

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. 5. NO. 1.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1939.

Every Friday. 3d.

Tradition and Progress

The extent to which a nation clings to tradition is a fair inverse measure of its progress. Turkey, under Mustapha Kemal, spanned centuries of progress in a couple of decades, because it overthrew its outworn traditions. America leaped from colonial insignificance to individual greatness when it jettisoned the hampering traditions of an older civilisation. It must be granted, however much we may disagree with its present form of government, that Russia moved, industrially, from the sixteenth to the middle of the nineteenth century in the course of a few years as a result of the fact that it made a clean sweep of progress-barring tradition.

Australia, the youngest country in the world, owes its progressiveness to the fact that it has been less hampered by tradition than the older countries. Today that progress is being slowed down in direct ratio to its submission to tenets the applicability of which has disappeared.

Tradition, according to the New Standard Dictionary, is "An old custom; popular delusion of fancy; old fable; family story or legend, etc." While a traditionalist is "One that adheres to tradition."

All tradition, of course, is not harmful. It is quite pleasant to carry out the traditional festivities of Christmas, and good, in so far as the Christmas spirit helps one to remember one's less fortunate fellows in a kindly manner, but there can be no doubt that tradition is, in the main, a bar to progress, and a traditionalist is a definite hindrance and unconscious enemy to the society in which he functions.

In previous issues we have condemned the National Insurance Bill in its present form, not because we object to the insuring of the people of Australia against sickness and poverty, but because, on the contrary, we are of the opinion that the proposed form of National Insurance is in reality an assurance of continued and increasing poverty for the inhabitants of the potentially greatest and wealthiest country in the world today—potentially great not in armaments and extent and glory of its conquests, nor wealthy by reason of the size of its cities and smokestacks, but because its present stage of development would enable it to supply all the necessities and most of the luxuries of the world's highest civilisations for the benefit of its entire population, while its undeveloped wealth and potential productive capacity is unbounded.

A traditional belief in the power and usefulness of gold, and a blind inability to recognise the fact that it was no longer a reasonable medium of exchange, resulted in an ever increasing poverty in the

The older countries of the world are inclined to set great store by their traditions. We in Australia profess to set no great value on such luxuries, but it often happens that such lack of respect for tradition as we do display is due to "sour grapes" rather than to a properly grounded understanding of the fact that tradition is not merely useless as a general rule, but definitely harmful in many of the instances in which it affects present day conduct of affairs. Yet, it must be obvious to anyone who thinks the matter over that such is the case.

midst of an increasingly super-abundant plenty. In the days when production was so inefficient that it took nine men to provide the reasonable requirements of one, it was perhaps logical that the scarcest known commodity should have been used as a basis for the interchange of scarcity; now, however, when one man is capable of producing the requirements of ten, it is strikingly and painfully apparent that a scarce medium of exchange is obsolete and absolutely unworkable. From the time that gold was first found to be inadequate to function as an exchange medium, paper and figures in books have been used. Not enough to permit the full distribu-

tion of wealth; merely sufficient to enable a few private individuals to wield enormous power and show a remarkably satisfactory return as a result of their monopoly. The "right" of the private bankers to create or destroy the financial credit of the country, irrespective of the common weal, was granted in England by a king who had borrowed money from them, and was personally so much in debt that he was unable to refuse their demands, while being sufficiently powerful to arrange for the imposition of private control of credit banking. It seems almost inconceivable that intelligent people of the twentieth century should calmly continue to suffer

the consequences of a seventeenth century king's folly. The fact of the matter is that it has become a traditional right that the private bankers shall arrange finance to suit themselves, and we are such slaves to tradition that we refuse to see that the time has now come when the necessity is, not to have a scarce medium with which to arrange our distribution, but one that is as abundant as the goods, which we have to distribute.

It is because the National Insurance Bill is based on the assumption that if a man is too sick, too old or incapable, for some other equally good reason, of adding to the wealth of his community, that he must be severely penalised to the extent that he is to be forced to straits that would make death preferable to life, that we unequivocally condemn the Bill. We maintain that every member of our community is entitled to a reasonable sufficiency of the abundance, which the community can produce. We fail to see why the community should need to nearly starve a large proportion of its members, and then add to their sufferings by deducting from their poverty when they are working, in order that they may drag out the end of their lives in even greater poverty when they are too old to work.

Our critics ask by what means we propose that the proper distribution of wealth should be implemented. We reply: "By the people giving specific instructions to their Parliament to arrange that the unrestricted production of Australia be made fully available to the people of Australia. This obviously necessitates that the distributive mechanism—money in all its forms—be under Government control.

National Insurance in its proper sense means an assurance to the people of our country that, irrespective of what misfortune may befall them, their country will defend them against the evils of shortage, as they are expected to defend their country against those same and other evils when, and if, required.

To those who say that the task of arranging the books of the nation to this end is too great to be compassed by any man, we would recall the fact that during the Great War Lord Rhondda organised the rationing and distribution of the food supply among Britain's sixty million population in the course of a few weeks. In Australia there is no shortage and the task of distributing the plenty that is ours should not offer a fraction of the difficulties. See that all our people receive an appropriately plentiful income of effective money and the problem solves itself.

AN OPEN LETTER TO PREMIER STEVENS

Dear Mr. Stevens,

We have all read with great interest "The Sydney Morning Herald's" report of your broadcast New Year message, which has aroused some hopes and much speculation in the minds of many New Economists. From many angles the talk was very perplexing and although you certainly made some very significant and illuminating remarks, we are still so uncharitable as to believe that we can discern the views of Sir Alfred Davidson and the Bank of New South Wales policy.

You uttered an obvious truth when you stated, "Today we have realised that finance must be the servant and no longer the master of national policy." Although we must congratulate you on this statement, we are rather doubtful of your ideas of what may be beneficial for the people as individuals. You speak of national effort and mention the huge rearmament schemes being conducted in various parts of the world. In other words, we still see the ideas of a "more liberal credit policy," as advocated by the Bank of New South Wales and "The Argus." If finance is utilised, as suggested, for a national policy which will still further pawn the Australian people and their as-

sets to the private banks, and regiment the whole of the industrial life of the nation, this will bring very little benefit to the individual citizen.

You further truthfully stated, "The only real limitations of national effort are those imposed by the limits of man-power, materials, power and plant." Once again we might ask what is this national effort you speak so much about. If finance is to become the servant of society in order that the individual may get security, your remarks about man-power, materials, power and plant are very significant, but, if this national effort is to take the lines suggested by "The Argus" and Sir Alfred Davidson, with either yourself or Mr. Menzies supplying that "national leadership" which we have been hearing so much about, we feel that this talk of yours was further subtle propaganda for the above interests which you have been so closely associated with to date. If this is not the case, and you ARE prepared to advocate the use of finance for the benefit of the individual, the "New Times" will be the first to congratulate you.

We trust that your actions in the future will give us the opportunity of doing this—although we are very doubtful.

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(Continued on page 3.)

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

(Continued from last issue.)

It is not merely the past, but things in the present too, which we must face. Much is heard of the wickedness of Japan's aerial warfare. No one wishes to condone bombing horrors; and more will be said on that point later. But just here there is another point to be noted. A short while ago, the speaker happened to be addressing a missionary meeting in the neighbourhood of a large aeroplane factory. And he learnt that that very week a consignment of bombing-planes had been dispatched to the Far East to be assembled out there. And when he heard of the huge sums for which the lives of the mechanics sent out for the assembling of the machines had been insured, in addition to the very considerable salary allotted them, he could not but ponder on the astonishing profits in this trade, which such facts reveal; and ponder, too, on the morality of the whole affair!

