwhile we are to put up our "home-consumption price," in order that we may sell cheaply abroad. This system of making Australians pay more for their wheat the more they produce, in order that the foreigner may pay less, is, in the eyes of our financial masters, "sound," but, to the writer, the sensible thing to do would have been:

- (1) To pay the growers a good price for their wheat and request them to reduce their wheat acreage next year.
- (2) To reduce the price to the Australian consumer by means of subsidies to the trade.
- (3) To sell our surplus wheat abroad for what it would fetch and make up the difference between what we received and a fair price, by a bounty paid to the
- (4) To create (not borrow) whatever money was necessary for these purposes.

Meat

Our *meat* industry enjoyed an excellent year. Not only did production increase (lamb carcasses shipped exceeded five millions for the first time in the history of the trade), but ruling prices were high. It is therefore a great pity that the Australian citizen, through lack of purchasing power, did not get a chance to consume more of the meat he produced and better samples of it. The largest quantity and the best quality of it, was, as usual, exported.

Butter

For the Commonwealth as a whole, butter production showed an increase of 10%, and we are assured that this has brought relief (not prosperity, mind you), to dairy farmers. Unfortunately,

all this milk, butter and cream produced by Australian dairy farmers, did not do so much good to Australian children as it might have done, owing to the fact that so many of their parents lacked the necessary money to purchase enough of these commodities. Yet money is much easier to create than milk, cream and butter.

Sugar

Cane sugar production reached the record output of 810,000 tons in 1937, but most of it was exported. There was only a slight increase in Australian consumption, for the Australian housewife pays about 4d. a lb. for this commodity even in capital cities, and cannot afford too much of it. Incidentally, the modern cane-sugar factory almost completely eliminates human labour in the process of producing the sugar; therefore, it distributes very little purchasing power in the form of wages. If any attempt is made to remedy this state of things by a monetary distribution outside of the productive system, the Bank of New South Wales is usually the first to denounce the attempt as "infla-

Fruit

All classes of fruit increased both in volume and in value. To be sure, the Australian did not get much of it, owing to his chronic shortage of money, but nevertheless, he will be pleased to know that exports increased substantially; so, presumably, somebody enjoyed it even if he did not. (Once again, it is much easier to create money than to grow fruit.)

Metals

There have been severe restrictions placed upon the production of Copper, Tin and Lead, and it is pointed out that "the demand for armament purposes will certainly continue to support the metal market for some time, and that the position of the large surplus stocks of these metals will improve." We are evidently not going to get them cheaply, however great the need for defence.

Gloomy Forebodings

All this real wealth, however, fills the Bank of New South Wales with most gloomy forebodings. Although "the stocks of the principal raw materials are not as great as they were in the last depression . . . we must, on present prices, expect a much lower income from our exports in 1938-9 . reduced income in the hands of exporters . . . a possible decline of real incomes and employment in most other sections of the community . . . the flow of imports and the troubles of primary producers have severely taxed the lending power of the banks, and their liquidity has been so reduced that they are at present forced to discriminate severely in their advance business.'

Banker Speaks

Yet it would almost appear that some doubts as to the wisdom of their policy were beginning to insinuate themselves even into the

(Continued on page 8.)

New Times **SHOPPING GUIDE** and Business **Directory**

MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 8.)

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ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES TOPICAL TIT BITS FROM THE NEWS

VICTORIA

BE OF GOOD CHEER.— Common sense or nonsense! Which of the two intimates sanity and strength? Which of the two has the world in its grip?

Common sense, the dictionary states, is the inherent intelligence proper to mankind; instinctive and intuitive discernment of what is right

It is the aim of the U.E.A. to propagate the instrument known as the Electoral Campaign, by which the intelligence proper to mankind can be expressed and exercised. What higher ambition—what more Christ-like—than assisting the people to *demand* what they instinctively and by intuition know to be right and possible: the banishment of poverty from this world of abundance, with resultant peace and good-will among men.

Is there a message of Good Cheer at this Christmas-tide when all seems fearsome and dark?

There is. Is it not noticeable that there is a decided change in the body politic—that is, in the conscience of the people; that individuals, when spoken to on matters of moment, display an interest and knowledge which was lacking some short time ago; that the idea of the Electoral Campaign is being employed on several counts at present? Then be of Good Cheer. The Voice of the People is being heard.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

RALLY.- On Saturday, December 10, the Rally of the United Democrats (non-party) was held. The attendance was disappointing, but it was good to see so many Old Faithfuls present, together with some of the younger ones.

