

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

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MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1939

Every Friday, 3d

Australian "Democracy" Invites War

Australia is now starting to feel the full blast of the present trade recession because of the servile and apathetic attitude of the people as a whole. Australian history is in the melting pot, and the immediate question to be asked of all citizens in Australia is whether they are going to reverse the process of collapse in Australia or whether they are going to wring their hands in futile despair and apathetically say they can do nothing about it. The truth of the matter is that *they* are the only ones who are potentially likely to do anything, and it is because they have failed to do anything about it in the past that the present crisis has developed.

Further, it has become painfully obvious to those people who use their brains for the correct function that the threat of world war is wrapped up with the artificial, financial collapse of the primary industries in the major agricultural countries throughout the world. While reciprocal trade is frustrated and certain countries find it ever harder to get access to raw materials, the stage becomes set for the complete destruction of what we call civilisation. The majority of citizens of Australia have, until the present time, acquiesced in this mad procedure, in spite of protests to the contrary are pursuing a policy which is fanning the spark of war, and are, at the same time, betraying the Australian primary producers in the process. They have the power to immediately put their own house in order and, by so doing, show the rest of the world that sanity has not yet completely vanished from the ken of man. Australia has a unique opportunity of immediately making a practical contribution to world peace.

The Immediate Problem

Let us for a few moments forget blind hatreds and prejudices and calmly and dispassionately survey the present position and the cause of it. It is futile and ridiculous for us to get indignant about the many ghastly effects, which the present system has produced without directing our active attention to the causes. Such folly is exemplified by the inability of our very efficient police to wipe out crime by force. Crime will never be stopped until the *causes* of it are removed. And the same position exists in the international sphere, where jungle laws also hold sway. Wars are bred in the present trade situation, and will continue to occur while the present trade policy is pursued. We know, also, that in times of war, the passions of men become aroused, and that reason is replaced by propaganda and force.

It is hypocritical for Australians

And Betrays Australian Primary Producers in the Process

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

1938 was a year in which the tide of events swept with devastating effect across a world, which shows signs of resigning itself to complete chaos and world war in 1939. The wreckage left by that wave of events is to be seen in every country of the world.

to deplore the terrible suffering in China, when they themselves, by sanctioning the 1935 trade diversion policy, actually helped the other "democracies" to force Japan out of the world's markets and into war. You might as well tie up an Alsatian, semi-starve him, and then wonder why he bites someone. The obvious thing is to be on friendly terms with him, and give him an adequate supply of bones. The same position exists with Japan. She wants more of our surplus wheat and wool, and is prepared to pay us handsomely with manufactured goods in return. But—to do this we have got to have an adequate flow of money to the pockets of Australians with which they may buy all that they desire of our own

products AND whatever desired goods the Japanese have to offer in fair exchange for our surplus. If the money supply were adequate in Australia we would not have our primary producers on the verge of bankruptcy while people in Australia are semi-starving. Neither would we find other countries resorting to war in order to try and get access to raw materials. Instead, they would sell their own surplus products here (as we would have sufficient money with which to buy them), and would then have Australian money with which to buy our surplus raw materials. The onus is therefore on the Australian people to see that their members of Parliament take this action *now*—before our primary producers are

completely ruined and war is resorted to.

Have We the Courage to Do It?

The immediate situation is therefore clear and critical. Relieved of all the complications and trimmings with which the daily press has clouded the situation, the terrible fact stands out that certain countries, such as Germany, threaten war primarily because they cannot get the raw materials, which our primary producers urgently want to dispose of. Surely there was never anything more ridiculous! And unless we who, at least in theory, rule this country, decide that the obvious thing is to arrange that these countries have access to our surplus raw materials, we will still further reduce the standard of living in Australia. If we allowed Germany, for example, access to these raw materials we would actually be increasing *our* standard of living in this country, because Germany and other such countries are *anxious* to pay us for them. In fact, they are prepared to pay us well.

We may ask why this present state of affairs continues. Well, it continues because the people of this country have never yet *demanded* that we control our own money supply and monetise the production of our real wealth, as suggested above. If this were done, we could consume as much of our production as we desired and would then be able to exchange our surplus on a pound-for-pound basis with such countries as Germany, who have a surplus of manufactured goods to offer us. But before the German people can get access to our products they must first be able to sell *their* products in this country establish Australian credit, with which to buy our wheat and wool. This was clearly pointed out by the German Consul. Dr. Drechsler, early in 1938 at the Victorian Wheatgrowers' Conference, when he said that Germany was very keen to buy Australian wheat and wool but was unable to do so because she could not sell her manufactured goods here. Germany could not sell her goods here because WE suffer from a shortage of money. And that is OUR fault.

Just so long as we continue this policy we are inviting war. That is indisputable. We can either give a lead to an insane world by putting our money system in order, and offering the hand of friendship in trade to such countries as Germany and Japan, thereby removing to a large extent the cause of all the trouble, or alternatively, we can carry on our present procedure of provocation—and then ask the cream of

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Mr. Lyons,

And so you thought to obtain a little more publicity for yourself by criticising our distinguished visitor, Mr. H. G. Wells? Well, we have always thought, in spite of your many ridiculous utterances and actions in the past, that you did have an astute form of cunning.

Of course we may be uncharitable, and you may really have an earnest desire not to upset the susceptibilities of Adolf and "Musso." If this is the case, you have been well rewarded, for you are reported as having received widespread congratulation in the Berlin press. And, in view of your Government's distinct Fascistic tendencies, we feel that these congratulations will no doubt further inspire yourself and certain other politicians with the ideals of this "strong national leadership" we have been hearing so much about.

We must point out that we are not in complete accord with all the views of Mr. Wells, but we do know that he has used his position and abilities to draw people's attention to the rotten and criminal conditions under which a vast number of the people of this and other countries are needlessly forced to exist. We presume that if Mr. Wells should be so "indiscreet" as to pass any comment on the conditions in this country you will naturally rally to the defence of your "almost unbeliev-

able prosperity," although there appears to be a feeling abroad that it has departed for parts unknown. The principal regret, which we have in connection with Mr. Wells' utterances, was that he did not include yourself and other members of the present Government amongst the "certifiable lunatics." Of course, you may regard our feelings as a little strong, but when we see a major part of the continent in the grip of a drought, and remember that the only reason why some of the billions of gallons of water which flowed into the sea during the past years were not stored was because your Government pleaded that there was a shortage of FUNDS, we think that we have a very sound reason for our feelings. And still further, when we see war threatening Europe and devastating Asia because certain countries cannot get access to raw materials which they urgently desire, while the farmers of this country are at their wits' end to satisfactorily dispose of those raw materials—all because of the present monetary system which you have upheld in Australia—we sincerely hope that Mr. Wells will have something very drastic to say when he carries out his suggestion to either write or say something about you. If he should not do this you may rest assured that you will hear further in the future from

"THE NEW TIMES."

