

# THE NEW TIMES

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## THE DEVIL WE KNOW AND THE DEVIL WE DON'T

*It looks like 1914 again; troops massing on frontiers, Ambassadors flying hither and thither, emergency measures proclaimed in European capitals, while a hysterical Australian evening paper recently published a highly dramatic cartoon in which a military-looking gentleman, surrounded by rifles, is depicted playing reveille on a trumpet. Actually, that reveille was sounded in 1914, but it was the Last Posts that followed that really started to wake the world up. The question now is, can an awakening world do anything about the situation that confronts it at present, or is it too late?*

In the early days after the Great War, when the general run of the people of the victorious countries were looking forward to the fairytale happy ending, in which the heroes (i.e., the victors) would live happily ever after, while the villains (the defeated countries) would be severely punished for their sins, Hitler the dictator was an embryo in the womb of history.

### Before Hitler

Indignity after indignity was heaped on the heads of the people of a once powerful nation. International finance, however, took good care that the indignities had a certain cash value attached to them, so that much of the fuss and pother of the first years after the war had to do with the squeezing of blood from a stone.

"Germany won't pay her debts," shrieked the daily press. "We'll make her," chorused the people.

"We'll pay you with goods," answered Germany.

"We won't let you," replied the Allies.

"Then we can't pay," said Germany.

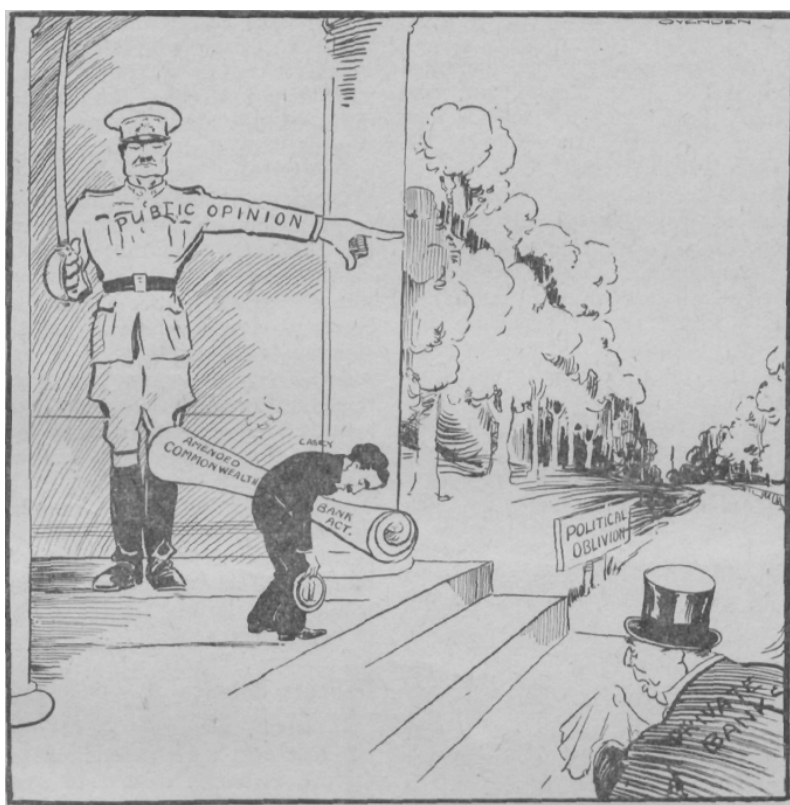
"We'll invade you and make you," replied France, and occupied the Ruhr.

Under duress Germany promised to pay in gold, which it didn't possess, the debt that it was prevented from paying in goods that it *could* manufacture, and proceeded to secretly arm against a recurrence of the invasion.

While this was going on, the people of the allied countries and enemy countries were starving in unison, "Heroes" and "Villains" being punished alike.

Eventually Germany's hate-ridden, hungry, desperate population elected to power a hate-ridden, hungry, desperate man, with a

### Bankers versus Junkers



### REJECT!

Australia Recruits Opposition to the Commonwealth Bank Amending Bill

mandate that he see that they were fed and clothed and that Germany was given a place in the sun again. That man was Hitler.

### Financial Gangsters v. Political Gangsters

The history of Germany in relation to the rest of the world, since the rise of the Nazis to power, has been, in many ways, much like that same country's pre-war history: a growing militarism and an assertion of its rights as a first-class nation, coupled with the brutality of the Junker "Blood and Iron" philosophy. From the *New Times'* point of view any form of dictatorship is unutterably deplorable, but the process that has brought us to the latest international crisis has been due, not to the ideology of democracy clashing with the ogre of despotism, but to the concealed financial dictatorship's resentment and fear at the thought that its power is on the wane, and that that power is being filched from it by the totalitarian dictatorships. The position now is that the interests which control the "democracies" do not want war, they will do anything to avoid it other than hand over their world-wide financial powers to the peoples of the

world; but rather than hand over one fraction of that power to create scarcity when and where it is to their interests to bring about such scarcity, they will plunge the whole world into another blood bath. To that end they have sought to impose every restriction in their power on the international exchange arrangements by which Germany has sought to obtain the raw materials it so urgently needs.

### On the Other Side of the World

The German people, by the same token, are anxious to avoid war, but Hitler insists that if it is a case of war or starve, then it must be war. The present crisis has been brought about by the fact that Germany has tried to make arrangements with Roumania for the barter of oil, steel, wheat and wool, for German-manufactured products. The particular method of trading leaves "democracy's" money barons on "the outer," and "democracy's" money barons are prepared to let the world in for another major war rather than be done out of their control of, and rake-off on, the interchange of goods between any two nations. Hitler, on the other hand, is prepared to go to war rather than

submit to the dictatorship of the money barons. If Germany's only access to the raw materials she requires can be by right of conquest, then she will do her best to conquer.

In the latter case, the chances are that the Neimeyers, the Haggensbachs, the Guggenheims, and similar gentleman of the good old British bulldog breed, will insist on the Government taking steps, not, as one may think, to save the world from war by trying to arrange some equitable trading system that will satisfy the "Have Nots," but to protect their interests, without war, if possible, but to protect them in any case. The possibility is, then, of course, that we will have another war to protect our "national honour"—as represented by the financial holdings of the Guggenheims, the Neimeyers and the Haggensbachs.

### In Australia

While all this fuss and stir is going on, on the other side of the world, agents of the "sane finance" ring are working in Australia to the end that the chance Australia has of properly financing her own internal distribution to the benefit of her own people, and of conducting *reciprocal* trade externally, may be obstructed by the sale of her Commonwealth Bank to the interests that are responsible for the present crisis. Australia is sufficiently in the melting pot already. War in Europe would probably mean that Australia would be dragged-in (unless electors bestirred themselves), with the result that not only would our country have to go through all the suffering and agony of the last war, but the aftermath would be worse, to the extent that there is no Sir Denison Miller to put the brake on the rapaciousness of the private banking interests that will, however great the suffering they inflict, insist on their pound of flesh at the end.

War, even though we may avoid it in the next month or two, is inevitable if the present maniacs of high finance control us. Few of us who remember the last war could believe that we would be fighting for an ideal; the last lesson was too hardy learned. Civilisation would be in the melting pot again, and those of us who have had the doubtful pleasure of existing during the first forty

(Continued on page 2)

## KNAVES AND FOOLS

### An Old Game

By LEONORA POLKINGHORNE

**This is one of the oldest games in the world, and still the most modern. We weary of "Snakes and Ladders" and all other distractions, but the game of Knaves and Fools goes on interminably. Never has this game been played upon such a colossal scale and with such high stakes as at the present moment. It is, of course, played with false counters, with such names as "democracy," "liberty," "civilisation." The fools put everything they possess into the game, because they believe, in spite of the fact that this particular confidence trick has been exposed most flagrantly long before, that these fake counters really mean something.**

In 1914, out of a maze of secret treaties and under a veil of secret diplomacy, the nations, all suffering from the goad of a financial dictatorship, rushed to the monstrous slaughter, and emerged from it with a plentiful crop of new graves and enormous debts. We then became a "disillusioned world." In what respect we were disillusioned was never made quite clear, but everyone insisted that we *were* disillusioned, and that was why we took to drink and nightclubs, and modern poetry and art.