Then what of America, which, together with ourselves, so often claims the honourable role of moral tutor to the East? Why does America do nothing?—she talks much. She comes over and sits at Conference tables helping to compose elegant phrases of moral platitudes; but she does nothing to help stop the war. And she could, of course, do so much! Without American oil, and scrap iron, and markets, Japan would be helpless. Why, then, does she not act on her lofty sentiments? The answer, of course, is simple: her commercial interests in Japan are too great: Japan is one of her best customers. And "Business is Business"; you must not be too exacting in your demands for moral consistency. Can it then be disputed that, in judging these problems of the Far East, we do need, first of all, to rid our minds of cant. The West is not so eminently moral that we can afford to set ourselves up as judges of others. At least, let us be honest with ourselves.

Press Prejudice

But the critic of Japan will retort, "These bombings and outrages in China—do you defend them?" Of course not: they are ghastly; they are horrible. But there are two points, which must not be overlooked. It cannot be denied that there has been a distinct Press prejudice against Japan. It is only necessary to compare, for instance, the propaganda use of the "Panay" incident, indulged in by the Press and cinema agencies, with the scarcely more than one-day notice given to the disastrous Chinese bombing of Shanghai, or even more unpardonable Chinese bombing of the unmistakable liner, "President Hoover." And these instances of deliberate prejudice could be multiplied. Taken together, they do reveal a serious prejudice, which is a menace to justice and international goodwill. No colours have been too dark with which to paint Japan's misdoings. It may be worthwhile, then, to quote the unsolicited testimony of one who as a nurse at a missionary hospital in China has not cause to feel friendly towards Japan. "The Japanese bombers came right over our compound every time, going between city and station, and it became pretty clear that they were not going to bomb us deliberately. . . . Monday, September 12th, the Japanese entered the city with much flag flying and no fighting. The hospital has been frequently visited. But no hurt has been done to it. The Japanese military police gave us a

donation of 100 yen to buy foodstuff, etc., for our patients (including ten Chinese soldiers still with us)."

Those Atrocities

Our plea is simply for fair play and the avoidance of prejudice. Of course there have been atrocities. And when the history of the war comes to be written, it will be found that there is little to choose for blackness between the atrocities on either side. Of course the bombings are horrible; but they prove nothing either way as to the morality of the combatants: they only go to prove how devilish is modern warfare. There is only one solution to the horror of these bombings: it is the abolition of the bombing-plane. And some few years ago at Geneva one nation was brave enough to plead for that abolition: that Nation was Japan. The motion was defeated because of the opposition of another great Power: that Power was Great Britain.

Shanghai

So we pass on to the bigger issues. What really lies behind all this prejudice against Japan? What lies at the root of our indignation against Japan? Many would like to answer: "Our conviction that Japan is the aggressor." Many of us, however, have serious doubts about the honesty of that answer. Our own past in China is not so impressive in its witness to a high moral sense of responsibility towards the helplessness of China. Complete honesty is never easy; not seldom it is the reverse of flattering. But always it is most necessary. And if we are honest in this matter it can hardly be denied that the real answer to that question of our prejudice against Japan can be found in the name "Shanghai." Shanghai and our great commercial interests in China! Shanghai means so much to us. That great river-frontage of imposing buildings—great banks and commercial houses—which is the pride of the foreigner in the Far East, it is the symbol of—well, just what? Can we deny it—of our own commercial aggrandisement and cupidity, at the expense of China herself?

Trade Aspect

But we must pursue this question of prejudice further still: it will bring us face to face with the whole issue of Japan's place in the modern economic world. Behind all the prejudice against Japan there lies—none can deny it—fear and annoyance at Japan's amazing progress in the economic world. It is not necessary here to go into that story in detail. It is indeed a fascinating story; and it deserves

at least our admiration in its evidence of Japan's amazing virility and powers of assimilation. But here two aspects only of that story concern our present problem. Much is heard these days of Japanese dumping. Much less or nothing is heard of the positive contribution Japan has made to the modern economic world. And yet it is but the simple truth that Japan's contribution to world trade since the Great War is as great, if not greater, than that of any other single nation. Here is the verdict of Guerithier Stein, an impartial authority than whom few have studied the question more exhaustively: "The world as a whole has won at least as much as she has lost by Japan's progress. For Japan always buys a little more from foreign countries than she sells to them. Workers in Great Britain and in many other countries have virtually lost their jobs to Japanese workers; but increasingly Japanese imports of raw materials have supplied work for Australian woolgrowers, for Indian and American cotton farmers, for rubber planters, for lumbermen and for miners in many other countries with larger orders and more work than would have been available without Japanese imports. Japan created for them new purchasing power, and so far has alleviated world depression. Japan has no reason to consider herself a delinquent in the economic world."

Sweated Labour?

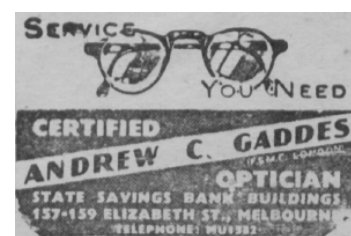
But the critic will retort: "Is not this progress based on sweated labour?" The authorities at Geneva will be recognised as impartial judges on that issue. The following is a quotation from the Report of the International Labour Office at Geneva, written after intensive examination by M. Maurette:—

"Japanese labour organisation and rationalisation in factories are impressive; but still more impressive, I have found, are the Japanese workers. Active, enthusiastic, happy and efficient, they are very intelligent people; and I consider them to be the most valuable capital in the Japanese nation."

Matter of Life and Death

It is impossible here to go into details; but if it be remembered that the Japanese spend more for cultural things (i.e., outside of food, clothing, light, heat, etc.) *per capita* than any nation on earth, out of their small incomes, it will be clear that low wages are not incompatible with a high standard of living. Japanese trade is not the result of sweating or dumping, but of rationalisation of industry, freedom from labour troubles, deftness of fingers, and the general desire to turn out the best work. In short, if only we will get behind our prejudice and face the truth, we cannot but admit that Japan's economic growth, when viewed in its broad results, has been for the enrichment of the world. But for Japan herself, that economic development and commercial enterprise has become a matter of life and death. And here we reach the heart of the present problem, the point where the economic problem and the political problem converge.

(To be concluded.)



TOPICAL TIT BITS FROM THE NEWS

By "LEXICON."

"Weakness of sterling," says the Melbourne *Herald* financial columnist, referring to the fact that "Persistent repatriation" of funds to France and the Continental demands for dollars, owing to international fears, "caused sterling to weaken further today."

If sterling should happen to die of weakness during the year, we can promise it an excellent funeral and a volley of bank charges will be fired over the grave.

* * *

The British Institute of Public Opinion questioned a representative cross-section of British public opinion regarding their wishes on the subject of whether they would like the Duke and Duchess of Windsor to return to live in England. The answers were:—

Yes . . . 61 per cent.
No . . . 16 per cent.

No opinion 23 per cent. The matter of whether the Duke and Duchess are to live in England or not is of considerably less interest than the fact that there is a body in England which is capable of gathering reliable statistical information regarding public opinion. The possibilities for the future in so far as the proper functioning of Democracy is concerned are unlimited. We venture to assert, for instance, that had the present form of National Insurance been placed before the public with an idea of ascertaining the reaction to the terms of the Act, the Bill, as it is at present,

would never have been put before the House.

* * *

"Canberra may gradually acquire intellectual status from the vogue it enjoys as a meeting place for learned bodies," says Wednesday's Melbourne *Sun* in a leading article.

Perhaps we could hurry on the process by removing the Federal House to some quiet spot where it will not disturb nor be disturbed by intellectuals.

* * *

Mr. W. Forster Woods, chairman of the Stock Exchange of Melbourne, made some interesting comments on the subject of wages in relation to prices when he spoke at the New Year opening of the Stock Exchange.