(Continued on page 7)

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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.)

The population of Japan is rapidly nearing seventy millions; with a natural annual increase of all but a million. How can this vast population be maintained? One-fifth only of the land is cultivable; and all authorities are agreed that land utilisation in Japan has reached its limit. Only by intensive industrialisation can this vast population be maintained. So Japan has launched out on that career of industrialisation and Westernisation, which has staggered the world. But the point that concerns us here is that her very success has roused the world's anger—or at least an intense prejudice throughout the manufacturing countries.

And now Japan finds herself caught in the strangle-grip of Western economic nationalism. More and more she finds herself being surrounded by trade barriers. Meanwhile, secure sources of raw materials (of which Japan proper has scarcely any) and secure markets for her industries have become for her a matter of life and death. What more natural than that she should turn her gaze to those vast undeveloped sources of East Asia at her back door, where there is ample room for herself and China?

No one wishes to justify all the methods by which the present authorities, and more particularly the military party in Japan, pursue that aim. But those who make no effort to appreciate the terrible urgency of Japan's economic problem have no moral right to sit in judgment on Japan.

Those who at Shanghai and elsewhere have erected monuments to their own cupidity at the expense of China are ill-fitted to condemn Japan's desire to develop China. And while the attitude of the other Powers towards Japan is represented by America's exclusion law, Australia's dog-in-the-manger policy, and by a general policy of commercial jealousy, they can scarcely claim the moral right to set themselves up as Japan's judges. (In parenthesis, may a plea be put in for the disuse of the sobriquet "Japs" and "Chinks," which are discourteous and much resented by the sensitively courteous peoples of the Far East.)

Political Problem of Far East

Finally, there is the political problem of the Far East. None can deny that that problem is very specially Japan's problem. The Peace of the Far East, the stabilising of the political, social and economic life of the great areas of East Asia is a matter of deep concern to the Nations of the West. For Japan it is a matter of life and death. As Japan looks out on the Far East, two facts stand out clearly. The first is China's lack of cohesion, which not only menaces with perpetual insecurity Japan's vast and legitimate commercial concerns in China; but also renders China a natural soil for those disruptive activities of the Red Comintern which others besides Japan believe to be the real source of present world-disorders.

Until China attains something like real political cohesion, either Russia or Japan must take control. And Japan is deeply and sincerely convinced (and many share her conviction) that her own control is more likely to result in stable peace in the Far East than China become the battleground of Red Communism. It is not necessary to approve everything in the administration of Corea and Manchuria, where Japan is in control, to recognise that those two countries are now the most stable parts of the East Asian hinterland.

No Co-operation from Western Powers

The other clear fact of the political problem of the Far East

is that Japan has little to hope for from the policy of co-operation with the Western Powers in the solution of the Far Eastern problem. That may be a regrettable fact, but it can scarcely be disputed. For well-nigh fifty years that policy has been tried. It has only resulted in the perpetuation of China's unrest by encouraging the powers that be in China to play off one Power against another. The terrible tragedy at Shanghai, with its senseless slaughter, is but the latest effort of the Chinese authorities to embroil the Western Powers against Japan. No one wants to deny that there are faults on the Japanese side. But it is equally certain that for years past the authorities at Nanking, relying on Western finance have carried on a deliberate policy of fomenting anti-Japanese feeling wherever their authority ran in China; a policy, which has reduced the Far East to a state of perpetual unrest. And there is good authority for believing that that policy is the insidious influence of the Red Comintern.

For years Japan had tried the policy of co-operation with the Western Powers, and at every step in the great task (in which all, of course, should have joined) of building up a stable order in the Far East. Japan has been merely obstructed by the Western Powers. From the Treaty of Shimonosiki, 1895, down to Versailles and the Washington Conference, the Western Powers have continued the same policy of merely playing off their own interests at the expense of China and Japan. The climax was reached when, after the Washington Conference, America induced Great Britain to sacrifice the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. There can be little doubt that had that Alliance been maintained, the present tragic and disastrous conflict would not have arisen. For the failure of that Alliance only served to discredit the liberal elements in Japan, to force Japan into a policy of isolation, and to strengthen the military party in Japan until it has reached its present dangerous preponderance in Japan's national life.

Japan Seeks Stability

Meanwhile stable order in the Far East remains a prime necessity. So far the Western Powers have contributed little or nothing to that order. They have been content to look on China merely as a field of commercial self-interest. So Japan tries to tackle the great task alone; and in tackling it she sincerely believes that she is fulfilling her true mission as stabiliser of the Far East. It is possible to condemn the policy and

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

NATIONAL INSURANCE

Dear Sir, —Your readers will be interested to learn that it is not now compulsory to join any Approved Society before September 4, 1939, and to do so voluntarily is only assisting the powers that be to impose this unwanted Act upon them. The spectacle of friendly societies spending their funds to set up separate Government departments that are going to cripple their existing friendly societies is amazing, and could only arise from the belief that because this measure became an Act, that it had to be borne, whether it was wanted by the people or not. Such a belief shows a lamentable ignorance of what democracy means, but the people on this occasion are awakening to their power and to the realisation that our representatives in Parliament are the servants of the people, and not their masters. As far as this Act is concerned, it does not matter whether it is a good Act or a bad Act, but what does matter is that the people do not want it, and therefore it should not be forced upon them against their expressed wish. If it is, then that is not democracy but dictatorship. That the people do not want it is proved by the fact that their individual letters of protest (some 250,000 from Victoria alone), have already forced a postponement until next September.

During the Christmas holidays, whilst the public mind was otherwise occupied and both Cabinet and Parliament were in recess, this Act was proclaimed to come into force on September 4, 1939, but if the people are determined that they do not want this Act, no power on earth can make them accept it. As evidence of the people's determination to have this Act repealed several groups are already getting the letter below signed, and are forwarding it to their respective M.H.R., reiterating their first demand. —Yours, etc.,

F. C. PAICE.

Melbourne.

To..... M.H.R.,
Canberra, A.C.T.

Dear Sir,

In my opinion you are not doing your utmost to have this National Health and Pensions Insurance Act repealed, therefore, if this Act is not repealed, I shall hold you personally responsible, and will do my utmost constitutionally to bring about your defeat at the next elections.

I am the best judge of what I want, and I definitely do not want this Act.

Yours in earnest,

Name.....
Address.....
Electorate.....

methods of the military party and yet believe that when Japan declares that the war is not against the people of China, but only against those political forces whose policy can only result in perpetuating disorder, she is sincere. With China moving in line with Japan the odds turn against Russia; fear of aggression from the North fades, and peace for the Far East becomes a possibility.

BLACK SAVAGE PEACE

A Practical Idea for Civilised Tourists Who Want to go Where They'll be Safe

By MANUEL KOMROFF in "Coronet."