But we cannot have been disillusioned about democracy and freedom, because they are still used as potent slogans, nor could we have been completely disillusioned about war, for we are preparing for it with far more fury than we were last time, nor have we been cured of delusions about how the money system is worked, for that is going full blast as ever, and leading us along the self-same road. In fact, in spite of this alleged disillusionment, with all our former gods, we find the same blind faith in the party system (a bit worn at the edges, perhaps), the British Empire, the present financial system, and the Bank of England. In spite of the extension of the franchise since the war, we still think that if woman is not kept economically dependent, that she cannot be trusted to behave herself.

#### The Same Old Tunes

We still chant "the poor we have always with us," and we still believe that nothing but hard work will keep us from evil courses, unless we have plenty of money, in which case we can become public benefactors, like Lord Nuffield, and beyond criticism. Thus we may say that at the present time the knaves are more knavish and the fools more foolish than ever, in spite of blood and misery, and disillusioned soldiers refusing to stand for the National Anthem, and all the rest of it. When we read of Mr. Chamberlain's addressing the House of Commons after the last of Czechoslovakia had gone into the capacious jaws of the "Reich," it seems that he was "loudly cheered" when he asserted that neither party to the agreement at Munich meant less than he said on that occasion, and that when, accompanied by "mein gamp," he bade farewell to the author of *Mein Kampf*, he believed that Germany had no more territorial ambitions in Europe.

They cheered the guileless Prime Minister, and applauded his pathetic trust—even people who

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must have read the unexpurgated edition of *Mein Kampf*, and who must have known, unless they were very, very simple, that Mr. Chamberlain *wanted* Germany to have Czechoslovakia, because he, and the Cliveden set, believed Hitler, to be a "bulwark against 'Communism,'" and if you don't know what that term means, it is a threat against privileges and vested interests, *any* threat, such as that of a Popular Front Government. A "democratic" Government must be removed to make way for a totalitarian one, and the aftermath of that is that we may soon be asked to fight for "democracy" as an ideal! It is a wonder that a Prime Minister who does all this without consulting either his Cabinet, Parliament or the people at large, has the nerve to use the word democracy. Still, in spite of all this, the fight is not between autocracy and democracy, much as it may appear so but between the money power and those who are defying it. It is a struggle for the means of life. That being conceded, the froth and turmoil would cease.

#### Hitler Knows

Hitler knows this very well, and his realism is shown by his sending of a food train to the newly conquered areas. While democratic leaders rant about freedom, Hitler passes out soup. After feeding the multitude, he finds a job for everyone. Even the best democrat must wonder what the haggard miners of South Wales think of that. Hitler is a liar, but what of that? Who is telling the truth these days? Ethics do not appear to come into it at all, so why make such a to-do about it? Did we British tell the truth to the Arabs when we promised to protect their territorial rights, and immediately after told the Jews that they could find a home in Palestine? Did we not tell Mussolini that he could (as far as we were concerned) build a railway through Ethiopia, and then when he took this as permission to take over that country (as in effect it was) we came all over moral (owing to pressure of public opinion), and threatened him with sanctions? That, of course, to save our face with the League of Nations. Did we not, through the League, promise protection against an aggressor to Abyssinia, and then secretly prevent her from obtaining arms? Let us not throw stones from our glass houses, but face up to the truth, that the "have" countries, mainly the so-called three great democracies, England, France and America, are only to be stirred when commercial interests or territorial possessions are threatened

It is true that America as a whole was profoundly shocked at the rape of Czechoslovakia, but not to the extent of doing anything about it.

These three countries are firmly bound to the orthodox banking and monetary system, and the dismissal of Dr. Schacht from the lordship of finance in Germany meant probably more in guiding their future policy than the collapse of any number of "brave little" smaller nations.

#### The Game Goes On

It is thus, then, that the fight stands. The real knaves, who have control of the credit that is the life-blood of all modern life, are grinning at our divisions into "left and right," Catholics and Protestants, pacifists and semi-pacifists, Imperialists and isolationists, while they turn the thoughts of all in one direction, the fear of war—while skilfully hiding the causes of it. Our blood is being whipped up by broadcast talks, "patriotic" songs and "digger sessions," and no end of vague talk about the implacable "enemy, so that perhaps we fail to notice that income tax, sales tax, and customs dues are to be lifted a few millions, nor do we see the rue significance of this choice extract from the *Economist*:—"although the Australian currency is well-defended and the stability of the exchange is *at present* (italics are mine) unquestioned, Australia's economic outlook is not so unequivocally favourable that heavy social services can be lightly undertaken. The balance is delicate, and can only be preserved with care. The political future of Australia is in the balance. The way it will swing will depend largely on the course of economic events."

#### Delicate Balance

It would seem by the foregoing that our large expenditure on defence is not calculated to upset the "delicate balance" of our financial position, but any extension of social services will endanger it. It is not suggested that our production of wheat, wool, or metals, dried and canned fruit, or sugar, rice or maize has anything to do with this "delicate" situation, nor the willingness of our people to engage in industry, but some intangible, unmentioned thing that forbids our entering on such foolish business as improving school accommodation, enlarging hospitals, having better housing, more relief to the unemployed, or giving milk to school children. The last sentence quoted from the *Economist* also is somewhat misleading when it suggests that the political situation will depend on "economic events." As the only "economic events" likely to affect the Australian people are the extension or contraction of credit by the banking system, and, as a Government that is likely to oppose compulsory military training and private profit in armaments and an attack on the Commonwealth Bank as an instrument for the use of the people at large, will most certainly not be viewed with favour by the controllers of finance, surely the sentence should read the other way round. We have heard a good deal about the inadvisability of politics controlling finance, but why so little of the plain fact that *finance controls politics*?

So, brother fools, let us defer further consideration of this game of knaves and fools till next week, when we will consider a fresh move of the knaves for the further conquest of the fools in a serial story in the associated press, called "Fool's Harvest"

## WHO SHOULD BE "CONVICTED"?

As Australians we should be bitterly ashamed of the incident at Ouyen last week, when 25 young men asked to be arrested because they had neither money to continue their search for work, nor food to assuage their hunger. And this in a country where production constitutes an embarrassment. It is not an occurrence that we should discuss for a day, and then dismiss till something similar crops up again next year. There is a root cause of such sorry happenings, and it is to be found in a faulty monetary system, which has not kept pace with changed conditions. No one can defend a policy, which permits young, able-bodied men to sink to such a state, that gaol is regarded as a welcome refuge! Some of these workless lads had not long left their schooldays behind them. Probably they fail to realise what a stigma they have placed on their characters by the fact that a conviction has been recorded against them. But, after all, when they were removed from the trucks at Ouyen, what alternative faced them? Even an unemployed army marches, 'presumably, on its stomach. They had no food or the wherewithal to obtain it. They were in no condition to walk any distance. Their dilapidated footwear advertised that fact. Exception has been taken in union circles to the criticism levelled at railway officers, but the real offenders are not men obeying orders, but electors who tolerate conditions that give rise to such deplorable alternatives as eat in gaol, or starve out of it. Perhaps one of the most pathetic features, of the whole shameful business was the gratitude of the unemployed for a square meal, and a little kindly consideration from police officers, who, in the words of their spokesman, treated them like "toffs"! Australia may yet rue the day when she turned youths of this type into outcasts, or potential enemies of society. There is work to be done in developing this country, and plenty for all, if we had men of vision as our leaders. It is not the unfortunate band of workless who should have been sentenced. It is the selfish and complacent politicians and people who should be convicted. They have the power in their own hands. They are too idle and indifferent to use it!