"A rise in the price of necessities necessitates higher wages . . ." says Mr. Woods.

"An increase in purchasing power of money," he continued, "to a greater extent than a reduction of wages—in other words, an increase in real wages"—would, to his mind, "create a greater and sounder prosperity for all. Australia was on an upward spiral in costs and a downward spiral in incomes. *That could not continue for very long without adjustment.*"

The *New Times* has been saying the same thing for nearly four years. We expect the adjustment or the crash within the next twelve months. Personally, we would prefer the adjustment.

BANKERS' BUNK

The American Bankers' Association, in its booklet, *Public Relations for Banks*, says:

"Deposits are safe not only because the bank holds sufficient good assets to cover them, but also because people believe they are safe and refrain from mass demands for their money, by which demands a large part of the value of the assets would be destroyed through forced sales."

Yes, deposits are safe as long as all depositors do not want their deposits simultaneously. The solvency of a bank depends on the "sanity" of its depositors. Under a fractional reserve system your money is safe as long as you do not ask for it. "Sound" money?

The A.B.A. makes another interesting statement:

"Again, the banks have a certain measure of control over a community's financial resources, since the joint funds of the community are in their keeping. This places upon them the duty of

making loans and investments wisely and in the public interest." Yes, we'll say the banks have "a certain measure of control over a community's financial resources"! With our permission they have a monopoly! But don't be deceived by the phrase, "This places upon them the duty of making loans wisely and in the public interest." Banks do *not* lend their deposits, they create credit out of the inkwell, and it is this costless credit-out-of-nothing that they lend at interest. And their loans are not made "in the public interest," so much as in the interest of the bank's stockholders. Banking is a private business, lending money for private profit. Is it reasonable to suppose banks consider "public interest" any more than any other private concern?

The *American Banker* says that the California State Pension Warrants would not be bankable. It says: "Obviously, then, the banks cannot touch the stuff. To accept 100 dollars of scrip in a deposit might mean that a bank would have to affix two dollars' worth of stamps before it could pass it on, even assuming that a depositor would accept the scrip from a bank. Nor can the banks accept the scrip for discount, because the only way it can be exchanged for cash is by presenting it at the end of a year with its full face value in stamps affixed. This would make a loan on scrip a liability rather than an asset."

Yes, a loan that is not created by a bank itself out of nothing, against fractional resources, would be a liability. California must not interfere with the banks' rights to get something for nothing. Oh, No! That would be just too bad!

—Money, New York.

WAR MADNESS

By

LEONORA POLKINGHORNE

The air is rife
With sounds of strife,
And everywhere
There is an air
Of fear intense
And sharp suspense
And talk of war—
Whatever for?

How far it seems—
Like pleasant dreams
When harsh daybreak
Jerks one awake—
Those days men wrought
And planned and thought
Of how to live
And how to give
Their meed of praise
For healthful days,
For life and love,
To God above!

But now instead
The path we tread
Is how each man
And woman can
Think out some way
In which to slay
By millions ten
Their fellow men.
What caused this change
Of heart so strange?

What evil thing
Has come to bring
This frightful state
Of fear and hate
Destroyed men's sense
Of reverence
For man; God-made,
But war-betrayed?

Why talk of gas
And bombs—alas!
with every breath?
Why talk of death
By air and sea
Unendingly ?

And do we need
To cheer the speed
The death-planes make
That undertake
To blast out life
In crimson strife
Some day, somewhere?
Or don't we care?

This madness lies
Where'er men's eyes
Are blinded by
The wicked lie
That we are poor, and
And insecure,
Because of dearth
Upon the earth,
And so must fight
To claim the right
To daily bread
And room to spread,
While plenty lies
Before our eyes.

Awake! Awake!
This nightmare break,
And fight not brother,
Not each other,
But that dark power
That now is able
To kill us from
A council-table.

MEETING

U.E.A. Youth Section
Social Committee

A meeting of the U.E.A. Youth Section Social Committee will be held in the U.E.A. Rooms at 8 p.m. on Thursday next, January 12.

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(Continued from page 2.)

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LETTERS TO "THE
NEW TIMES"

The "New Times" wishes to apologise to a number of supporters to whom it owes replies in regard to sundry letters. During the greater part of last year shortage of staff and the upset and disorganisation consequent on the death of Mr. Moore resulted in an altogether excessive stress of work. Henceforth, however, an increase in staff will overcome the difficulty, and correspondents will be assured of prompt attention.

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Real Defence

In an article in this issue we refer to the fact that subordination of progress to the sentimental acceptance of tradition is a very serious menace to the advancement of civilisation. An article in Monday's Melbourne *Herald* illustrates this fact to a striking degree.

Headed, "Trade Danger In War-Time, Australia Needs Plan To Prevent Collapse," the article put forward a plea for a broad planning to prevent over-production of perishables should war in the Pacific have the effect of crippling our overseas trade. The writer's most plaintive cry throughout the article is in regard to the possibility that Australia will not be able to export its "surplus," not that there will be any serious shortage brought about by lack of imports.

We maintain that any extreme surplus that may result from over-production of perishables while other necessities are *under produced* as a result of undue concentration on that overproduction, would naturally call for reorganisation, but we fail to see why a general overproduction should be the cause of anything but jubilation and increased leisure.

Actually, the writer of the *Herald* article fears that the over-production to which he refers will have the effect of preventing the people having access to the necessities they have created. Obviously, then, the writer's views are coloured by his adherence to the present antiquated monetary system to such an extent that even in a case of extreme national peril he cannot conceive of a Government taking the control of the medium of distribution out of the hands of private internationalists. For defence purposes industry and production may be controlled, labour will be controlled, the military machine and its units will be made as efficient as possible by expert Government employees, but the essential medium by which national effort for defence—inter-

change of supplies, mobilising of troops, feeding of civilian population, etc. — can be effectively carried out, is still to be left in the hands of international monopolists, and, as the *Herald* correspondent points out, there is grave danger that unless something is done about it, those monopolists will function so much to the detriment of the country than an overproduction of perishable foods will result in an undernourished population at the very time of national crisis, when it will be most essential to the continued existence of Australia as a nation, that its people should all be maintained at the highest possible physical standard.

To our mind the first step in preparing for such a crisis as a war that would have the effect of shutting Australia off from the rest of the world is for the Government to take a census of all production in the country. Every primary and secondary producer should be required to send in a statement regarding his individual business. Such a statement should contain information as to *present* production, possible production with plant working to *full* capacity, and the extent of possibilities of *increasing present maximum capacity* by installation of more modern methods and machinery, etc. Efficient Government departments, which have the machinery to deal with, and tabulate, such information should be used for the purpose of condensing and summarising it. The Commonwealth Bank should then be instructed to so expand and regulate the money supply that the productive capacity of the nation would be progressively and effectively monetised.

A census of the general population could be taken with a view to ascertaining the proportion of Australia's wealth that its inhabitants would require. The population census form would contain questions, which would give some indication as to general requirements as regards production, and thus enable the statisticians to inform producers of the proportionate need for the various industries represented.

The net result of such organisation would be that finance, controlled by the peoples' Government to serve the needs of the people, would become the servant of the nation instead of its despotic ruler. Under-consumption would be a thing of the past, and there would be no danger arising from over-production, unless the prospect of increased leisure could be called a danger. It is quite probable that the implementing of such a sane idea would result in a genuine surplus of marketable goods over and above the needs of the Australian people. This could be exported to those countries where there really is a shortage of necessary raw materials, such as wheat and wool, in exchange for any of their products, which, in such circumstances, it would be more convenient to import than to manufacture ourselves.