"Well, Madame, the Butler Tours feel responsible for the safety of their clients. It is a policy of our house, but this year we must issue warnings, for we can no further take the responsibility. The world is very headstrong these days, and we want, you to know the exact truth."

"Yes, my sister and I would like to spend our vacation this year in a very quiet place abroad."

"Yes, Madame, I know exactly, but we cannot guarantee . . . Now if only the diplomats would call a truce for July and August, and allow us to get our bookings complete and our clients safely home, then all would be well . . . Where do you think you would like to visit?"

"We were thinking of Ireland." "Very highly recommended, Madame, but the new Constitution promises to divide the Government and we are forced to remind our tourists of the British policy."

"Well, then, Norway and Sweden."

"Yes this land is ideal. Most civilised; but we recently had a letter from our Stockholm office about . . . Well, it's rather confidential and concerns a diplomatic matter, which involves trade with some of the central European powers. Besides, if you were thinking of bathing, we have for the past twenty-five years taken temperature readings of the best fiords and . . ."

"We were in France several years ago and enjoyed it greatly." "Ah, times were different! You know, of course, what is going on now? The Government is only a makeshift compromise, and between the red and the blue a good deal of blood may be spilled. The French go in for violence so easily."

"It is really too bad there is revolution in Spain, for we would have loved it. . . . So romantic." "Well Madame, we are selling a good many tickets for the revolution because people are so bored these days they want to go sight seeing. We ask them to get a letter from the editor of their local newspaper, and that makes them foreign correspondents. Many of them hope to get snap-shots of dead women and children. Magazines now are anxious to publish such photographs. Horror is in vogue. But we waive responsibility and guarantee nothing. The risk is theirs."

"No; Spain would never do. But how about a pleasant retreat in Austria or Roumania?"

"Well, it's just as bad. Any day these Eastern European lands may be invaded by the dictator countries. And summer is always the best time for a little troop marching. You would be safer by far in a dictator's land."

"We thought of that already. But we are not blond and cannot produce a full Aryan genealogy, and therefore Germany is out. And Russia . . . We just can't stand the mournful singing that we hear in their movies, and besides we had a cousin who was there, and the stories he told. . . . And Italy; we are afraid that since the soldiers were so badly beaten in Spain they will be quite inhospitable to foreigners." "Quite right, Madame." "But is there no place we can go that is really safe!"

"Madame, there is. But we are keeping it quite secret and re-

served for a very few of our select people." He drew a map from under the counter and unfolding it slowly and dramatically, spread it on the counter before her. He spoke in a whisper. "Here it is," pointing with his pencil to some island in a vast blue space.

"Where is it?"

"Borneo, Madame."

"The head-hunters!"

"Yes, Madame. The romantic head-hunters."

"The savages!"

"Yes, Madame, the beautiful savages."

"The wild tribes!"

"Yes Madame. We are making disc records of their wonderful war cries."

"But is it safe?"

He leaned over the counter, giving it all a confidential air. "Madame, we are keeping our findings a secret. No safe place exists in the whole world. Here are the figures for the past twenty-five years. Killed in each country, so many millions, this column on this side are those killed through natural causes, such as wars, revolutions, executions or assassinations. And here on the right are the unnatural causes, such as train wrecks in Russia and auto deaths in the United States. Well, examine the list and you will notice, Madame that the civilised countries are on top, and the lands of the savages have very few killed. In Sumatra one missionary was killed by mistake some years ago, but that was because they established schools in that country. Education and hatred go hand in hand. But in Borneo, where the savages are blacker and wilder, not a single soul has perished. They are so kind, so friendly, so hospitable. They do not expect the tourists to pay their national debt. And anything you bring them from the five and ten-cent store is greatly appreciated. Besides, they have good water safe to drink. In what European country is the water fit to drink? In fact, Madame . . . Here I show you some photographs. Yes, that is the first thing. On arrival you and your sister will be measured for grass skirts, and then the chief will come forward and present you with strings of beads, which will make your blood sisters of the tribe. From that moment anything on the island belongs to you." "How thrilling!" "Yes. And more. They have true brotherhood and peace unknown to the rest of the world. They do not even know the meaning of the word taxes. It does not exist in their language. They are very tolerant and pay no attention to nudists. Also, they have no traffic lights, no highway accidents, no factory smoke, no child labour, no occupational diseases, in fact . . . We must ask you to keep this island of savage peace quite confidential. We reserve it for our special clients, and we do not want large numbers to go there and put ideas into the heads of the savages. What we fear most are the economists. We discourage them from visiting this place, for we feel they will bring the notion of central government and the credit system to the tribes, and once these take root then all the other evils are bound to follow. And so you will understand why we are not advertising this island in our regular tours."

"Yes, I quite understand." "And I must tell you also that we now have scouts out among the Bushmen and other primitive peoples, for we are anxious to find the real havens of peace in the world which can be guaranteed as safe places, restful, and at the same time peaceful . . . People want to write novels and other books, or they want to take photographs with little cameras, and not run into fortifications; and we are compiling a list of safe and desirable subjects."

"Yes, I must confess that my sister and I were thinking of a book."

"Now in Borneo the native designs in weaving and the war-paint zigzags remain to this day unrecorded. Also, a book on the marriage customs with photographs would find a waiting publisher. In fact, the whole land is, if one can say it, a place where the hand of man never set foot."

"It sounds wonderful. And besides, these photographs of their children are so darling. Put us down for an outside cabin on the first boat out."

"Yes Madame. And you will have no regret. The Butler Tours stand back of Savage Peace, and we guarantee you will find real quiet and contentment among the beautiful headhunters."

"Why has no one thought of it before?"

"Madame, if I dare make a prophecy, I would say the wild savages will in the end save our civilisation. They will soon bring light to our modern dark ages. Next year we are going to list our Black Savage Peace tours, and we are at present engaging our guides. Only gentlemen who were formerly delegates to the League of Nations are qualified to serve."

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE FUTURE OF YOUR PAPER?

If so, and you are one of the many shareholders who still owe instalments on shares, would you kindly forward the required amount IMMEDIATELY?

Although the trading position of the New Times has been considerably improved during the past twelve months, and is being still further improved, it is vitally necessary that instalments owing on shares be forwarded regularly, in order that the present position of the paper can be maintained. Further, *and much more important*, we have now reached the stage when we can prepare to launch a vigorous and Well-organised campaign to still further improve the position.

Prospects for the future of an outspoken, independent paper were never better, *but* whether we will be able to carry our plans to a successful fruition depends upon the owners of the paper—that is, the shareholders.

In view of the above facts, we are confident that those in arrears with their instalments will immediately forward their remittances. *Do it now—and let us get on with the job. Failure to do so will make the immediate position of the paper uncertain, and delay the prospect of a big step forward in the immediate future.*

The appointment of a stop-gap Acting Director-General of Civil Aviation, while Mr. Thorby runs for cover to Singapore, is announced.