The president, Mr. E. C. Finn, occupied the chair. Mr. Finn gave a resume of activities in South Australia during this year, and Mr. Brock reported on the position in England, Alberta, California and New Zealand. All readers are advised to read the first two articles in the November issue of the Readers' Digest, re action proceeding in California to secure £6 a week for all men and women over 50 who are not in "gainful occupation." The value of these critical articles is that they reveal the working of Pressure Politics in a State where a majority of the people have the right to initiate legislation. The article on page 23 of the same book is also very interesting, revealing the attitude of the Churches in U.S.A. towards the economic-financial position.

Mr. E. C. Finn, as Campaign Director of the N.I.R.A., reported fully upon the work of N.I.R.A. Supper, and the inevitable collection brought a very enjoyable and profitable meeting to a close.

WOMEN'S DIVISION. — The fourth anniversary was celebrated on Wednesday, December 14, by a luncheon party at the campaign rooms, under the presidency of Mrs. D. C. Scott. The guest-speaker was Mr. Bruce Brown, and his subject, "God's Will in Relation to Money." His practical exposition of the Sermon on the Mount and its implications, promoted keen interest and considerable discussion.

Both sitting and standing room was taxed to capacity, and the luncheon was a complete success. By their faithful and regular at-

tendance, either as workers or supporters, of the cafeteria, the members of the women's division have paid the rent and electric light accounts for the past four years. Apart from the untiring and voluntary efforts of the women workers there would be no club room, no rendezvous for members, and possibly no headquarters for the movement in S.A.

To celebrate Christmas, the women arranged a Christmas luncheon, held in the rooms on Wednesday, December 21, a feature of which was a series of five-minute speeches.

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE LEAGUE. -The Prime Minister visited Adelaide on Wednesday, December 14, in order to speak at the inaugural meeting of the S.A. branch at the Adelaide Town Hall. It is doubtful whether any meeting has been so overstage managed. It was preceded by a march past through the main street, which was viewed by a small crowd of inquisitive people who will always turn up to see a show. From 7.45 to 8.30 p.m. an audience of six or seven hundred was entertained with community singing, male quartet and soloist. After the parade the hall was filled to capacity (about sixteen hundred), and the Prime Minister entered. The matter of National Defence was dealt with by the Lord Mayor as chairman, and Mr. Lyons as Prime Minister. The clapping when Mr. Lyons mentioned the obvious was equalled in some quarters when semi-inebriated citizens were quietly removed from the audience for interjecting. Such clapping over an incident which should occasion silence and regret, gives some indication of the mentality of the clappers. The reporter of these notes, who was present on the platform by invitation, noted that among these clappers were leaders in our military, political and business fife. The meeting gave the impression of being a "flop."

After the meeting two Electoral Campaigners distributed several hundred copies of a pamphlet entitled, Have We the Money to Establish an Adequate Defence System for Australia? This pamphlet quoted Para. 504 of the Banking Commission's Report, and has a detachable letter for the Federal M.P., together with a list of the Federal Members for S.A. It was printed privately, at the expense of a number of workers who contribute a small amount weekly for such work.

N.I.R.A.—Leaving the Town Hall meeting to attend a meeting of the committee and district supervisors of N.I.R.A. was like changing from depression to real prosperity. Here was a group of thirty people preparing for urgent and practical action. Each supervisor has been given a cardboard on which is pasted that section of the metropolitan area for the canvass of which he is personally responsible. They were also given circular letters to call their helpers to the first district meetings in order to subdivide their areas. Funds are beginning to come in, and it is expected that instructions to canvassers, an explanatory sheet and demand forms will be available early in the new year. I noticed that at this meeting United Democrats were in a decided minority, yet appreciation and enthusiasm for the workability of pressure politics was evident among all. Another encouraging sign was the number of young men who accepted responsibility for the conduct of this referendum in their district.

By "LEXICON."

At last we know the reason for all this rearmament business, we must prepare to defend ourselves against our Government. The Minister for Works and Civil Aviation wants to shoot Mr. Curtin. Of course, no one, least of all Mr. Curtain, really believes that Mr. Thorby would ever dream of carrying out his threat, but what wonder that a Government that contains such people as Mr. Thorby should have lost the confidence of the people.