Such a system would, to our

BOOK REVIEW

"Liberty in the Modern State"

By Harold J. Laski.

Two congratulations are necessary for this work: first, to Mr. Laski for writing it, and, secondly, to The Pelican Books for publishing it. The Pelican books need no introduction to readers. They are serious books, which are brought out in cheap editions as companions to the famous Penguin series of fiction.

I would not like to say I agree with Mr. Laski's definition of freedom. It is to me narrower than it need be, but I agree with most that he says, and when I say that no Government, as far as I know, would agree with him, I think readers will agree that it is a book worth reading, if only for its stimulating value.

Like the Penguin and Pelican books, Mr. Laski needs no introduction. He is Professor of Political Science in the University of London, and one of the co-editors of the Left Book Club. It might, at first sight, seem a flattering tribute to British institutions to say Mr. Laski can write such a book and keep his professorship, but I fear it but proves one thing, and that is that, despite his scholarship, and "Left" viewpoint Mr. Laski is no direct danger to the Money Power. In fact, it is useful (to it) to permit such people as a "sop." It is an interesting speculation whether he would be permitted to teach in the London University if he were a Social Creditor.

Tie that as it may, the book is worth purchasing, if only to read pages 55-66, wherein Laski traces the changes through the ages in the idea of liberty. They stress a fact, so in need of stressing these days, that the nation is only an embodiment of individuals, and has no corporate soul or existence outside those individuals.

Altogether there are 212 pages of closely reasoned reading, and I cannot too strongly recommend the book.

—W. BROWNLEY.

(My copy from F. M. Stapleton, 192 Little Collins Street, Melbourne. Price. 9d; posted. 11d.)

WITHOUT COMMENT

Gradual Payment for Shelters

"To provide an air-raid shelter in the home or garden is something which most people will agree should be done now—but it may not be convenient to find the money immediately to pay for the material required for the construction of the shelter.

This, however, is unnecessary, as payments over a period of 12 or 18 months can be arranged by United Dominions Trust Ltd. (Bankers), Regis House, King William Street, London, E.C.4, or possibly, by others. If you are interested ask your builder or builders' merchant to write to U.D.T. for particulars."

—From a circular issued by the Cement and Concrete Association, 52 Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1.

minds, provide not only an adequate measure of defence, in so far as economic independence is concerned, but also, by reason of the removal of the main *casus belli*, the barrier to free reciprocal trade, *would most probably prevent the war for which we are now re-arming.*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

DECEMBER 1854, and 1938

Sir. —The month of December 1854 when the miners of Ballarat and Creswick districts withstood intolerable authority, stands out boldly in Australian history. From a military standpoint, the miners lost the day but won an immense moral victory. Greater in some ways has been the victory of the people of Australia over the iniquitous National Insurance and Health Act. Without the firing of guns or anything spectacular, the people, with a purpose, have shown their Parliaments the power they, the people, can and should, wield. Just as the miners made a huge bonfire of their "Rights," so the people have, in effect, burnt up the papers of this unjust Act. This must be followed up with further demands for a debt-free issue of money by the Crown to the people. This is only a national corollary to the 600,000 anti-National Insurance protests already sent in, which, during December, 1938, worked on the nerves of the U.A.P. (which stands for the *United* Australia party, in case you forget), that they very nearly crashed. Fancy Mr. Casey trying to put over us that the U.A.P. would do ANYTHING to benefit the people. Remember December, 1938, made history!—Yours, etc.,

"W.F.A."

Burwood. Vic.

BRISBANE'S FINANCES

A flourishing Lower Rates Campaign in Brisbane is being based on revelations so startling as to call forth the most indignant and spontaneous response from every elector who gives them a moment's serious thought.

In spite of the fact that the Commonwealth Bank is expressly stated in the Royal Commission's Report on Banking (page 196, paragraph 504) to be able "to make money available to Governments and others free of charge," Brisbane's rating expenditure for the past year is as listed:

Total rates collected £1,644,987
Total interest and

loan charges . . . £1,489,388
All other expenditure £154,599

In other words, out of every pound collected, 18/1 goes in totally unnecessary loan charges. The accountancy figures are even more fantastic. Brisbane's assets in the form of rateable city property are valued at £21,371,799, but the total Loan Debt is £18,357,746. So Brisbane, the fine city, on the tropical equivalent of the River Thames is worth only just over £3,000,000 if she "sells out" today. How much would each citizen get towards starting life over again, supposing Brisbane were auctioned to repay the Debt?

The truth is that these figures won't bear examination. They are too absurdly unreal, and the sooner Brisbane's citizens are alive to the stupid racket the better. Their councillors and other municipal servants must be made to serve the citizens' interests, not those of absentee recipients of unjustifiable annual charges on fictitious debt.

Fortunately, those who have organised the Citizens' Ratepayers' Association are alive to the scandal and determined to end it.

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"THE JEWISH PROBLEM"

By MILES HYATT, in "The Social Crediter."

The evening paper informs me that now Mexico is refusing to admit Jews, and is sending back across the sea numbers of homeless exiles who thought to find sanctuary there. So one country after another follows the example of Germany in turning more and more of these unhappy people adrift in most desperate plight, and some of us are lost in wonder as to what it is all about—what madness has descended upon us in the twentieth century of civilisation, that we come to be hunting this ancient race about the face of the globe? How does it link up, even remotely, with events in our ordinary everyday lives?

I have learned about "the Jewish problem" enough to know that the more unprejudiced observers are the least known to the general public.

Early History

For a year I acted as research-secretary to a writer on the relations of Jews and Christians from Roman imperial times, and part of my job was the translation and indexing of various law-codes and early canons of Church Councils, which affected the Jews. Certain other monumental volumes, into which I had to delve subsequently, gave me a cursory outline of the tragic history of Jewish-Christian relations up to the 15th century. Thus I began at the right end by being very deeply shocked at, and ashamed of, the treatment accorded to the Jews by Christians. There seems no doubt that the original responsibility for "the Jewish problem" rested with Christendom.

It is not too much to say that the church found the Jews engaged in leading the lives of normal citizens, and, in the course of a few centuries, reduced them to the status of itinerant vendors of old clothes and lenders of money at interest. Christians were expressly forbidden to practise usury, which was declared fit only for Jews and heretics—this was the message of more than one canonical injunction. We know what followed. Usury, practised, perforce, piled social-unpopularity on the top of religious abhorrence, and at last massacres, expulsions and pogroms ushered in centuries of restriction for the Jews in the mediaeval concentration camps known as ghettos.

Emergence

From these ghettos, the Jews began to emerge in the 18th century, at least in Western Europe. Their emancipation was due partly to internal changes in the religious outlook of Christians, partly to self-help and their growing realisation of the power vested in the control of money. It is natural to suppose that they came out with two marked characteristics: an inferiority complex and extremely keen wits, sharpened to razor edge by the struggle for survival. In addition, the Church itself had presented the Jews eight hundred years before with the virtual monopoly of banking, and so presumably with the financiers' mentality.

Two Reactions

Now, in the case of a great many Jews, a generation or two of less hostile treatment saw the sublimation or disappearance of these undesirable features. There are, and, I hope, will continue to be, many fine Jewish professional people in medicine, science and

other vocations calling for remarkable intellectual and personal qualities. Art and music, too, owe them much. Their outstanding achievements are sufficiently well known and have become part of the history of real human progress, relatively a large part.

Unfortunately, certain other Jews did not react in this way. The distinction is, perhaps, one between intelligence and "cleverness." The "clever" Jew, the man bright enough to over-reach his stupid Gentile neighbours in business, but without the intelligence to refrain, has also to be fitted into the picture; and it is the ancestors of this Jew who evolved, or at least adopted, that most outrageous bag of mathematical tricks which we call banking.