Perhaps Mr. Thorby's "vacation" is intended to last as long as the Lyons Government.

New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 2.)

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 13.

Crossroads

Objections to the banking monopoly of credit-issue were raised late in the 17th century, when the Bank of England was founded despite strenuous opposition on the part of the Tories in both the Lords and Commons, who "feared that the Bank would in a few years become masters of the stock and wealth of England." In the two hundred and fifty years that have passed since then, the monopoly, as created in England, has developed into an international monopoly. England took away with one hand the absolute power of its monarchs, but handed a still more absolute power over to the financial interests. But, as the absolutist monarchs of seventeenth century England lost their power by reason of their sacrifice of the people to their own interests, so now the time has come when the financial absolutists, having created a growing spirit of rebellion among their subjects throughout the world, are about to lose their absolute sway. Alberta, New Zealand, Japan and the dictators have, in different degrees and different ways, challenged the policy and the power of the private banks; America is struggling hard for trade recovery and national prosperity within a system which must effectually defeat her object, and by such defeat even more fully expose the fallacy of the system which makes prosperity impossible.

In our last issue we referred to the obstructive effect of tradition, in so far as the implementing of necessary and progressive reforms are concerned. The danger of tradition is that it stultifies thought among valuable and intelligent members of society. When one's logical thought process brings one up against an obstruction in the shape of a generally accepted dogma, one is inclined to shy away from the questions raised. Very often our subconscious realisation of the fallacy of the dogma makes us defend it with more

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desperation than we would if truly convinced of its ability to withstand criticism.

No one is entirely free from this cowardly or lazy dodging of an issue, but the fact that a particular fault is general doesn't make it any the less a fault. 1939 is to be one of the most critical years in the history of the world, and as such it demands that we shall function as democrats to the fullest extent of which we are capable. In 1914 democracy was asked to arm and fight for itself; this year democracy is asked to think and speak for itself—or die.

As announced on another page, there is to be a mass meeting in the Assembly Hall, Collins-street, Melbourne, on Wednesday, February 8. It is to be held under the auspices of the Ignited Electors of Australia. At that meeting the demand is to be made of the audience that they shall each pull their weight as enlightened electors and work for the urgent, vital needs of Australians. In an election in Western Australia the Nationalist Party received its most sweeping defeat at the hands of Labour as a result of the former's unpopular legislation regarding crossword puzzles. God help Australia if any more elections are won and lost on such issues.

Our present Government has absolutely failed us, but is still seeking to retain office at all costs in order that it may implement changes that will conform, not to the wishes of its electors, but to the wishes of those who cause our troubles. The Government's hesitations are not due to differences of opinion as to how it shall implement reforms that will benefit all sections of the community, but as to how it can carry on a system that benefits only a very small section of the community, and, at the same time, prevent that system from crashing sufficiently badly to bring about the inevitable show-down.

We know that the Government is neither sovereign in practice nor democratic. It is in our power to demand that it be both—and being both, that the sovereignty, which we give it, shall be used to legislate for the general good of the electors. For hundreds of years our forbears fought towards democracy. Now, having the right to use our voices as individuals, in the government of our country, many have taken the attitude that everything that has been fought for is ours; that democracy is *here*, and here to stay, and therefore have not taken the trouble to intelligently use the voice which past generations fought that we might gain. As a result, we are in grave danger of losing the right to express ourselves on public matters. (2KY was a case in point), and, further still, our Government is now seeking to implement legislation in *direct opposition* to the expressed command of the electors—the National Health Insurance Act.

The first half of the twentieth century has seen more widespread desolation, in proportion to the means of avoiding it, than any like

TOPICAL TIT BITS FROM THE NEWS

By "LEXICON."

CONTROL OF STEEL.

London, Tuesday.

The Bank of England has acquired voting control of the steel sheet-making firm of John Summers and Sons, whose capital is £8,500,000.

The governor of the Bank (Mr. Montagu Norman) thus becomes head of an important section of the British steel industry. He will be chairman of the controlling committee, with a casting vote. — Press Report.

It will be interesting to note whether defence in England will concentrate on battleships rather than 'planes from now on.

The *Argus* of January 7th reports as a London news item that, continuing their publicity campaign, 12 unemployed men chained themselves to the railings of the home of the Minister for Labour

period before or since Christ preached His gospel of humanity. With individual exceptions, the Churches have acquiesced in the inhuman sacrifice of man to money. While Christian countries shudder at the inhuman rule of the Soviet dictatorship, they themselves acquiesce in the greater inhumanity of the financial dictatorship. We in Australia wish to be free of dictatorship of any kind, but we aver that not until our Christian state can show an equivalent improvement in social benefits to those implemented by the atheistic Russian state can we claim an equal righteousness. If it is by our works that we are to be judged, it is highly probable that our despised aboriginals will enjoy greater heavenly approval than the missionaries who are trying to convert them, and Lenin will have priority over Lyons; but the people who allow their community to be governed in a manner calculated to bring about needless widespread suffering, because they are too indifferent to accept their responsibility as potent units of that community, are ultimately responsible for their sufferings in this world, and, as members of a so-called Christian community, may have to answer for their sins of omission in the next.

This is the year in which democracy and civilisation shall either go forward or go back. We, as individuals, will supply the answer as to which it will be.

(Mr. Ernest Brown) with the banners, "Work or Bread."

The chains were cut by a hacksaw and the men were removed in a police wagon with the chains still hanging to their necks.

Perhaps National Insurance is not all it might be in the Old Country.

Under the heading, "Mr. Lyons may censor anti-war play," the following report appeared in Wednesday's Melbourne *Sun*:

"The script of an American political play may be called for by the Prime Minister (Mr. Lyons). It was stated from the Prime Minister's Department today that the play would be investigated.

"The play, 'Idiot's Delight' is a Leftist denunciation of war, written by Robert Sherwood, and was very successful in New York.

"A company will arrive in Sydney on Saturday to present the play in Australian capitals, opening in Melbourne."

It is good to live in a "democracy." One is allowed to write anything one likes, as long as it conforms to Government policy.

Mr. Cain, Leader of the Labor Party in the Legislative Assembly, speaking in the House recently, said: "A farmer's son can be compelled to contribute under the scheme, if he is an employee within the meaning of the Act, and is receiving income as his father's employee. In the event of the father retiring and handing over the farm to his son, there is no provision for a refund of the contributions to the National Insurance fund.

The *New Times* would be interested to receive communications from those persons, outside the Government, who favour the present National Insurance Bill. If they would call at the office one day we could assure *both* of them that they would receive a friendly reception.