—Ouyen and N.W. Express  
March 10.

## THE DEVIL WE KNOW, AND THE DEVIL WE DONT

(Continued from page 1.)

years of the twentieth century could only hope that out of the melting pot, into which we are now being drawn by our own thoughtlessness (democracy has the Government it deserves), the survivors might emerge sufficiently disillusioned but enlightened to overthrow those who cause money scarcity, with its resultant poverty, misery and war.

#### C. FORD

The Caterer

IS AT

204 High St., Prahran

## POVERTY KILLS!

### It Also Stunts Body and Brain, and Produces Untold Disease and Crime

#### READ THE FACTS

In the course of an article headed "Property and Health," in the "Medical Journal of Australia" of March 4, Dr. E. P. Dark assembles an array of facts which should shock the most complacent out of their smug apathy.

We congratulate Dr. Dark and the "Medical Journal of Australia" on making these facts public, and we reprint a large part of the article hereunder.

In the last few decades there has been a great deal of investigation into the relation of poverty and disease. In all countries where this has been done the evidence is conclusive that poverty is the greatest single cause of disease and death in the world today.

#### Infant Mortality.

In considering infant mortality, the results are similar whether one compares a poor area with a wealthy one, or a poor class with a wealthy class. In England (1933), at St. Helen's, the infant mortality was 116 per 1000; at Oxford it was 32 per 1000. In Melbourne (1932-1936) the rate in Fitzroy and Collingwood was 65.53; in Kew and Brighton it was 30.71.

When we examine it according to classes, the difference is still more tragic. In England, for the years 1921-1923, the infant mortality rate was examined by the Registrar-General, who divided the population into five classes. The rates for the two extremes are given in Table I.

TABLE I.  
Infant Mortality Rates Among Independent and Labouring Classes.

Age of Infant	Mortality Rate per 1000	
	Independent Class.	Labouring Class.
1st month . . .	69	109
2nd and 3rd Months . . .	33	127
2nd trimester.	33	134
3rd and 4th trimesters	32	137

We notice here not only a great disparity, but a disparity that increases with the age of the infant. In the first month the ratio was 69 to 109; in the third and fourth quarters it was 32 to 137.

In 1916-1917 the United States Children's Bureau investigated 14,608 children born at Baltimore in 1915. They were examined according to the fathers' wages, and the figures shown in Table II were obtained.

TABLE II.  
Relation of Father's Income to Infant Mortality Rate (United States Children's Bureau).

Income per annum	Infant Mortality Rate per Thousand.
1850 dollars or over	38.3
1250 to 1849 . . .	84.3
850 to 1249....	69.9
650 to 849.....	95.6
550 to 649.....	107.9
450 to 549.....	128.9
Below 450.....	164.8

#### Infectious Diseases and Poverty.

Hippocrates was probably the first to note the greater mortality among poor than rich in infectious diseases; he remarked that in the epidemic of Perinth free women suffered less than the slaves. In modern times, in the 1892 cholera epidemic in Hamburg, the mortality rate per 1000 was 19 times greater among those earning less than 1000 marks per annum than among those earning 50,000 marks or more. In the influenza epidemic of 1918 in the United States of America, for every 100 who died among the wealthy class, 230

died among the destitute. At Cleveland, United States of America, in 1930, the death rate from tuberculosis per 100,000 was 215 among those paying 20 dollars or less per month for rent, and 34 among those paying 75 dollars or more. In the same city, more recently, the tuberculosis death rate, calculated on a standardised population, was 35 per 100,000 in the richer quarters and 710 in the poorest.

#### Income and Death Rate

For the years 1921-1923 the Registrar-General of England made an analysis of the death rate for males from twenty-five to sixty-five years of age, divided into five social classes, standardised as to age. The number 100 is taken to represent the average mortality for the whole group, and the death rate for each of the five classes is as follows:

Independent.....	81.2
Middle class.....	94.2
Skilled workmen.....	95.1
Semi-skilled workmen.....	100.7
Unskilled labourers.....	125.8

McGonigle and Kirby, during the period 1931-1934, made a thorough investigation of the death rate in a group of 777 families. Three hundred and sixty-nine of these families were unemployed, and numbered 1572 individuals, an average of 4.26 per family; 408 were employed, and numbered 1564 individuals, an average of 3.8 per family. The mean income of the unemployed families was 29/2½ per week, and of the employed 51/6 per week. The average annual standardised death rate for the period was as follows:

Unemployed.....	29.29
Employed.....	21.01

The difference in income was the only difference in living conditions of the two groups.

Another analysis of the influence of income on death rate was made over a four-year period (see Table III.).

TABLE III.  
The Influence of Income on Death Rate Observed Over a Period of Four Years

Weekly Income.	Standardised Death Rate.
25s. to 35s.....	25.96
36s. to 45s.....	19.34
46s. to 55s.....	19.23
56s. to 65s.....	15.13
75s and over.....	11.32

Yet another analysis of the general (standardised) mortality was made at Finsbury in 1906. In a rich ward the death rate was 8 per 1000. In a poor ward it was 36 per 1000. In the same borough a different analysis gave the following results: In families occupying at least four rooms the death rate was 6.4 per 1000; in families living in one room it was 39.

In the late autumn of 1927 an unintentional experiment on a fairly large scale, with excellent controls, was carried out at Stockton-on-Tees. This experiment demonstrated that for people on a low income it is better to have a few shillings extra for food than to have all the other conditions of living improved. The experiment covered two exactly

similar areas: Household Lane and Riverside. The rents in the former averaged 4/8 per week, in the latter 4/7½. About 90 per cent, of the families in both areas were unemployed. From 1923 to 1927 the standardised death rates were as follows:

Stockton-on-Tees.....	12.32
Household Lane.....	22.91
Riverside.....	26.10

The council of Stockton-on-Tees undertook a re-housing scheme and built at Mount Pleasant 152 model dwellings. In the late autumn of 1927, 152 families, comprising 710 individuals, moved from Household Lane to the beautiful new houses at Mount Pleasant; but still 90 per cent, of them were unemployed. Two hundred and eighty-nine families, comprising 1298 individuals, remained in the old area, Riverside. All the conditions of living at Mount Pleasant were better than at Household Lane; but the rents averaged 9/- per week, while the income from which the rents had to be paid remained the same, so that each family which moved had 4/4 per week less to spend on food, clothing, fuel and other sundries. Reducing the calculation to individuals, each had about 10d per week less. What was the result? The standardised death rates for 1928-1932 were:

Stockton-on-Tees.....	12.07
Mount Pleasant.....	33.55
Riverside.....	22.78

During that period there was no epidemic or unusual happening to explain the rise in the Mount Pleasant death rate, so there is no other conclusion than that the lowering of the individual income by 10d per week raised the death rate nearly 50 per cent.

#### Income and Physique

The effect of poverty on physique and on intelligence is just as malignant. The anthropometrics committee of the British Association, dividing the population into five classes, found an average difference of height of 8.75 centimetres (three and a half inches) between the first and fifth classes. In school children the average difference between the richest and poorest classes may reach 10.0 centimetres (four inches) in height and 5.9 kilograms (13 pounds) in weight.