A Trick

To this day, in cheap auction-rooms, one sometimes sees a trick played on a yokel by which he is induced to pay two pounds in order to buy back his own pound note along with a "gold" watch. I need not elaborate. The trick is discouraged by the police at village auctions, but it is essentially identical with the first principle on which the "science" of bank-credit creation is established, in realms, of course, high above the authority of the law. In brief, the banker lends what he has not got, on the security of the borrower's own property.

Equipped with knowledge of this trick, simple to play, but difficult to detect, certain Jews set out to exploit the industrial life of the 19th century. One European capital after another, fell to members of the Rothschild family. The Rothschild brothers, on the strength of a capful of cash and a sackful of other people's credit, worked the banking game to such effect that they came to call the tune for every government in the Western world. Throughout the century it is impossible to dissociate a single war, process or event from their manipulations. Their press in every country could create or destroy a party or a national hero overnight, and with a word they could bring about bankruptcy and ruin wherever they wished.

This was during the last century, when Jewish banking was admittedly supreme everywhere; and its power is still clearly visible in the events which lead up to the Balfour Declaration and the entry of America into the war against the central powers—a history better known in Germany than in England, where it has played its part in creating the present bitterness.

Credit Power

Where is the power, which is inherent in the control of credit vested in 1938? Few people know. It has gone underground, and become the secret monopoly of an unknown group. Yet that group is more powerful, and their power is more real, than ever it was in the 19th century; and its continued existence and operation are rapidly bringing about the ruthless enslavement of the individual to the breaking point of utter destruction in another world war. These men, whoever they are, stand responsible for all the stark miseries of our starving and diseased millions surrounded by circumstances of unbelievable material wealth; for the corruption of life by purposeless treadmill competition, artificiality and vulgarity; for the belief that men can-

not exist without pulling down and devouring other men; indeed, for all the ugly, sordid people and ugly, sordid towns which have been called into being by the mere paper-trick of misrepresenting wealth as debt. Therefore, we cannot really afford the energy and time to trace and examine the matter from the angle of historical causation. It is too urgent. The practical steps to be taken now are not to be found by reference to the 15th or 19th centuries. There must be a thorough exposure of the actual truth of the present situation, and the taking of immediate and necessary action based upon the facts, whatever they are.

Pinning Responsibility

The men who are secretly in control of financial credit need to be named and deprived of their power. Jew-baiters and Jew-defenders are beside the point, or rather they exist to the profit of this group and by reason of them. Neither Jew nor Gentile will sleep quietly in their beds until the identity of these men is known and their power taken from them. Peace between man and man depends upon trust, and trust cannot exist when there is some relevant fact being hidden. The longer it is hidden, the more dangerous and the more widely dispersed becomes the inevitable suspicion. Tools of, or those who acquiesce in, a policy gradually acquire the full odium for it.

The serious approach to solution of the Jewish problem is more than one of complete detachment from the welter of prejudice, injustice and brutality with which we are surrounded. It involves, above all things, immediate and relentless concentration on the vital knowledge about the possession and use of the power of financial credit.

Solution

Would the exposure and disarming of this secret ring solve the Jewish problem finally? The question is difficult. If these bankers were found to be non-Jewish, and the people everywhere regained control of their financial institutions, I believe the problem would gradually cease, and cease forever, to have any significance. If discovery took place after palpable and long-delayed suppression to the last possible hour, and the leaders were found to be Jews, the effect upon the whole race might be catastrophe of a permanent na-

ture. Bursting boilers are no respecters of persons.

I am persuaded that the undertaking by Jews of good-will to dissociate themselves from these men by refusal to co-operate in any way with them and by instituting independent action in exposing them, whether they be Jews or Gentiles, and assisting loyally in depriving them of their evil power to restrict and injure humanity, is the one road to real solution of a problem, the roots of which, are planted in distrust and fear.

TOM MOORE MEMORIAL

Library for Youth Section

At a meeting of the U.E.A. Youth Section, held at McEwan House on Thursday, December 15, it was decided to form a library, of be called "The Tom Moore Memorial Library" after the first editor and founder of the *New Times*.

The primary object of the library is the provision of books dealing with economics and matters pertaining to the work of the U.E.A. for the use of the Youth Section. The nucleus of the library consists of a number of books which the late Tom Moore left for the use of the *New Times* staff. It was felt, however, that there could be no more fitting memorial to him than the circulation of those books among the young speakers who are helping to carry on his work where he left off.

A library committee consisting of Misses Jean Barnard, L. Wilson and Mr. David Wild was elected, and instructed by the meeting to arrange for the books to be available early in the New Year.

It was later arranged that subscription should be threepence per book per fortnight, with the exception of new and topical books, the extra cost of which would necessitate a charge of sixpence per fortnight being made. It was further resolved that there should be a fiction section to the library.

Donations of books would be welcomed by the Library Committee, and all correspondence in this connection should be addressed to The Librarian, Tom Moore Memorial Library, U.E.A. Rooms, 5th Floor, McEwan House, Little Collins Street, Melbourne, C.I.

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"MORAL RE-ARMAMENT"

Another Catch-Cry From Moral Bankrupts

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H. BROWN

Sir,

One of my friends must have felt that the recent criticism of Mr. B. S. B. Stevens, present Premier of New South Wales, was too severe, for he sent me a letter starting off as follows: "I am enclosing some references to Mr. Stevens's financial policy, which may have escaped your notice. It would appear that B.S.B. has made some progress . . ." Each of the references enclosed in the letter was already in my possession and had been carefully read. Instead of indicating progress, however, it seemed to me they merely confirmed the opinion that he was speaking for the Bank of New South Wales. It is true that he has advocated "a monetary and financial policy which will ensure a vigorous and much-needed programme of defence, development, and full employment," but it is also true that he advocates this under the existing financial organisation, which permits money to come into existence only as debt to the private monopoly controlling credit. That is precisely what the private banks desire, and means that all the assets created by the work and skill of the population would be placed in pawn to the self-same monopoly controlling the credit. In this respect, therefore, he is acting as a mouthpiece for the financial institutions, and is not acting in the interests of the general community. So far as the rank and file of the citizens are concerned, he has made no "progress" at all, for it can be shown that he has taken a leading part in turning the people's mind away from the study of the real cause of our community difficulties and the steps necessary to rectify the situation.

Outrage Against Decency

For a man with his direct knowledge of the working of the "Loan" Council, and of the absolute dependence of all Governments on the quantity of finance available, to get up in a church and advocate the need for moral rearmament on the part of the individuals in the community without so much as a word against the fraud of the system under which he is managing the affairs of his State, is more than a cheek—it is an outrage against decency, and he should be told so publicly.

At the Malvern Hill Methodist Church, Sydney, on December 4 last, he said, "today we lived in a world that was dominated by two outstanding factors. The first was the implications upon the whole civilised world of the agreement arrived at by the four great

powers and known as the Munich agreement; and the second was the armament race, which was the greatest the world had ever seen. These factors arrested our attention, fashioned our conduct, and would probably determine our destiny." According to the report, he said nothing at all about the all-important and all-controlling factor which not only led up to the "agreement by the four great Powers" at Munich, but also to the greatest armament race the world had ever seen. That factor was and is, FINANCE, and no public man honestly endeavouring to face the facts, and speak the truth, could possibly omit reference to that part of the "crisis." Instead of dealing with that, however, this religious masquerader went on to speak as might have been expected from a professional showman. Here are his words, as given by the *Sydney Morning Herald* of December 5: "One central cause for the difficulties and dangers under which the world laboured today was that human beings and nations had learned to control physical forces without acquiring the same measure of control over themselves and their relations to one another. I sometimes think that the world has out-organised itself, and in this mad race for physical efficiency has almost forgotten the art of controlling human motive and determining human relationships." It was after saying this that he went on to urge the need for the moral re-armament.