Charity (another word for love, by the way) is said to begin at home. Jonathan Swift, in Wednesday's Melbourne *Sun*, made an appeal for support for the Lord Mayor's Fund for those who suffered in the recent bush fires. The appeal concluded: "You have sent relief to Spain and China, but now you are called upon to help your own kinsfolk."

There has been a ready response to that particular appeal already, but the same cannot be said in regard to less spectacular tragedies. In this respect the following figures are of interest:

Dr. Singleton's Homes' Fund (our own poor): About £180 in three weeks.

Refugee Fund (somebody else's poor): £1200 in *one* week.

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BANK OF N.S.W. v. J. T. LANG

Mr. Beasley's Revelations

Sir Alfred Davidson Wants "Properly-led" Opposition

One of the most enlightening speeches ever delivered in the Commonwealth Parliament was printed in Hansard, of November 9. The author of the speech was Mr. John Albert Beasley, the member for West Sydney, and his statement will explain a lot that has hitherto been unexplained.

Mr. Beasley's speech discloses that an apparently intimate association exists between Sir Alfred Davidson, the General Manager of the Bank of New South Wales, and certain more or less notable persons within the Labor Movement, and suggests a source from whence has flowed the ample funds which must be necessary to finance the extensive printed propaganda directed against Lang Labor.

Needless to say Mr. Beasley's speech was NOT printed in the daily press. It is reprinted here as part of the news behind the news!

"This morning," said Mr. Beasley to the assembled House of Representatives, "a Sydney daily newspaper set out to misrepresent me and to create in the minds of people in my electorate, and other supporters, the impression that a statement I made recently was a fabrication. As I am called upon from time to time to make statements in connection with my parliamentary duties, I take this opportunity to give the facts to the House, and to name some of the people concerned in this matter.

"On Wednesday, September 14, 1938, the maritime unions connected with the port of Sydney, invited the secretary of the British Transport Workers' Union, Mr. Ernest Bevin, to a luncheon at Usher's Hotel, Sydney. All the maritime unions were represented and others present included Mr. D. Clyne, M.L.A., representative for Darling Harbour, and I, as representing the ports. I was requested to propose the toast of the health of the visitor, which I did. I was supported by Mr. Clyne, and Mr. Bevin responded. At the conclusion of the luncheon, Mr. Bevin, accompanied by the secretary of the Maritime Unions' council, Mr. J. Tudehope, visited me on the eighth floor of the Commonwealth Bank Building, Martin-place, Sydney.

Breakaway Movements

"A conversation took place. Mr. Bevin said he wished to discuss with me the advisability of him attending a dinner to be arranged by the general manager of the Bank of New South Wales, Sir Alfred Davidson, at which representatives of the Heffron Labor Party would attend. These would include the general secretary of the New South Wales branch of the Australian Railways Union, Dr. Lloyd Ross, who is also a member of the political bureau of the Communist Party; the secretary of the Heffron party, Mr. W. Evans; the organiser of the Clerks' Union, Mr. J. Hughes, and the president of the Heffron party Mr. F. O'Neill.

"Before asking me for a reply, Mr. Bevin related the following experiences he had had with Sir Alfred Davidson: Arriving in New Zealand, on his way to Australia, to attend the British Relations Conference at Lapstone, New South Wales, he was met by a gentleman who stated that he represented Sir Alfred Davidson, and had been asked to inquire if he, Mr. Bevin, would meet Sir Alfred Davidson soon after arriving in Australia. More than likely that gentleman in New Zealand was one of the representatives of the Bank of New South Wales in that dominion. Mr. Bevin said that he remarked to that gentleman that he was at a loss to know

why Sir Alfred Davidson should want to see him, but finally said that, at that stage, he could see no harm in the meeting taking place. Mr. Bevin duly arrived in Sydney and, according to arrangements made for delegates to the conference, went to the Hotel Australia. Not very long afterwards, Sir Alfred Davidson visited the hotel, presented his card, and was duly ushered in to see Mr. Bevin. After introducing himself, Sir Alfred Davidson early indicated his mission. The request he made to Mr. Bevin was that he should meet the representatives of the Heffron Labor Party. At that stage Mr. Bevin had no knowledge of the Heffron Labor Party, so he made some inquiries from Sir Alfred Davidson, who explained that it was a party that had broken away from the official Labor Party of New South Wales, and formed another organisation. He added that the Heffron party was anxious to discuss its problems with Mr. Bevin. Mr. Bevin's answer was to the effect that he had no desire to meet any breakaway organisation. Such a discussion would, in his opinion, be in extremely bad taste, and contrary to the conduct which visiting Labor representatives should observe. He further declared that if a representative of Labor in Australia went to London and engaged in consultations with breakaway movements in England the action would be roundly condemned by the British Labor Party. Therefore, he added: 'I am not going to consult with or meet people in Australia that I certainly would not expect an Australian Labor representative to meet in Great Britain.' So the conclusion of that interview was that Mr. Bevin refused to meet the breakaway organisation. Sir Alfred Davidson apparently was not to be pushed aside by one refusal, and he awaited another opportunity.

A Test

"Mr. Bevin continued his conversation with me by informing me that the programme of the conference at Lapstone included a garden party at the property of the Macarthur Onslow family at Camden. Many delegates attended, including Mr. Bevin. Mr. Bevin explained to me the happenings at the garden party. He said that Sir Alfred Davidson again appeared on the scene. He managed to engage Mr. Bevin in conversation by first discussing newspapers, directing attention to Mr. Bevin's association with the London *Daily Herald*. He informed Mr. Bevin that he was handling the account of the *Labor Daily*, of Sydney, and would like Mr. Bevin's comment on the paper. Mr. Bevin's com-

ment was not very complimentary. However, Mr. Bevin said that he made some reference to two features appearing in the newspaper. He explained to me that his reason for that was to 'try out' Sir Alfred Davidson in order to ascertain what control and influence he had over *The Labor Daily*. This test had an effect, according to Mr. Bevin's advice to me, in that two days later he noticed that corrections had been made in the features. That fact was sufficient for him to know who was running *The Labor Daily*.

"The conversation between Sir Alfred Davidson and Mr. Bevin continued, and Sir Alfred Davidson again pressed Mr. Bevin to meet representatives of the Heffron Labor Party. Mr. Bevin was of the same mind as at the previous interview, but Sir Alfred Davidson continued to press his request. There the matter rested for the time being, and so concluded the talk between Mr. Bevin, Mr. Tudehope and myself.

A Dinner

"Mr. Bevin returned to Lapstone. The conference later concluded, Mr. Bevin arrived back in Sydney, and, after meeting Sir Alfred Davidson, dined with him at the head office of the Bank of New South Wales. The conversation that took place at that dinner was told to me by Mr. Bevin in Canberra on September 23, when he arrived here on his way to Melbourne, en route for England.