Two groups of children were examined for height and weight. One group consisted of 125 "city" children, the parents of 105 of them being unemployed; in the other group were 124 children of parents belonging to the professional classes. The result was as shown in Table IV. In weight, 81.7 per cent, of the children of professional parents are normal, or above it, against 44.8 per cent, of the "city" children. In height, 95.1 per cent, of the "professional" children are normal or better, as against 53 per cent, of the "city" children. This difference is acquired. It is not inherited, and does not exist at birth, unless the mother is living at starvation level. Up to three weeks there is no measurable difference between the classes in either weight or height; then it begins, and at thirteen weeks the first effects of poverty are visible enough.

TABLE IV.  
Relation of Weight and Height of Children from "City" and Professional Classes (Anthropometrics Committee of the British Medical Association).

Class.	Weight.		Below Normal.		Above Normal.	
	Above Normal.	Within Normal.	%	%	%	%
Professional. . .	48.4	38.7	12.9	25.0	70.2	4.8
"City".....	11.2	33.6	55.2	1.7	51.3	47.0

Repeated investigations by psychologists demonstrate that the intellect may be stunted as surely as the body. Up to two years of age they find no difference in the average mentality of the children of the richest and poorest classes. From

then on the gap in average intelligence widens. The inevitable conclusion is that people are not poor because they are stunted and stupid; they are stunted and stupid because they are poor. It is a dreadful biological imperative from which there is no escape.

Each generation hands on to the next a sound heritage of body and mind, as good, on the average, among the unemployed living on 7/6 per week, as among the privileged paying 7/6 for a glass of vintage wine; but it cannot remain as good while we allow it to be starved.

In Britain whole towns have the majority of their people unemployed. At Jarrow, in 1934, 80 per cent, of insured people were unemployed; in South Wales and many parts of the Midlands conditions were as bad, and employment has improved very little since then, as rearmament has affected mainly skilled tradesmen.

In May, 1933, Sir R. Aske, M.P. (Tyneside), said: "Half the adult patients treated at these [dispensaries] are undernourished; in 50 per cent, of cases the amount available for food . . . is less than 3/- per head per week, and in some cases it is as low as 2/-." And that makes it clear why the loss of 10d per week meant the difference between living and dying for so many of the unfortunates who were transferred to the model houses of Mount Pleasant.

Sir J. Boyd Orr's figures cannot be quoted too often. There are 4,500,000 people [in England] whose diet is grossly deficient in every constituent; 9,000,000 more deficient in all vitamins and minerals; and 9,000,000 more lacking some of the "protective" elements. This is not because the people do not know how to buy, but simply because they have not enough money.

#### Wages and Working Conditions

Before noting what sort of wages some of those in full-time employment are getting, it would be well to observe the result of a most careful investigation made by B. S. Rowntree in 1937. His conclusion is that the minimum wage upon which normal health can be maintained in England is, for a man, wife and three children, 53/- per week in the city and 41/- in the country. That he has not set an extravagant standard is seen from the fact that no butter is allowed, only margarine. Yet in a great many pits miners get 30/- per week; agricultural wages are 32/- per week; cotton card-room workers get 22/- per week, and are forced to speed up at that; Midland factory girls, at fifteen, get 12/9 per week. Do they get an increase in wages at sixteen? No; although they are often the only members of the family working, they are dismissed, so that another hatch of fifteen-year-olds can be hired at 12/9. The hours in some cases are as shocking as the wages, juveniles in the distributing trades being legally worked 74 hours a week.

In mining, conditions of work are often as bad as the pay. To

effect economies were are pits where one party of repairers is employed instead of six, and gas precautions and stone-dusting are notoriously neglected. Steel archways for supporting the roofs of

(Continued on page 8.)

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### Breakers Ahead!

During last year the *New Times* suggested that 1939 was likely to see the end of the normal (or abnormal) functioning of what is known as "sane finance." We did not suggest that we were gifted with any great amount of vision, though a great body of the Australian public seemed to be of the opinion that, whatever might happen in the Central European countries, there could never be any radical change in the conduct and general constitution of the white countries of the British Empire.

The reason we were able to make what may soon appear to the

uninitiated as a long-range forecast was actually the result of a logical following of general trends.

Recently an angry mob of some five hundred men created a disturbance in the Victorian Mallee. The newspaper reports suggested that the whole disturbance was due to a fight, which started between two youths. Actually the whole trouble was caused by the fact that a majority of those five hundred men were unemployed, homeless, hungry Australians, and the authority which sought to arrest two of their number was, to their minds, representative of the authority which was responsible for the fact that they were hungry, etc. Whether the conduct of Red Cliffs' fruit-pickers was logical or not, criminal or not, forgivable or not, the fact remains that a hungry man is an angry man, and when a country possesses a sufficiency of ill-clad, ill-fed unemployed, that country is going to find trouble.

Unemployment and (under the wage system) consequent non-distribution of our actual and potential plenty in this fair land is entirely due to the present financial system. The troubles in Europe and the growing unrest of the unemployed portion of Australia's population arise from the same cause. The writing is on the wall. Unless the means of distribution is taken out of the hands of private individuals and made to function by the people for the people, then trouble will come, not only to Europe, but to Australia. It is to be hoped that it is not yet too late to remove the cause and so prevent the effect. The responsibility rests on the shoulders of all individual citizens *as electors*.

## ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

### VICTORIA

#### KOOYONG ELECTORATE

— Campaigners were at work on the N.I.P. Repeal in the Koo-yong electorate last Sunday. Unquestionably, the personal contact produces results, and at the same time provides an opportunity for spreading the "Tell your Member" idea. It was found that the principle of the Electoral Campaign was readily accepted and welcomed.

NEXT SUNDAY. — All reformers who can possibly manage it are asked to gather at the Kew Railway Station next Sunday, at 10 a.m. The drive against the National Insurance Act will be intensified in the Koo-yong electorate. Mr. Griffith will be in charge to direct teams to selected areas.

COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES is to be congratulated on adopting Electoral Campaign methods to overcome the unfavourable Waterside Workers' legislation. Pressure politics is the only way to get things done.

THE MAYOR OF HAWTHORN has convened a meeting for Thursday, March 28, at 8 p.m., to be held in the Hawthorn Town Hall. Messrs. Menzies and Scullin have been invited, along with Mr. Paice and other speakers, to discuss National Insurance. Helpers are wanted to assist in the distribution of leaflets, advertising the meeting, next Sunday morning. Please get in touch with Mrs. Allsop, 26 Grove Road, Hawthorn; or meet at Glenferrie Station on Sunday morning, the 26th inst., at 10.30 o'clock.

WOMEN'S SECTION — The first meeting of the Women's Section, held on Thursday, March 16, welcomed new members. Office-bearers were elected: Chairwoman, Miss Suter; hon. sec., Mrs. Kerr; minute sec., Mrs. Allsop. To help with the rent of the rooms, members have decided to donate

three pence per week each. Next meeting of the Women's Section is on March 29 at 8 p.m.

Roster for Afternoon Hostesses — Hostesses will attend rooms once a fortnight. Any member or potential member who wishes to be added to the list, please communicate with Mrs. Kerr, hon. sec. Starting from Monday, April 3: First Week — Monday, Mrs. Coto; Tuesday, Mrs. Shambrook; Wednesday, Mrs. Maltby; Thursday, Mrs. Jenkin; Friday, Mrs. Kerr. Second Week. — Monday, Mrs. Allsop; Wednesday, Mrs. Allen.

YOUTH SECTION. — On Monday last a surprise party was given to Albert Fawcett, who departed for New Zealand on Wednesday, 22nd inst. A portable gramophone was presented to Albert from members of the Y.S. We wish him bon-voyage, and every success in the land of earthquakes and advancing political reform.