Text Quoters

Now in talking like this he is talking for the financier, because, while the people can be persuaded to think about morals (i.e., their OWN morals!), they are less likely to think about the real cause of the trouble—namely, FINANCE AND THE MORALS OF THE FINANCIERS. You see the same principal theme through all the publicity channels. The Melbourne *Argus*, for example, which gave great prominence to the proposal that Mr. Stevens should be admitted to the Federal Cabinet, and which has the head of the "investment" firm of J. B. Were and Son for its chairman, never does anything at all to expose the fraud of the money system, but religiously quotes a text each day from the Bible. All these accept and advocate the idea that finance should control everything, yet resist all efforts to have finance controlled for the benefit of the community. This means that God, God's people, and God's gifts are all subject to the "laws" of finance—"laws" which were privately for-

mulated and are privately operated. It also means that any man who stands for the continuance of such conditions stands AGAINST God, and places himself under the condemnation of Jesus, Who said so clearly, "No man can serve two masters. You CANNOT serve God and Mammon." Those who serve Mammon do not, and cannot, serve God, and Mr. Stevens has shown that he is the servant of Mammon. No greater impropriety could therefore be conceived than for such a man to be permitted to occupy a Christian pulpit for the purpose of throwing dust in the eyes of trusting worshippers.

Not Morals But Food

It is not true to say that what the WORLD needs is moral rearmament. When I use the term "world" I mean the earth and its inhabitants. What these need is proper use of the resources placed on and in the earth by God, and proper use of the energy and intelligence of the people placed on the earth by the same God. So far as ninety-nine out of every hundred people are concerned, there is little missing in regard to their morality, and, just as Jesus found no fault with the people of His day, in that respect, it is certain He would find no fault with the people today in the same direction. There is far more actual good will among the PEOPLE than some would have us believe, and this is true notwithstanding the needless hardships imposed on them by the mere handful who have so far been permitted to control finance. The only persons in need of moral rearmament are therefore those few for whom Mr. Stevens has been working—viz., the controllers of the banking system. All the people need to ensure their physical happiness is regular access to an adequate supply of good food, good clothes, good accommodation, and to healthy recreations. These things are available in plenty, but the great majority of us are denied access to them because we are not supplied with the money to purchase them. *This is* The Great Immorality, and the few people responsible for that are well known to Mr. B. S. B. Stevens. In the face of this fact (and it IS a fact), what hypocrisy, even dishonesty, it is for the Premier of our largest State to seek to foster the false impression that the troubles of the world arise from the moral laxity of the people at large. That is bad enough, but when he goes so far as to use a church pulpit for his base purpose then I submit that he deserves no consideration.

Attempts to Ridicule Truth

This is the same man who arranged for the proposals known as "Social Credit" to be examined by a man who apparently did not understand the origin, function, or control of money, and for his adverse report to be printed and circulated. This is an old trick. Adverse reports and ridicule were also circulated about the discoveries of Louis Pasteur and other great men. Fortunately, the truth of the discoveries remained, and we are now enjoying the benefits of their application. Opposition to social credit will prove equally futile, and earlier than some of us realise the great truth of the discovery will be applied to our community and individual lives with benefit to everyone and injury to none. When that day comes we will begin to see the fulfilment of the prayer, "Thy Will Be Done On Earth As It Is Done In Heaven." Until that day,

however, our prayers must necessarily be in vain, for God's Will takes second place to the financiers' will.

A Letter to the British Prime Minister

The propounders of this Social Credit, the greatest man the Empire has ever produced, has recently had some correspondence with the British Prime Minister on this question of Moral Rearmament. In a letter dated the 28th October, he makes three important points in the following terms:

(1) "In regard to the last paragraph of your letter, Major Douglas feels that his assurance of agreement with the Prime Minister's present policy could be given more practical expression if he were assured of the recognition for the necessity of what has come to be called 'moral re-armament.' By this he understands the raising of the morale of the general population, which is admittedly far from satisfactory."

(2) "For instance, he feels that the almost contemptuous disregard of the provisions of the Petition of Right, which expressly prohibits compulsory billeting, and the suggestion of compulsory billeting itself, is nicely calculated to convince the population that it has already lost so many of its liberties that a victory by a totalitarian State is not of very much importance, and the avoidance of it is hardly worth fighting for." (3) "In general, he feels that the hysterical cry for sacrifice would be less irritating if there were any general conviction that the banks and insurance companies, who have been almost the sole beneficiaries of the continuous sacrifices made during the last 25 years, would be, as a preliminary, asked to disclose the true value of their holdings, the rate at which they have been acquired, and should it be found that this is in excess of general business profits, be required to disgorge them before sacrifices are asked in regard to the property of the general population."

The Vultures

Every one of us should think carefully over those remarks. They expose the immorality of the moralists. Men who for years have been serving the interests of banks and insurance companies, institutions which have appropriated to themselves the sacrifices imposed over an extensive period on a long-suffering populace, are now trying to tell that same long-suffering populace that their difficulties are due to their own lack of morality as individuals, without so much as a word against the vultures working in the background to encompass the people's servitude. Mr. Lang was not "permitted" to continue as Premier of New South Wales because he sought to expose banks and insurance companies, and it was because Mr. Stevens did NOT expose them that he has been "permitted" to hold that office during recent years. Mr. Stevens knows this, and he also knows that he has been advanced in his personal position at the expense of the community, because he has championed the cause of "Sound Finance," which is demonstrably the enemy of God and the obstacle to the happiness of mankind.

Personal Control

Think again of this assertion that "human beings and nations have learned to control physical forces without acquiring the same measure of control over themselves and their relations to one

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another." The purpose of that was to put the blame on us as human beings, but is it not obviously true that the extent to which we may make use of the earth's physical forces, as well as the nature of our relations with others, are governed almost entirely by finance? Ask yourself to what extent you may employ the physical forces of the earth for your own comfort without finance. Ask yourself what chance you could give your children or what chance you would have in business if you had no finance. If your heart were perfect and your morals beyond reproach, how would you fare without an income of money? If the earth were overflowing with good things to eat, how would you obtain sufficient under the present system unless you had MONEY to purchase them? If you have money you can get the benefit of the physical forces, but if you have no money you must go without and in the matter of "control" you simply have no say.

The World Over-Organised!

And then again. This great, self-appointed and self-satisfied moralist made the illuminating statement that "the world has out-organised itself." What a wonderful old thing the world is! Despite the cartoons we see of it with its head all plastered with bandages, it apparently has a genius for organisation, and all it lacks is ability to control human motives. The real trouble, of course, is the fact that the world as such has no say at all in the matter. Except in its unimportant movements round the sun and its response to the influence of nature, it is obliged, in the important things, to submit to finance—the master organisation controlling all other organisations. And it is because this master organisation has been so badly organised, and so fraudulently operated, that the poor old world has to wear the bandages. Everything is right except finance, and yet this pulpiteer named Stevens goes strutting round calling attention to anything BUT the failure of finance. Moral re-armament, forsooth! All we need is honesty of mind and straightforward conduct in high places, and the dismissal from positions of authority of moral bankrupts, whose only stock-in-trade is ability to utter meaningless catch-cries intended to mislead. The problems of the day can never be solved by such men, for the simple reason that they will not face the CAUSE, and the sooner we realise it the better for all of us.

Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H. BROWN

"Ever intensified competition for foreign markets is one of the most fruitful causes of war. War is the demonstrably inevitable outcome of the present system."—*Rotary International Social Credit Research Committee's Report*, p. 26.