"At the dinner, Sir Alfred Davidson put several points to Mr. Bevin. These were as follows: 'we want to alter the rules of the Labor Party in New South Wales. We want to remove Mr. Lang from the leadership of the party. We want the party and not the conference to elect the leader. Generally, a new Labor organisation is required in New South Wales.' In speaking of the rules of the party, Mr. Bevin said he told Sir Alfred Davidson that he thought it was a matter for the members of the party, as was the case elsewhere, and that if the members wished to alter the rules it was within their power to do so. Sir Alfred Davidson's answer was to the effect that the Heffron party, lacking the numbers, was unable to do that, so another organisation had been set up.

"Referring to the leadership, Sir Alfred Davidson said that the Heffron party claimed 'that Labor could not win with Mr. Lang, and that he, Sir Alfred Davidson, was in agreement with that view. Mr. Bevin inquired whether it was a fact that his, Sir Alfred Davidson's, government was in power, and if so, why he wanted Labor to win. Sir Alfred Davidson's reply was to the effect that Mr. Bevin did not quite understand politics in New South Wales. Sir Alfred Davidson said: 'you know, Bevin, it is different here from what it is in your country. What we want here in New South Wales is a "properly-led" Opposition. We have not got that with Lang. I know the Government in power is to my liking, but I am concerned with the future, and, in fact, I feel that we want an Opposition leader who is respected. In effect, we want a properly led Opposition, and that is what the Heffron party is fighting for. Do you know, Bevin, that this Lang also selects his own Ministers? Now we want to change all that. Lang has raised the Communist issue against us in this fight, but I want you to disbelieve that, although I admit that Communists are in the Heffron organisation. They have attached themselves to the movement.'

"Mr. Bevin replied that he felt

it was none of his business. While Sir Alfred Davidson's statements were all very interesting, he, Mr. Bevin, recognised the official movement, and it was not within his province, as a visitor to Australia, to interfere in the domestic affairs of the Labor Party of New South Wales.

Mr. Bevin's Reactions

"Naturally, I inquired from Mr. Bevin what his reactions were to the whole affair. Mr. Bevin replied: 'It is all very strange to me to find a leading banker so deeply interested in the domestic affairs of the Labor Party as to have such a close alliance with men who claim to be militant Labor representatives. I do not know all the details, but Sir Alfred Davidson's anxiety about Lang was most pronounced. He had Lang firmly impressed in his mind, and, it appeared to me, that he would do all in his power to remove him. It is a strange alliance. I know what I would think of such a position in England. It is natural that I must think the same of it in Australia.' He concluded by particularly requesting me to work for the success of the Dominions Labor Conference in New Zealand in 1940.

"I have made this definite statement on the floor of the House for very specific reasons. First of all, it will explain an attempt made by a newspaper this morning to make it appear that any references, which I have previously made to the subject, are mere fabrications. I point out that I have corroboration for all that I have said. Mr. Tudehope will substantiate my statement of what took place at the first interview with Mr. Bevin, and corroboration of all the other incidents, which I have mentioned, can be given by the honourable member for Lang (Mr. Mulcahy). My main purpose in making this statement in this Parliament is to convey to the electors whom I represent my attitude on this matter, and to make perfectly clear my determination to disclose, as far as I am able, what appears to be an unholy alliance between Sir Alfred Davidson and the Heffron party, and also to warn supporters of the Labor movement of what is actually going on. I wish also to reveal to them the manner in which a leading banker is dabbling, interfering and assisting financially, and otherwise, certain people, some of whom I have named, for the purpose of gaining complete control of political affairs in the State of New South Wales. I thank honourable members for their courtesy in allowing me to make this statement."

Rich Friends

Mr. John Lawson: "That explains Mr. Bevin's statement that he had never previously come into contact with a Labor Party with so many rich friends."

Mr. Beasley: "That is so; the honourable member's interjection bears out largely the truth and candour of the conversations I have just described. I feel sure that my statement will serve to clear the minds of not only people resident in my electorate, but also others who may be interested in this matter."

PROF. DENIS ROBERTSON.

Mr. Denis Robertson, Reader in Economics at Cambridge since 1930, has been appointed to the Sir Ernest Cassel Chair of Economics (with special reference to Banking and Currency) at the London School of Economics. He succeeds Professor T. E. Gregory, who was appointed Economic Adviser to the Government of India last December.

DON'T BE FOOLED AGAIN

A Warning to Workers

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H. BROWN

Sir,

This warning is intended for all workers, but particularly for government employees. Unless we all join together NOW and let it be known that we will not accept the repetition of the swindle of the 1931 Premiers' Plan, it is almost certain that an attempt will be made to stampede us into submitting to another cut in wages and salaries. Those of us who have discovered the truth of this financial business have been trying to warn others of the inevitable result of the policy now being imposed on the community, and before our very eyes we see developing the same procedure as was followed in 1929 and 1930.

The Depression Sequence

Events in those years had a definite and intentional sequence. At first there was a fall in prices overseas, deliberately brought about by an alteration of the bank rate. Co-incident with this there was restriction of credit. Then there was a falling off in the income from Customs, brought about by the Australian banks refusing to finance imports. Then there was a refusal on the part of the banks to provide "loans" for government purposes. This was followed by the action of the Arbitration Court (whose president was a member of the bankers' rendezvous the Melbourne Club!) in reducing the basic wage. A few weeks later, the Commonwealth Bank, acting in the interests of the private banks, issued an ultimatum to the Federal Government that unless its demands for "economy" and curtailment of expenditure were put into effect it would refuse to supply further accommodation for public purposes. The Government supinely surrendered and the so-called Premiers' Plan was the result.

They Have Started Again

We have already again had the fall in prices overseas, brought about by deliberate action on the part of the controllers of the banking system. We are already again seeing the fall in revenue from

Customs because of the refusal of the Australian banks to finance imports. We are already again seeing the "tightening of money"—i.e., our businessmen are experiencing great difficulty in obtaining financial accommodation for the conduct of their businesses. We are already again hearing demands for "economy." For all of this the banks are definitely responsible, and the time has come when we should insist upon that responsibility being placed where it properly belongs. Not only so, but we should increase our activity in seeing that all who depend on salary or wages for their incomes are made aware of the facts.

Only One Bone

In the year 1931, when all the agitation was going on to persuade us to accept the thieving proposals of the bankers deceitfully named "Premiers' Plan," one of the highest officials in the Commonwealth Public Service actually said to me, "What can we do? When there is only one bone some of the dogs must go without." The poor fellow, although very highly placed, knew nothing at all about the nature or origin of money, and was under the delusion that money had become scarce as the result of divine ordinance. He simply refused to believe that money is created by the banks without cost to themselves, and that it is also cancelled by the banks without regard to public welfare when it suits their purpose to do so. That man actually lost hundreds of pounds in salary cuts even before the Premiers' Plan took effect, and believed he was doing it for the benefit of "his country"!