Dance — Have you a ticket? The Y.S. will not be selling tickets at the Palais Royale on Tuesday, March 28, so get your ticket beforehand, or make arrangements to get them at the hall, through the hon. secretary. The dance will take place instead of the Speakers' Class. Intending speakers attend on Tuesday, April 4.

General Meeting on Tuesday, April 4.

Street Speaking — A successful meeting was held at Prahran last Friday night. Eric Butler helped to swell the ranks of the speakers. This Friday all potential speakers and workers for selling *New Times* meet outside Glenferrie Station. There is a lot to be done. Roll up and help to make these meetings a success.

On Sunday April 2, Y.S. members are visiting Mordialloc. They will meet at 1 Albert Street, Mordialloc.

# ARE WE TO CLOSE DOWN?

## YOUR DECISION IS REQUIRED

At present the circulation of the "New Times" is still insufficient to carry on without obtaining and spending capital. The Directors consider that this is most unsound and must be terminated.

### WHAT WE MUST HAVE IMMEDIATELY!

- (1) An additional 1000 copies must be sold every week. We suggest that EVERY reader should, THIS week and each subsequent week, buy an additional copy to either re-sell or distribute to contacts. This may mean a shortage of copies at the newsagents'—but INSIST on your newsagent procuring the extra copies immediately.
- (2) As the benefit of this cannot be felt for some time, funds are urgently required to keep the paper running in the interim. If you, therefore, wish to see the continuance of the "New Times," you are asked to donate at least 1/- (£1 or more if you can) TODAY. Even 3000 shillings would mean £150.

## THE DECISION IS IN YOUR HANDS

If the response to this statement is not both IMMEDIATE and SUFFICIENT this is the last issue of the "New Times."



**RT. HON. R. G. MENZIES, P.C., K.C., M.P.**

**His Resignation No Calamity**

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H. BROWN.

Sir,

There is more to be said about "Australia's Noblest Son" and the "mission" behind his present visit to the Commonwealth, but I would like to say a few words this week regarding the resignation of Mr. Menzies from the Federal Cabinet. He feels that we have sustained a great loss, and from the manner in which the resignation has been featured by the press, we might have expected that the centre of the Universe had shifted, but the earth still revolves smoothly, and we see that there are far more important things to be concerned about. Even so, I think it advisable that we should know more of the background to his "principles," because there is great danger to the welfare of the people in allowing him to attain to a position of political authority.

**His Personal Interests**

What I want particularly to place on record is the significance of his utterances when considered in conjunction with his personal interests in financial institutions. When I wrote some time ago that the purpose of the national insurance scheme was not to provide benefits for the community, but to relieve the Commonwealth Budget of the increasing liability for pensions, I was criticised in a certain quarter for allegedly misrepresenting the position. As usual, it was not necessary to wait long for confirmation, and we have now had the admission that the modified scheme contemplated by the Government will not relieve the Budget, as originally intended, and will not provide that greater security for the payment of interest on the national debt so much desired by investment interests.

**The "Burden" of Pensions**

There must be a compelling reason for this anxiety to relieve the Budget of the increasing liability for Old Age and Invalid Pensions, and it is a striking thing that all the public men who refer to the "burden" of pensions never murmur a word about the three-fold greater burden of interest on the national debt. One of these men is Robert Gordon Menzies, P.C., K.C., etc., and we are assured and re-assured that he is a man of great honour, personal integrity, mental ability, and so on. Perhaps he is, but it is difficult to reconcile such claims with the advocacy of conditions which are fraudulent, or with adherence to proposals which could only result in further needless sacrifice by that section of society which is the least able to sacrifice anything. It is even more difficult to reconcile such claims when it is feared that he would be a personal gainer from the impositions on the great army of underpaid workers.

**Government's "Greatest Achievement"**

In his "reasons" for resigning he made the statement that the National Insurance Act was one of the Government's greatest achievements. This leads to the questions: (1) In what way was it an "achievement," and (2) "greatest" for whom? As Mr. Menzies is not likely to give public answers to these questions, we must fill them in for ourselves. The Act would have achieved this:

- (a) An immediate lowering of the standard of living. (Every employee coming within the scope of the Act would have received less in his pay envelope, and therefore 75 per cent. of the workers would have had their purchasing power reduced without any

decrease in the cost of living.)

- (b) An immediate INCREASE in the cost of living. (Employers' costs would have been increased by their contribution of 1/6 per employee, and they would have had to raise their prices in order to liquidate the extra expenditure.)
- (c) An increase in taxation, particularly on food and clothes, to meet the Government's contribution.
- (d) An eventual regimentation of the rank and file of the population to coolie standards, (With increasing unemployment more and more would be forced on the fund, thus reducing their income to about 15/-, as compared with the normal wage of, say, £4, and bringing about additional bankruptcies and an intensification of poverty.)
- (e) The transfer of pension liability from the community as a whole to the pockets of the poorer section least able to meet it.
- (f) Further opportunities for the banking system to increase our indebtedness to them and to have even better security for the payment of taxation collections as interest to them on privately - manufactured money.

**The Only Beneficiaries**

The only things that would have been "insured" were the certainty of more poverty and the inevitability of heavy increases in taxation. This would have been of inestimable benefit to "investors," i.e., banks, insurance societies, investment trusts, share-brokers, and organisations of that type. Is it to be assumed that this great barrister, learned in knowledge and practised in debate, has been entirely ignorant of these facts, and that the possible benefits to himself at the expense of the community were an accidental aspect to which he had given no thought?

If he was sincere when he referred to the Act as the Government's "greatest achievement," he must have known that it could not possibly be classed as an "achievement" so far as the great bulk of the people are concerned, and that such a term could only be truthfully applied in relation to banks and those who profit from the practice of usury. Therefore, when he spoke of it as an "achievement" he must have been thinking of these latter.

**Politicians as Company Directors**

That he had some occasion to be thinking of the usurers is very clear from his commercial inter-

ests. In recent years he has blossomed out as a company director (nearly all prominent politicians do!), and the extent of these directorships appears to be not entirely unrelated to the extent of his influence in politics and to the manner in which he is "bound by his beliefs." All the companies in which he holds directorships are "investment" companies, and depend for their success on the continuance of the financial arrangements now crippling the life of the nation. His association with these companies appears to explain why he has taken no part in exposing the fraud of the present system, for he has become not only a direct beneficiary of that system, but also a co-director with some of the men who manipulate it to the detriment of both God and mankind.

**His Dictatorships**

Here is a list of the companies in which he is a director:

- Australian Foundation Investment Trust Ltd.
- Capel Court Ltd.
- Capel Court Investment Trust Ltd.
- Jason Investment Trust (Aust.) Ltd.
- National Reliance Investment Trust Ltd.
- New Zealand Perpetual Forests Ltd.
- County of Bourke Permanent Building and Investment Society.
- Equity Trustees, Executors and Agency Co. Ltd.
- Commercial Union Assurance Co. Ltd.

Besides the fact of his direct financial interest in these "investment" companies, there is the even more important aspect of his wider association with interlocking interests through his co-directors. In considering this, it is important to bear always in mind that these companies depend for their success on the continuance of a system under which the harder the farmer works the further he becomes sunk in a sea of debt, and the more we produce in wealth the more we owe in symbols.