Democracy, of course, gets the Government it deserves; it is to be hoped, however, that we won't deserve a pack of over-grown schoolboys after the next election. It is further to be hoped that Cabinet doesn't start spitting at the Opposition Members in the House. The Victorian Mallee is the place for that.

The diarist of the London Evening Standard has heard that Mr. Stanley Bruce may succeed Mr. Lyons as Prime Minister.

"Mr. Bruce's services in London," continues the diarist, "lift him to some extent above normal party controversy, and might make him the perfect compromise candidate."

We are inclined to agree with the diarist. Indeed, we would go further and suggest that Mr. Bruce's services to Australia might lift him clean out of Australian politics.

Sir Henry Gullett, who, it may be remembered, took a very cavalier attitude regarding his electors' objections to National Insurance, is starting to get a bit worried about it.

In an article headed "The Mystery Attacks Explained," which appeared in Tuesday's Melbourne Herald, he suggests that Major Douglas and his followers are responsible for the practical form the objection has taken. Of course, the fact that neither Major Douglas nor anyone else for that matter, could give practical form to an objection that wasn't there, so to speak, seems to have escaped Sir Henry's notice.

Following the usual policy of the Government members with regard to objections to the Bill, Sir Henry announces that between 50,000 and 100,000 letters have been received by Parliamentarians, whereas the actual number sent in is between half and three-quarters of a million.

Referring to the passage of the Bill through the House, Sir Henry said it had "a fairly comfortable run."

We are of the opinion that it positively bolted.

* * *

A correspondent has written enclosing a cutting taken from the Melbourne *Herald* of Saturday, December 10, headed, "Urges Germ Warfare." It reads as follows:—

"London, Friday. —The wartime assistant of gas attack at British Headquarters in France, Mr. H. A. Sissons, lecturing at Newcastle, suggested that the military authorities should experiment with the dropping of meningococci in thermos globes attached to small parachutes. This would cause a spread of cerebro-spinal meningitis.

"The globes could be arranged to eject their contents from a spray nearing the ground, and infection would be spread from coughing.

"As peoples' susceptibilities varied, it might be better,' he said, 'to include pneumonic,

diphtheria, anthrax, and tetanus germs.' Mr. Sissons also suggested that a plague of infected fleas could be used."

Following on this suggestion as to the best method of carrying out the next war, we submit a report taken from Tuesday's *Herald*, which might give some indication as to the manner in which we are seeking to support our peace pact with Germany: —

"LOAN WITHDRAWN." London, Tuesday.

Czech 8 per cent, bonds were markedly weak yesterday, the final price of £52 representing a fall of f6

The fall was due to the report that the Czechoslovakian Government was unlikely to obtain the unpaid balance of a projected loan of £30,000,000 from Great Britain and France.

It is understood that the Czech financial delegation that returned to Prague at the weekend was offered £4,000,000 of a loan of £10,000,000 as a conditional gift, but the British and French authorities hesitate to make further funds available, as they fear that the money will assist Germany.

"England, my England—
"I could not love thee, dear, so much,
Loved I not money more."

coved I not money more.

A REVEALING DOCUMENT

(Continued from page 7.)

heads of bank directors. Listen to the following statement: -

"Nevertheless, deflationary ten-dencies should be forestalled, and not merely overtaken after damage has been done. Despite the limitations of monetary measures, I believe that the total volume of bank credit outstanding in the community can be controlled, and that it is possible by this means to cut short any tendency for total spending power to be reduced to levels where enterprise is discouraged and factors of production thrown out of employment. I further believe that, should private investors show any reluctance to invest, it is in the power of our Governments, by competent planning in advance, to take up the slack of resources unused, and not only stimulate employment and spending power, but at the same time satisfy the claims which some of the States have for expenditure on internal development.

Much obliged, Mr. Banker, but if you give the people the necessary money, and the Government gives them the necessary protection, they will plan their own economy for themselves. The part for both you and the Government to play is to adopt your policy to their wants, as indicated by their purchases, not to attempt to adapt their wants to your policy.

"Export trade, practised as it has to be practised under the system, is the highway to war."- - Maurice Colbourne, p. 171, "Economic Nationalism."

"To put it quite bluntly, the purpose of wars is to compel weaker nations to take the surplus off the hands of the stronger."—*Professor Soddy*, p. 18, "Role of Money."

"For the monetary system, as existing, is bound to lead to hate. It is bound, finally, to lead to war. Not a war at all. It will be a massacre."—Professor Walter Murdoch.