Actually, it was for the benefit of the bankers, and I challenge anyone in the community to disprove the truth of this.

A Significant Cartoon

Propaganda similar to that put over us in the years referred to is again coming into prominence. For example, the Melbourne Argus, on January 5, came out with a cartoon based on the report from Canberra that "Anxiety at the decline in Federal revenue may lead to increased taxation to correct prospective shortages." The

cartoon portrays a ward in a hospital in which Federal Revenue is the patient. On the wall there is a graph with the line going steadily downward, and Mr. Lyons is saying to Messrs. Casey, Hughes, and Page (the omission of Mr. Menzies was not explained): "Another Transfusion Might Save Him." The transfusions are being taken from a poor boob called J. Taxpayer, Esq., and the cartoon is headed, "JOHN! —YOU'RE WANTED!/" The cartoonist, Armstrong, spoke truer than he knew. John Citizen IS wanted, but he is wanted to give these very fellows a kick in the pants for allowing the revenue of the governments to be controlled by the private monopoly dictating the amount of money the community shall be allowed to have. The Commonwealth Government has not only allowed the banks to bring about a restriction of credit, but they appear to have the amazing effrontery to contemplate calling upon the people in general to suffer a double dose of the criminal effects of it. In the first place, we suffer through higher prices and poorer business, and then we suffer again through higher taxes when we are least able to pay them. To call it an outrage is far too mild. It is a crime of the worst character particularly when we realise that all taxation is robbery.

Yes-Men Active

In addition to the hiring press, which always takes its orders from the financiers (it would get no advertisements otherwise!), we also see the usual crop of bankers' yes-men calling for "economy" and a reduction of "costs." Economy and reduction of costs mean lower wages and lower salaries, and lower payments to the workers are being advocated to bring them into relation with the lower quantity of money in circulation at the order of the banking fraternity. Markets, prices, and all related items are controlled by banking policy, and banking policy is NOT determined by the PEOPLE. Every one of these yes-men should be publicly challenged to explain exactly what he means by "economy" and "costs"—i.e., what would they look like if we could see them. It is because of the "economy" practiced in South Australia by the strong man Butler at the dictation of the bankers through the Loan Council and "National Income" that the road on the main highway for about forty miles on the South Australian side of the Victorian boarder is a disgrace to the people of that poverty-stricken State. There is no shortage of materials for road building or of competent men to make use of the materials. The only shortage is Finance—and finance is only a matter of bookkeeping! When finance is short the banks alone are responsible for bringing the shortage about, and this terrible state of affairs must continue unless we join together to have it stopped.

Cranks Not So Cranky

At the time of the Premiers' Plan the people who were trying to tell us the truth about the money swindle were looked upon as cranks, and since then some of my personal friends have looked at me with that kindly expression in their eyes, as if to say, "What a pity he has gone like that. Not a bad sort of a fellow either." But we are making progress, and those selfsame friends are now to be found encouraging others to look into the facts for themselves. That is all we want, for no honest man will shirk his clear duty once he recognises the facts and their implications.

Do You Want Another Cut?

To all workers in government services I would therefore put the question—"Do you want another cut in your pay?" If you do, then there is no need to exercise yourself. You will get it. But if you do not want another cut, then now is the time to take the steps to prevent it. It is better to have your committees working to protect you FROM it than to get them working later to get you out of it. Let your union and association leaders know that they are not to accept any such proposals in your name, but that instead they are to REFUSE to accept them. This will strengthen the Government's position and let the members of the Cabinet know that you are behind them in any action they may take to restore the control of credit to the Crown. It will also let the Government know that what is needed is increased purchasing power in order to bring about increasing consumption, and that any action to limit consumption to a set of figures arbitrarily determined by bankers will be resisted to the utmost permissible limit.

What "Authorities" Say

In case there should be any Government employees still doubtful about the foregoing, I would ask them to consider what expert men have had to say as follows:— President of the Midland Bank, London—"In a community like ours, with steadily growing production and population, unless there is a corresponding growth in the supply of money we cannot avoid deflation, with its inevitable accompaniment of trade losses and unemployment. The amount of money in existence varies only with the action of the banks in increasing or diminishing deposits. Every change, in the quantity of money is effected primarily through the action of the banks, and ultimately through the Bank of England." So you see clearly that if there is a shortage of money or a shortage of government revenues the banks are the cause of it. And the Bank of England, mind you, is a private business. It is NOT a government institution. In the testimony of the head of the largest trading bank in the world we have the admission of how the finances are manipulated, and it definitely fixes responsibility for depressions so far as the British Empire is concerned.

This same Bank President has also told us "Every bank loan CREATES a deposit, and every repayment of a loan DESTROYS a deposit." An increase of deposits simply means that the banks have created more money through loans. Here we have confirmation of the statement that banks not only create money out of nothing, but also destroy it whenever they like. As a fact, when they call in overdrafts they are actually cancelling money before the businessman has had the chance to liquidate his costs.

And now listen to another well-known authority in the person of Professor Soddy. There is no mincing matters in what he says, thus: "The cheque system, itself beneficent, has enabled the banks continuously to create and destroy money at will. It is the power of



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the private mint which imperils the future of scientific civilisation; which makes politics a sorry farce, and reduces Parliament to a sham. It is a manifest injustice to those who have to earn money that private firms, by a stroke of the pen, should be empowered by the cheque system to create it. But it is far worse that the money of the country, by a mere refusal of a banker to continue a credit to a debtor, should be suddenly and secretly destroyed again." There is no longer room for doubt that this cheque and credit system, as now being operated, is the smoothest and most gigantic swindle ever slipped over the world. In passing, it may be of interest to say that one of the authors of it, the banker Warburg, has recently been arrested by the German Government. It was one of the Warburgs who originated the Central Bank idea, with headquarters in Basle, controlling the League of Nations and all countries identified with it. That, however, is something to be written about separately. Is it not strange that the newspapers never report "news" of that nature!

Money is Merely a Stroke of the Pen

It is literally true to say that money can be, and is, created by a mere stroke of the pen, and yet how we have allowed ourselves to suffer because funds have not been "available." This financial question has been shirked at all the great conferences, and we have not bothered until recently to ask WHY funds are not available, or WHO has decreed that they shall not be available. We have not even asked WHAT the funds consist of, and what they would look like if we could see them. This has been because we were content to read the newspapers without question, and because we have allowed the conferences to be organised and attended by people who are well satisfied with the present system, and financially interested in securing its continuance. That was why the great World Economic Conference in London in 1933 was a failure.