**His Australian Co-Directors**

On the boards of the five companies first mentioned, Mr. Menzies sits side by side with the following gentlemen: Staniforth Ricketson, F. W. Spry, W. J. Byrne, and K. A. Henderson. Two of these are directors of the Melbourne *Argus*; one is a member of the Melbourne Stock Exchange and partner in the share-broking firm of J. B. Were and Son; one is vice-president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and director of Australian Paper Manufacturers Ltd., Alba Petroleum Co. of Aust. Pty. Ltd., and Noyes Bros. (Melbourne) Ltd.; one has just succeeded Lord Huntingfield as Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Victoria, and in his address to the brethren at Melbourne, on March 15, said: "We do not welcome to our ranks men of narrow mind or extremists, or men with 'kinks'" (Jesus was an "extremist," and all our greatest men were supposed to have a kink at one time or another)—he is also director of Commonwealth Oil Refineries Ltd. and the Atlas Assurance Co. Ltd., of the bank-owning Metal Monopoly; and the other is a member of the Melbourne Club and director of the Eagle Star Insurance Co. Ltd. It will be seen that petrol comes into the scheme of things and also oversea insurance companies. Have I not heard something of a Petrol Commission whose report has been withheld from publication?

**A Group of Knights**

Then there is the Equity Trustees, Executors and Agency Co. Ltd., of the bank-owning Metal Monopoly, where R. G. M. sits with Sir Edward Mitchell, Sir Stephen Morell, Sir Alan Currie, Allan Spowers, and Colonel E. F. Herding. Most of these are members of the bankers' rendezvous in Victoria—the Melbourne Club. One is a director of the Melbourne *Argus*; one is president of the Young Nationalists' Organisation (which R. G. M. helped to establish) and president of the Old Melbournians' Association (the "Old School Tie" element, including "Australia's Noblest Son"); and another, Sir Stephen Morell, of the bank-owning Metal Monopoly, is a director of Carlton and United Breweries, Colonial Gas Association Ltd., Victoria Insurance Co. Ltd., Melbourne Co-operative Brewery, and the Melbourne Tramway Trust.

**Enter the Internationalists**

But interesting as these are, they are not nearly so interesting as the connections on the Commercial Union Assurance Co. Ltd. This is an international financial organisation, with "Boards" in Australia. Mr. Menzies is one of the Australian directors, and his co-directors in Melbourne are Sir Colin Fraser (one of the Government's "advisers" on Defence), Major General F. G. Hughes, and E. O'Sullivan. It would be enlightening to know the precise circumstances in which Mr. Menzies came to be offered a seat on this directorate, and the qualifications, which led the company to settle on him for such a position. Sir Colin Fraser is another member of the Melbourne Club, and a prominent beneficiary in the bank-owning Metal Monopoly. He is a director of the following:

- A.C.F. and Shirley's Fertilisers Ltd.
- Associated Pulp and Paper Mills Ltd.
- Broken Hill South Ltd.
- Mount Coolon Gold Mines.
- Electrolytic Zinc Co. of Australia Ltd.
- North Broken Hill Ltd.
- Western N.S.W. Electric Power Pty. Ltd.
- Zinc Corporation Ltd.
- Metal Manufacturers Ltd.
- Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation.

War preparations are evidently profitable to him personally.

Major-General Hughes is a director of Broken Hill South, Western N.S.W. Electric Power Pty. Ltd., Barnet Glass Rubber, and Dunlop-Perdriau Rubber. He is also a prominent beneficiary in the bank-owning Metal Monopoly.

**E. O'Sullivan**

Then we come to the apparently innocent Mr. E. O'Sullivan, who seems to dislike too much publicity. But he is even more important than the "sirs" who grace the local board, for he represents the E.S. and A. Bank, which is controlled from London, and which incorporates the Commercial Bank of Tasmania and the Royal Bank of Australia. He is the link with Sir Clive Baillieu, who is one of the directors in London. This is also one of the three private banks owned by what is known as the Overseas Group, of which Australia's "Noblest Son" has been an outstanding beneficiary. Sir Clive Baillieu was here recently and had contact with Mr. R. G. Casey just prior to the introduction of the National Insurance scheme, of which Mr. Menzies professes to be a supporter to the bitter end. This connection would, of course, be accidental.

(Continued on page 8.)

## New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

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#### BRUNSWICK.

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**PRINTING, E. E. GUNN,** Off 600 Lit. Bourke St. Cent. 6021. **WATCHMAKER and Jeweller.** M. Chapman, 6 yrs. Hardy Bros., in charge Repair Dept. M.L.C. Chambers, Cr. Collins & Eliz. Sts.

(Continued on page 7.)

## WAR THREATENS AGAIN!

### "Democracies" Have Betrayed the Cause of Peace

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

**"Nor will they arm and die merely to repeat another victory as fruitless of good and as pregnant of evil as that of 1918 has proved to be. If we have to fight again, less than three decades after the last victory, how soon after the next shall we have to fight?"**

**"If you tell those who are to bear your arms that these new ways of peace and defence here urged are visionary and hopeless; that only the old way can defend our country, then these youngsters, looking for a moment at the 'defence' which the older way has given, will decide to go without defence; to refuse to bear your arms. And they will be right."**  
—Norman Angell, in "The Great Illusion—Now."

During September of last year, the whole civilised world faced the gravest crisis since those fateful days prior to the "War to end wars" in 1914. Whatever we may think of Mr. Chamberlain's political or economic views, it will be readily admitted by most fair-minded people that he, at least, averted what appeared to be an inevitable conflict, a conflict that may have resulted in a complete collapse of what little civilisation we possess. But in spite of all the talk about "peace in our time" which followed the crisis, every person conversant with the present economic relations between the major Powers could not but point out that crisis must follow crisis until active attention was directed to the *cause* of international friction. We had a breathing space. But the "democracies" that, in the final analysis, hold the key which could open the door to international friendship, have refused to use that key. They have done the opposite. As the present writer pointed out in an article in the *New Times* on October 14, 1938—even while the public was sinking back into its sea of apathy with a sigh of relief: "And out of the welter of confused discussion with which we have been deluged lately, arises the ghastly fact that the onward march to destruction has been speeded up. Why? *Because the causes of war still remain . . .* The breathing space achieved at the present time, however, is like sitting on top of a volcano—the same disruptive forces are bubbling underneath, and at any moment may blow the top off the whole structure."

#### Reason or Emotion?

One of the major obstacles to a clear understanding of the present crisis is the manner in which the public has been aroused by appealing to their fears, prejudices, prides and patriotisms. "Britain, right or wrong," appears to be the motto of most people, without realising that Britain usually means something entirely different from the British people. Well might the British people ask: "What are we expected to fight for?" What benefit has the individual Britisher derived from the fact that Britain now possesses colonies that formerly belonged to Germany? None whatever. But, when there is a suggestion that Germany may be forced to fight for those raw materials, which are essential to her national life, these same British people (with the aid of the other "democracies") are expected to shed their blood to maintain the *status quo*; even though the *status quo* contains the *causes* of war. Surely the time has arrived when people must face the real issues of why Germany threatens trouble at the present time. For them to fully understand the causes of the present problems one must take their minds back

to treatment which the allies meted out to Germany after the Great War. The front-page article of the *New Times* this week points out the humiliating treatment which Britain and France have been primarily responsible for. We, who pride ourselves on being reasonable, tolerant human beings, will, in the years to come, hang our heads in shame when we think of this history. That treatment provided the creation of an ideal environment for the growth of power politics—a nauseating conception of how human society should function. But that must not blind us to the fact that this position is only an effect, a symptom of the cause. That cause was present and may easily precipitate another war, and, even if we decide to use force again and defeat Germany, the same cause will still operate and bring war *again*—whether it be in ten years or twenty years. The problem was understood, by some, even before the last war. Angell, in his book, "The Great Illusion," constantly drew attention to it, and pointed out that, if it remained unsolved, war must result. It *did*.

#### The Causes.

Angell's interpretation of the facts was not only confined to the "Right" in politics. Robert Blatchford, the Socialist, in his work, "Germany and England," took the same view, as will be seen by the following quotation: ". . . As to arbitration, limitation of armament, it does not require very great effort of the imagination to enable us to see that proposal with German eyes. Were I a German, I should say: 'These Islanders are cool customers. They have fenced in all the best parts of the globe, they have bought or captured fortresses and forts in five continents, they have a virtual monopoly of the carrying trade of the world, they hold command of the seas, and now they propose that we shall all be brothers, and nobody will fight or steal any more.'"