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CAN DEMOCRACY BE SAVED?

The Decline of an Ideal: Where We Have Failed

By ROBERT LYND.

Condensed from *John O' London's Weekly*.

"The lights are going out," said Mr. Winston Churchill after the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia; and there is no doubt that democracy is in greater peril to-day than it has been since the Great War was fought to make the world safe for it. This is largely the fault of the democracies.

It is not only that they have been conspicuously inefficient both at home and abroad. They have also been lukewarm in their faith in democracy. Threatened by two rival schools of politics, Communism and Fascism, who pursue their programmes in the spirit of a holy war, democracy has stood lazily on the defensive, and few who read the speeches of democratic statesmen would realise that the ideal which they champion is the most glorious ideal that has yet appeared in the political history of mankind.

SAYING WHAT WE THINK.

Many people seem to think of democracy as a method of keeping things more or less as they are at present in Western Europe. They look on democracy as a thing that has already been achieved rather than as a goal towards which the human race is still marching.

I may say at once that I have no intention of belittling the achievements of democracy. In a democracy, man is freer to speak his mind than under any other system of government, and that alone seems to me to constitute an enormous addition to human happiness. The ordinary Englishman conversing with his friends is free to call Mr. Chamberlain a fool, as he is free to call him the saviour of Europe, and he can do so without trembling apprehensively lest his words may be repeated to the secret police, and in the result cost him his liberty. As free conversation is one of the most important of human pleasures, this seems to me to be a freedom worth preserving.

LIBERTIES TAKEN FOR GRANTED

Democracy also provides the ordinary man with more opportunities to criticise the authorities, to get rid of them if he wishes, and to put better men in their places than any other form of government. If he is discontented with the Government of the day, he is at liberty to oppose it by voting under the secrecy of the ballot, by organising public meetings, and by supporting an opposition Press. To some of the younger generation these liberties apparently seem to be a small matter, and, indeed, to be illusory. But they are far from being illusory. The reformers of the past were not fools, and were not blind when they spent their lives struggling for such things as votes, the right of public assembly, and a free Press.

Imagine a condition of affairs in which these things were withdrawn. Is it not certain that the mass of Englishmen, realising what they had lost, would at once put aside everything else in a passionate struggle to regain them? The achievements of democracy seem tame only to those who have come to take them for granted, as they take for granted the air they breathe and the pure water in their homes. Let a typhoid epidemic break out, as at Croydon, and a pure water supply be-

gins to seem quite excitingly important.

IDEALS MUST BE POSITIVE

The only hope for democracy is that it will become as positive an ideal as Communism or Fascism—that it shall hold out still greater hopes for the future of the common man than any dictatorial Utopia. It must accept the ideal of equality, and a gradual approach to a just distribution of the good things of life, the ultimate goal being (roughly) economic equality as well as political equality—and, while struggling towards the goal, it must see to it that the common man loses none of those liberties so hardly won in past generations. Democracy, inspired by such a purpose, will cease to be the lukewarm thing it sometimes seems in comparison with the creeds of the dictatorships.

It is to my mind the only form of government worthy of a free people; but, in order to save itself, it must become more actively, positively and creatively democratic than it is today.

HAVE YOU SENT THIS LETTER TO YOUR FEDERAL MEMBER?

....., M.H.R.,
Canberra, F.C.T.

Sir,

I note with pleasure that the implementing of the National Health and Pensions Insurance Act has been postponed until September, 1939; but, if you, as my representative, do not voice my demand for the repeal of this Act on the floor of the House, and faithfully strive to make my demand effective, I hereby pledge myself to use my constitutional right and power to vote you out of Parliament at the earliest opportunity.

Yours, etc.,

(Name).....

(Address).....

Federal Electorate of

(I have written to you on..... previous occasions demanding repeal—not postponement.)

* * *

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

Parliament House, Canberra, is sufficient address.

- BALACLAVA . . . White, T. W.
- BALLARAT . . . Pollard, R. T.
- BATMAN Brennan, F.
- BENDIGO Rankin, G. J.
- BOURKE Blackburn, M. M.
- CORANGAMITE . . . Street, G.
- CORIO.....Casey, R. G.
- DEAKIN . . . Hutchinson, W. J.
- FAWKNER Holt, H. E.
- FLINDERS . . . Fairbairn, J. V.
- GIPPSLAND Paterson, T.
- HENTY Gullett, Sir H.
- INDI.....McEwen, J. S.
- KOOYONG . . . Menzies, R. G.
- MARIBYRNONG
Drakeford, A. S.

- MELBOURNE
Maloney, Dr. W. R.
- MELB. PORTS, Holloway, E. J.
- WANNON . . . Scholfield, T. H.
- WIMMERA . . . Wilson, A. T.
- YARRA.....Scullin, J. H.

New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

MELBOURNE (Cont.)
(Continued from page 3.)

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

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"YORK HOUSE" BASEMENT,
298 LITTLE COLLINS STREET,
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And at 80 MARSHALL ST., IVANHOE.
Phone: Ivanhoe 88.

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

KEW.

ANDERSON'S, 141 High St. Authorised Newsagent. Haw. 1145.
BUTCHER, S. Daw. High Street, Opp. Union St. Satisfaction, S'vice. 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
IMPERIAL DAIRY. R. H. Kent. 9 Brougham Street. Haw. 3243.
LADIES' Hairdresser. Haw. 5605. "Burnie Salon," 81 Gotham Rd.
M. J. MARTIN, 157 High St. Haw. 3794. Shoe Store, Shoe Repairs.
MOTOR GARAGE. Kew Junction Service Station, Cr. High & Denmark Streets. Haw. 6457.
RADIO EXPERT. J. G. Littlewood, 267 High St. Also Elec. Appliances.

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

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

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

NORTHCOTE.
GRAY A JOHNSON Pty. Ltd. Leading Land and Estate Agents 742 High Street Thornbury.

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

PARKDALE.
RADIO REPAIRS AND SALES. C Barnett, 19 Herbert St. XW2831

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A. RYAN, opp. Stn., Shoe Repairs. Tennis Racquets Restrung from 7/6
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CONFECTIONERY and SMOKES. Gibson's, Bay Rd., opp. Theatre
GROCERS, McKay
A WHITE, Ray Rd. opp Theatre. XW 1924
HAIRDRESSERS and Tobacconist A. E. Giddings, 18 Station St.
HOME MADE CAKES. F TAYLOR, 81 Bay Rd. XW2048
LIBRARY, 6000 BOOKS. COUTIE'S NEWSAGENCY

ST. KILDA.
HARVEY'S COFFEE GARDEN. Sweets. Smokes. 227 Barkly Street
SPRINGVALE.
DAIRY, M. Bowler. Buckingham Ave. R. MACK AY & SONS. General Storekeepers. UM 9269

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

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

THE CHALLENGE OF 1939

Eric Butler Makes a Personal Appeal to the Movement

"The Time Was Never Better for a Well Organised Offensive Along Definite Lines"

I address this personal appeal to every reader of the *New Times* and all those people who believe in the ultimate success of our struggle for complete economic and political democracy. Hundreds of you I know personally, while thousands more I hope to meet during the forthcoming year. However, I feel that I am writing this appeal to friends, to fellow-democrats. Bound together by a common ideal, we look towards Australia's dawn. I firmly believe that the indications are that the first flush of that dawn is already breaking, and that we can make the year 1939 the most memorable in the history of Australia. But to capitalise the quickening tide of events and achieve the goal we are all striving for, we have got to accept a greater personal responsibility than ever before. Definite lines of organisation for 1939 have been tentatively drawn up by U.E.A., and the possibility of carrying those plans to a successful conclusion depends upon every individual in the movement. It is because of this that I write this appeal.