Finance is the Key

Even the London *Times* has admitted that Finance is the key of nearly all policy, but it has never suggested that it is time this key was used to unlock the world's abundance for the benefit of humanity. There is nothing sacred about money. Every bit of it is made or created by someone, and there is nothing wrong in creating or cancelling it, just as there is nothing wrong in printing or cancelling railway tickets. The important point is that the Nation, and the Nation alone, should be the initial owner of all money, and that it should never be cancelled at a rate greater than the value of the services used and the goods consumed.

We were fooled in 1931 because we knew no better, but there will be no excuse at all if we allow ourselves to be fooled again.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE H. BROWN.

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A JOB FOR US ALL

By "LEXICON."

One of the obstacles to the implementing of any sort of reform is the reformer. I'm one of them, that's how I know. Differences of opinion between one sincere advocate of a particular reform and an equally sincere advocate of a slightly dissimilar type of reform are mainly due to an egotism of which the reformer is absolutely unaware. The main argument which takes place between the average citizen who says, "My job is to provide for my wife and family and leave the Government to do the job it's paid for" and the active worker for an improvement in general conditions who says, "Australians, arise and fight for your rights," is not due so much to disagreement on fundamental grounds as to annoyance at the manner in which the enthusiastic reformer tackles the comfortably situated fellow who probably has the same ideal, in essence, as himself. One can't expect enthusiastic co-operation from a normal man if one opens the conversation by calling him a so-and-so fool. In the first place, the average man in the street, being rather like you and I, has a peculiar idea that his own opinions are of equal value to yours and mine. He considers that we are giving ourselves a foolish idea of our own importance when we call him a useless moron; but because he is not a confirmed exponent of any particular cause or ism, he is generally willing to listen to discussion regarding the best way of dealing with the evils that are apparent in our body politic if, and this is a very important if, we will first give him the credit for a little intelligence (almost as much as we ourselves have, perhaps), and then seek to appeal to that intelligence by logical and constructive argument.

Some time ago a committee of experts made an exhaustive enquiry into the relative merits of twenty-four different methods of economic reform, each one of which had the solid support of large numbers of reasoning and intelligent members of the community like you and I, Mr. Reader. Most of the supporters of each of those methods were, no doubt, quite honestly of the opinion that they were right and everyone else was wrong; further, that the people who didn't agree with them were wrong because they lacked either the brains or the wish to implement the one-and-only sane method of reform.

The committee of experts, as a result of exhaustive enquiry, came to the conclusion that *sixteen* of the twenty-four "one and only" reform methods *would*, if put into practice, show an improvement on our present methods of distributing the goods we produce.

The main object of the United Elector's Campaign is not to decide which of the sixteen technical methods of improving our system will take first prize as a method, but to see that members of Parliament either agree to their electors' demands or get out. The United Electors' movement has been formed for the purpose of bringing pressure of votes to bear on individual politicians, with the idea of making them use the power given them to fulfill the common requirements of those who gave them the power—the electors.

When a member representing a constituency carrying thirty thousand votes is elected he receives a salary of one thousand pounds per year. That salary is voted to him by his constituents, not by a party

or a Prime Minister, but by Bill Jones and the municipal dustman. Where, in regard to specific legislation, the member's private opinion disagrees with that of Bill Jones and the local dustman, he may, of course, record the fact, as an individual, but should not do so in the House, where the opinions he expresses should be those he is paid to express by the people of his own electorate. Those opinions must not be subordinate to rule by someone who is given a mandate by another electorate, for, even though that someone be Prime Minister of Australia, he only represents the desires of one electorate.

One of the main reasons for the mass meeting of the United Electors on February 8 is the fact that the present Government has shown by its more recent proposals and legislation, that it wishes to weaken the power of the elector within the constitution of Australia. Not once, but several times in the past few months members of Cabinet have been ill-advised enough to let the cat out of the bag. A dictatorial attitude has been adopted towards open criticism within the House, and there is grave danger that, under cover of a declared state of emergency, excuse will be made for further curtailing the liberty of the people. For many years, democracy as we know it has been at a standstill, the time has now come when it may easily regress.

The first battle that is to be fought is the battle against the implementing of National Insurance, an Act that must be repealed before September. The demand for the repeal of National Insurance is important because it represents our democracy's fight against a dictatorial government. The meeting conducted by the United Electors on February 8, while it will not have to do with National Insurance solely, is a call to all those who, irrespective of their political opinion, are interested in the propagation of democratic government, to organise for the purpose of ensuring that their opinion shall have an effective voice in the government of their country.

We may disagree with your opinion, but we will fight to the last ditch to ensure that you have the right to express it. We trust that you will assist in the fight by attending the meeting.

Australian "Democracy" Invites War!

(Continued from page 1.)

the nation to spill its blood in order to try and solve the problem by force! And even if, at the cost of many millions of lives, we did defeat these countries—*what then?* The real problem would still remain unsolved until finance was made the servant of Australians instead of their master. The Australian people have the opportunity of paving the way to prosperity and world peace if they will only realise the urgency of the position and *act* before it is too late.

Well might Australian democracy make its slogan for 1939: "Let us contribute to world peace BY having abundant prosperity in Australia." This is a practical ideal, which every citizen in Australia can start working for *right now*.

Are you going to play your part—or are you going to sanction war?

New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 3.)

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MELBOURNE'S GREATEST RALLY

to hear

ERIC BUTLER

Deliver a Special Urgent Address, Entitled:

"The Crisis of 1939"

in the ASSEMBLY HALL, Collins St., WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8, 8.15 p.m.

The challenge of Youth in the Fight for Democracy! At what is expected to be an Historic Address in the History of the Movement, Eric Butler will outline the trend of economic events, summarise the progress of reform, and propose a comprehensive plan for an immediate, well-organised offensive. Every person who recognises the critical period now approaching owes a duty to themselves and democracy to be present with their friends and young people at the above meeting.

MOTHERS! Do you desire a happy, peaceful Australia for your children? If so, hear the part, which you can play in this struggle for democracy. Attend this meeting with as many of your friends as possible. Hear a special message to Australian mothers—a message which will shatter forever the lie that women should not interest themselves in reform and better social conditions for the people.

YOUTH! What sort of a future do you desire? Nothing but insecurity and the prospect of war faces you at the moment. Life can and should hold something bigger and better for your future. Hear how you can build that future. Hear one of Australia's greatest champions of youth—he is fighting YOUR fight.

COUNTRY SUPPORTERS! Many country supporters have intimated their desire to be present. Would all those country supporters who live sufficiently near Melbourne to attend please intimate whether they can organise carloads, etc.?

IMPORTANT! In view of the widespread interest already being manifested in this rally, it has been decided to have 500 reserved seats. In order that there shall be no disappointments, all those who are desirous of being present are asked to reserve their seats IMMEDIATELY. The charges will be 1/- and 1/6 per seat, payment to accompany application. All those who can help in any way are urged to get full particulars from U.E.A. headquarters.

READ NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE OF THE "NEW TIMES" FOR FURTHER
DETAILS