And today it would be possible to give dozens of quotations showing how many prominent, well-informed persons understand the root of the trouble, which inexorably seems to be bringing Germany and Britain into conflict once more. Take two typical examples, both American, and for that reason the more noteworthy, as being in a measure detached. In the *Saturday Evening Post*, October 5, 1935, Mr. F. Simonds, an acknowledged authority on international affairs, wrote: "It is a matter of life and death for Germany and Italy, as it was for Japan, to break the blockade which is throttling the economic activities of both. For, unless that blockade is broken, the future holds out only the prospect of material misery and political upheaval . . . When, however, the Italian, German and Japanese

people concluded that for themselves the implications of peace were more fearful than those of war, and that only war could produce an amendment of those terms, then the Geneva game was up and nations began to take partners and make preparations for another dance."

Mr. Leland Stowe, a foreign correspondent attached to the *Herald-Tribune*, who knows Europe and European opinion well, in an address to the Executives' Club of Chicago, Friday, October 18, 1935, said: ". . . There is just as grave a responsibility on the shoulders of the British Government which possesses in the world more than it ever needs to have, which has taken mandates over Palestine and Iraq out of the last war as booty and a good big part of the German colonies in East Africa, and to this day has never offered to give up even 10,000 square miles to satiate either Germany or Italy, in order to prevent the next war."

"Nor has France offered to give up a single inch of territory gained in the last year. Would you say that Germany and Italy were the only ones to blame? I would say that the 'haves' have just as great a responsibility as the 'have-nots' for leading the whole world into this terrible thing. Until they are willing to give up something, what chances have we for peace? . . ."

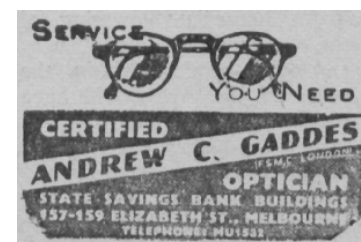
#### The Issue.

There is very little doubt that the underlying cause of Germany's drive at the present time is her need for raw materials. The world situation today resolves itself into a clear-cut issue of the "democracies" on one side owning and controlling the bulk of the world supply of raw materials, while the totalitarian countries are being economically strangled because they cannot get access to those materials. As mentioned before, the democracies have the key to the solution. They could, with great benefit to themselves, allow Germany, Italy and Japan access to raw materials in a free, friendly, *reciprocal trading* basis and thus remove the major cause of war. To do this would mean a drastic alteration in their money systems. At the present time there appears to be very little evidence that this step will be taken. The old policy of force will be used. In effect they are saying to these totalitarian countries. "We will not allow you access to these raw materials by way of trade, and we will arm to the teeth to stop you taking them." That policy in the past has brought death. It will bring death again if persisted in.

#### What a Prospective Victim Thinks.

I As one of the young generation who will, no doubt, be expected to fight on behalf of these alleged democracies, the writer expresses the greatest opposition to the suggestions being made at the present time. What if we use force, and, after millions on both sides have been killed, we defeat Germany, what then? Will it solve one problem? No, the causes will still remain, and the next generation will then also fight to save "democracy." As Angell pointed out before the last war, and is now pointing out again, the old ways have failed. A new way

(Continued on page 8.)



## THOSE EMPTY TRENCHES!

By "THE WALRUS"

For some years now there have been ominous murmurings among those who consider it their duty to murmur ominously, on the subject of the declining birthrate. Statisticians have turned for a moment from their prosperity indices to inscribe graphs and compile tables showing the exact point at which the race may be expected to vanish from the earth. There has usually been an exparte, aloof quality about their findings which has somehow left untouched the people responsible for the baby-famine. But a short contributed article in the Queensland Press recently, has ruthlessly exposed a danger more immediate than the mere dying out of the race, which, after all, won't affect US very much. The writer points out that owing to the reluctance of people to become parents during the past two decades, we in Australia are going to be SHORT OF SOLDIERS.

*It certainly has to be admitted that the result of the recent drive for militiamen substantiates this contention. Rockhampton's population of 30,000, for instance, produced 0.01 % of volunteers, so that it seems on the face of it that not only are people trying to dodge soldiering by not being born, but are inclined to be shy about bombs even after they are born.*

*This is a very poor return for the efforts of those statesmen who have discovered a way to peace and prosperity through wholesale rearmament. How perfectly beastly if we are denied peace because we have no soldiers! Would it not be better in that case if we had no civilians?*

### A Nasty Dilemma

It is a nasty dilemma for Mr. W. M. Hughes. He must have found it tantalising enough, when as Minister for Health he had to patrol the casualty wards of imagination. How much more tantalising it must be, when, mounted like Jones of the Lancers, singing

"Astride of my charge-ah, I clearly look large-ah," he finds the parade ground deserted. It is all the more disconcerting to statesmen in view of the latest information that Australia has practically offered to have a war of defence on her own soil this time; which is fair enough in a way, as all the other wars of defence she has so far participated in have been fought on the "away" grounds. We shall have to do something about it if Australia is not to go down in history as the only country, which never fought a battle on her own soil.

### The Look of the Thing

*It isn't that one feels that six million people can prevail over sixty million similarly armed.* It is the look of the thing that matters. We feel obliged to keep our marble good with the historian of the future, even at the cost of extermination. In days gone by the invaded peoples were able to give their patriotic historian something to wave flags over, and, at the same time, avoid

extermination. Consequently, we are able to be pretty complacent about the various conquests, Roman, Norman, etc., because the only thing that remains of them is a ruin or two and a page or so of history. We never boast of being Roman-cum-Norman. We still quietly assert that we are Anglo-Saxon. The invaders might win ' battles, but they couldn't make any sort of real difference.

### Our Problem

Our problem, then, boils down to this: how to fight a war of defence without being exterminated. This is the problem, which is agitating the great political brains of the day, and it isn't helping them to give them no defenders to exterminate. It's only giving them a headache.

It is a pity that their sporting instincts will apparently not allow them to listen to any alternatives. We might, for instance, take a leaf out of Gandhi's book and ignore the intruders altogether; refuse to recognise them, League of Nations style.

"Will that be all, madam? Looks like rain again! Funny looking lot, these invaders—shouldn't care to camp in the open myself."

### One Big Happy Family

Or we might all *surrender* to somebody or other; it doesn't matter very much to whom, so long as we all surrender to the same one. All the troubles of the world are acknowledged to be fundamentally economic: the contending of nations for external markets. The "surrender method" provides a marvellous opportunity to make all markets internal again. If the entire world were England (or America, or Germany or Italy, or whatever we decided upon), the need for the army, navy, and discriminating tariffs would disappear. The only "problem" left would be that of unemployment, and, as there wouldn't be any other country to blame, something might eventually be done about it.

Both of these methods would, I am sure, be endorsed by posterity (if any) as it would provide the human material to carry the load of national debt we are passing along. I must confess, of course, that we seem to make altogether too much fuss of posterity. *Someone has already observed that posterity isn't in a position to do anything for its,* and it is a pretty safe bet that it will "pass the buck" along to post-posterity.

### The Shunned Alternative

If neither of these courses commends itself to the authorities, there is another open to them. This course has been pointed out so often and so reasonably, and is yet so persistently ignored by them, that there are good grounds for assuming there *is* something about it that they don't like.