"We Are Winning"

Before proceeding any further, it may prove of interest to briefly survey the progress made in 1938. Although early in the year I personally found that public opinion was somewhat alive—more especially in the country areas—I found that big meetings were hard to get. However, those who did attend were solidly behind us and were convinced that we had something definite and constructive to offer to Australia's problems. After the launching of the Kooyong Campaign things moved along much better, although, as a speaker, I felt that there was something missing in our approach. By studying public reactions many of these weaknesses were eliminated, and we certainly made a big impression upon Kooyong. Mr. Menzies will find it very difficult to hold this seat at the next elections. We are winning in this electorate.

The Stimulant of the Youth Section

At this stage the Youth Section started, and undoubtedly produced a greatly needed stimulant and driving force. As a team they are doing a splendid job, while the excellent press publicity given some of their meetings has done more in the way of publicity than many previous efforts by the movement. They are certainly playing a big part, and I am thoroughly convinced that they will play a still bigger part during the next period of the campaign. I find an ever-increasing number of young people who are prepared to challenge the existing order if they are given a lead. The Youth Section is giving that lead.

The Outstanding Event

However, undoubtedly the outstanding event of the year was the instigation of the Campaign for the Repeal of the National Insurance Act. This campaign is certainly going to be the turning point in Australian history, providing the long-wished-for opportunity to demonstrate the power of Electoral Campaign tactics to

In the following personal appeal, Eric Butler touches a note, which must stir and inspire every believer in democracy. Thousands of his friends throughout Australia have followed his courageous fight for reform over the past twelve months, during which he covered over 15,000 miles in Victoria and N.S.W., addressed 143 meetings, and wrote dozens of articles. Only 22 years of age, this personal effort needs no comment. One of the best exponents of the Electoral Campaign in Australia, some of his addresses late last year on the philosophy of democracy were a revelation and inspiration to those present. We sincerely hope that he will get the support and co-operation, which he appeals for.

the Australian public. It appears that the Government is going to persist in its endeavour to bring the Act into operation. This being the case, the campaign for the repeal of the Act must be intensified. All individual members of the U.E.A. are urged to continue the pressure throughout this year. Public opinion will ultimately win, and thus pave the avenue to the approach of the real issue.

A Summary

During the closing weeks of 1938 the tempo of public feeling towards reform was rapidly increasing, and it will continue to increase over the next six months. During the Riverina tour I altered my speaking technique, tried a slightly different approach - - and got remarkable results. I find that, we have got to make our message simpler, and adopt a line of approach, which will make the individual feel the necessity for personal responsibility. This brings me to one of the important aspects of the campaign, which I desire to bring before all supporters.

We Have a Responsibility

Those people who thoroughly understand the urgency of the need for drastic reform before it is too late must feel discouraged at times by the lack of interest by even some of the alleged adherents of democracy. I quite realise that, human beings being what they are, it is very easy to drift into an apathetic frame of mind and to continually keep putting things off. We are all prone to do this. But the time for apathy and inertia has long passed, and the whole nation will have to face reality in the immediate future whether it likes it or not. This applies particularly to those individuals who know what is wrong and what to do. In other words, as I have heard Bruce Brown say on more than one occasion, "If you know the truth and remain silent you are acquiescing in the crime." Well, that is the position of every person in the movement. The time to speak has arrived, and the time to speak is getting shorter. I therefore make a personal appeal to consider the following suggestions, which I have to make.

The Time of Action Has Arrived

After twelve months of close contact with the supporters and the public in all parts of the State, I am thoroughly convinced that the time was never better for a *well-organised offensive along definite lines*. The first step was taken when the Editor of the *New Times* and myself made an extensive 1000-mile tour of Victoria in order to make the position of the paper more certain, before

the next step in the campaign was taken. The response on that trip clearly indicated the possibility, the necessity, for urgent action. To those whom I personally saw on that trip, and who promised help to the paper along the lines I am working on, I would like to appeal once again to honour their promises as soon as it is possible. We need their help now—not when it is too late.

The Next Step

The immediate position confronting the movement at the present time is to weld it into a unified fighting force attacking along well-organised lines. With this end in view we have drawn up tentative plans, which will be outlined in some detail in the next issue of the *New Times*. An immediate increase in the circulation of the paper by means of an intensive campaign and a monster rally in some convenient Melbourne hall, where we will place a comprehensive plan of campaign before all supporters. This will be the biggest event" in the history of the movement, and will give the Campaign that impetus so vitally necessary. Every supporter is asked to watch for next week's paper, and be prepared to help to the best of his or her ability. That success will attend our efforts I have very little doubt. In the meantime, would all supporters who feel that they can help with the immediate job of increasing the circulation of the paper please get in touch with myself immediately. **AND DON'T FORGET! READ NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE FOR THE PLAN OF ACTION. WE WANT YOUR HELP. ANY INQUIRIES WILL BE DEALT WITH IMMEDIATELY.** Apart from the hundreds of supporters whom I do know, I also make an appeal to the many thousands whom I have never met. We desire your help and your suggestions. It is your campaign.

A Rough Outline of Programme for the Year

Apart from the plan of action in Melbourne we also desire to intensify the campaign throughout the country districts with a view to increasing sales of the *New Times* and establishing groups. I am confident that results can be achieved. I will take the first step towards this with a tour of the Western District, where public feeling is increasingly sympathetic to reform now. This tour will take place before the big meeting in Melbourne, after which I will leave for a tour of the Northeast on the way to Sydney. After the Sydney trip I intend to carry on with the work of intensifying the campaign throughout the country districts in Victoria, working towards a big demonstration in the

Melbourne Town Hall during Show Week. Would all those country supporters who can help organise meetings in their districts get in touch with headquarters immediately, in order that proper arrangements can be made. Without your co-operation I shall find the job practically impossible.

Thanks to Those Who Have Made My Efforts Possible

I cannot consider this appeal complete until I have expressed my sincerest thanks to those who have made my personal efforts possible. Without the kind and generous assistance so readily offered by many of the supporters it is doubtful whether I would have been able to carry on. It is hard to make any distinction between the instances of assistance given, but there are a few particular people who have been of more help than perhaps they ever realised. I appreciate their efforts and will endeavour to make the best use of their help in carrying on this all-important struggle. On this point I feel that I would like to say more, but space will not permit. Neither can any words of mine appropriately express my feelings. However, rest assured that those of us in the front rank will do our best. Will you continue to help? Of course you will. Let 1939 be the year when real democracy was born in Australia. Let it be the turning point in Australian history, when this great nation, with its wonderful potentialities pulsated with the warm blood of true democratic government and human happiness became an actual living reality. Follow this historic Campaign by reading the *New Times*, and persuade your friends and acquaintances to also read it. Every issue will be packed full of interest, and the complete plans for intense action unfolded as we advance on the road to freedom and security.

FINANCE VERSUS BARTER BLOC?

Sir, —The papers report that Rumania has made a barter sale of 28,000,000 bushels of wheat; that Mexico has made a barter sale of petroleum products; that aeroplanes have been exchanged for soya beans; that Turkey has entered a barter trade agreement; that other Eastern European States have joined the new "bloc"; that interference in the new economic and monetary arrangements in China will not be tolerated; that U.S.A. is building a powerful fleet to protect her trade from encroachment by barter agreements; that Britain is arming for "defence"; that Australia is being forced headlong into an extravagant "defence" programme.

Connecting all these things and events, is it possible that "Sound Finance" has been told, by the "barter bloc," to go to hell, and in consequence the democracies are being roused and armed to fight for "democratic institutions" and "freedom"? —Yours, etc.,

"CURIOUS."

Melbourne.