*THIS alternative is the old-fashioned homoeopathic method of allowing the people to obtain enough to bring-up a family on, Just that! In view of the increased efficiency of mechanical production, it is not conceivable that anyone—unless, of course, he be an economist—could discover any difficulty about doing it.*

And, after all, no one would need to tell the people what all the prosperity was about—and we are safe in assuming that they wouldn't bother to ask.

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### MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 6.)

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## POVERTY KILLS!

(Continued from page 3.)

main haulage roads were introduced in 1890 and were officially approved. They would make the roads almost completely safe; but they are not much used, so the mining accident rate remains tragically high.

### Housing.

From an enormous mass of examples of overcrowding, I shall quote only two, bad, but by no means exceptional.

In Bolton a house with two small bedrooms was occupied by twelve people: man, wife, four daughters, aged respectively twenty-one, eighteen, thirteen and ten years, and six sons, aged fifteen, eleven, eight, six, three and one year.

In the Gerakl Street area in Liverpool there are 403 persons per acre. Eight tennis courts with only a moderate amount of spare room at the ends and side-lines would fit into an acre; this gives a fairly graphic picture: 50 people to the tennis court.

In case we should feel self-righteous and say, "That couldn't happen here," let us see what are the housing conditions in Melbourne. In 1913 a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly found that the housing was disgraceful and a menace to the health of the community; the same areas are even worse today. "Land has been so avariciously used in some instances that two or three houses have been erected on an area which was originally intended to be the back yard of a house facing a major street." In Carlton there are houses fronting a four-foot right-of-way, facing a factory wall. In Richmond the streets are so close together that houses are built on blocks of land only 35 feet deep, and to subdivide lots streets twelve feet wide have been planned. In Collingwood there are scores of houses on twelve-foot allotments, and one house is on an allotment eight feet five inches wide. Near Dudley Street, in West Melbourne, within two miles of the General Post Office, there is a settlement of people who have made shelters from materials rescued from the council's rubbish tip. The inhabitants, with sardonic humour, call them "Dudley Flats." There is no sanitation, and the only water supply is from their miserable roofs or from a standpipe a mile and a half from some of the "flats."

In some of these areas there are fifty dwelling places to the acre, and the houses are often dreadfully overcrowded. Here are some examples:

A.—In bedroom 1 are a man and his wife and three daughters, aged ten, nine and six years in bedroom 2 three boys, aged sixteen, thirteen and eleven years; in bedroom 3, the occupier's father and mother; in the dining-room, a child on a couch; in the passage, a baby, aged two years; in a lean-to, two girls, aged sixteen and ten years; in a sleep-out in the yard, the brother-in-law and a child.

B.—In South Melbourne were three three-roomed houses, each holding two adults and seven children; all of these houses were infested with rats and vermin.

C.—A three-roomed house in Collingwood was occupied by two adults and eight children. Four people slept in each of two beds; in one, the mother and children, aged three, four and five years; in the other, children, aged ten, nine, seven and six years.

Six thousand three hundred and ninety houses were inspected internally. Many had three, four and five rooms, one behind the other, only the back and front rooms having windows. The other rooms get light and air from a door opening on a narrow passage.

Such rooms are often occupied by two or three adults. In 69 per cent, of the houses inspected there were rooms ventilated only in this way; 38.9 per cent, were infested with rats; 17.6 per cent, were infested with vermin; 32 per cent, had no bath; 51 per cent, had no wash-house; 88 per cent, had no water in the kitchen; often the only water was a tap over a gully-trap in the yard. Many of the houses were so dilapidated that it was impossible to get rid of vermin; but the rents were still rising. Some of the physical results of life under such conditions are that infectious disease and infant mortality rates are both more than twice as high as in the outer suburbs. One of the moral results is that juvenile delinquency in proportion to population is five times as high as in the outer suburbs.

The children who are born here, many of them inevitably destined to death in infancy, or to become diseased, or to be criminals, have at birth, as has been shown, just the same natural inheritance of mental and bodily well-being as the children of the professional classes.

So far no housing scheme in Melbourne has been of any use in clearing slums, because the lowest rent is 14/- per week for a house with one bedroom, while the average total family income of those living in the worst type of slum property is £1/16/8 per week, so that it is impossible for, them to pay the rent without starving. Slum clearance will remain a farce until those in charge of it realise that the slum dweller cannot pay an economic rent for even the cheapest kind of decent house. Either the rent must be lowered or the income raised, or the slums left as they are, which is probably what will be done for a long time yet, and the country will go on paying a bill it cannot possibly afford, in disease, depravity and death.

\* \* \*

If capitalism cannot learn how to distribute what it can so abundantly produce, it must change or perish. It is, of course, bound to change, as the economic relationships of man have been steadily changing since the dawn of history during man's constant struggle for a higher standard of food, better shelter and greater happiness. He would be a very bitter cynic who would claim that we have reached the ultimate good.

I have dealt mainly with conditions in England because a great many more accurate investigations have been made there, and because, looking at those conditions, we can see what is at the end of a road we must not travel.

Here in Australia we have the beginnings of all the tragic conditions we see in England. We have slums which must be as bad, thought not as extensive; we have our 100,000 men unemployed, existing on relief work, on the dole of 7/6 per week; we have malnutrition, to the extent of 33 per cent, of a group of children examined in Sydney, and we even have what may justly be called a distressed area in our Northern coalfields. Whether we travel far along that road or whether we make a better one depends more upon the medical profession than upon any other body of men; and there are many things which we must do before we can lay honest claim to care anything about preventive medicine.

## WAR THREATENS AGAIN!

(Continued from page 6.)

must be tried, and tried before it is too late. Australia could give a lead. Electors can give the biggest lead by not directing too much attention overseas, where they have very little influence, but by taking an interest in the one person through whom they can effectively express themselves. That person is their Member of Parliament. Tell him that we are not prepared to be dragged at the heels of British imperialism without first being consulted. Also tell him that we desire him to have the money system of this country taken out of the control of private financiers, and made to function in such a manner that Germany can get reasonable access to the raw materials, which, ironically enough, our primary producers are being hard pushed to sell. If the individual elector will not do this he will probably reap the consequences, along with the other electors throughout the democracies. The challenge to the "democracies" at the present time will have to be met—not by force, but by the application of a new outlook. If the "democracies" fail to do this they are betraying the cause of peace.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR COMMUNISM AND "THE NEW TIMES"

Sir,—Let me first assure "W.P." that I have been fully aware of the part played by the press in misleading the people since I was first introduced to Socialism by Robert Blatchford over thirty years ago.

Since that time I have been interested in any movement to help social reform; have read everything I could find on the subject, from "News from Nowhere" to "What are we to do?" and am still of the opinion that the Communist policy is to destroy first, and build up on the ruins.

Misery, strife, civil war, and revolution, in which everyone is involved first, and the Communist brand of happiness after that, seems to be the idea, as I see it.

During the time of preparing for the revolution, a spirit of opposition to everything, and bitter class hatred is encouraged. No wonder that "the kindly and generous capitalist" will bitterly oppose this method of altering the system. There are not many in the community who could accept it, which may account for the slow growth of the idea in Australia.

I venture to assert that all the good things enjoyed by the Russians, could, and would, be obtained by our people, once they woke up to the money swindle, and insisted that their representatives make full and proper use of our present Constitution for the benefit of ALL the people, instead of shamelessly giving the powers of the people to a few international gangsters, who degrade and starve so many of our citizens.

The *New Times* has undertaken the task of educating the people to understand what they are entitled to under the present Constitution, without bloodshed or revolution. It is a movement that all can subscribe to. It is just, humane, and practical, and has the big advantage of right on its side. It must work to the advantage of the whole of the community—capitalist or wage slave.

I would like to see many more

## RT. HON. R. G. MENZIES

(Continued from page 5.)

### The London End

So much for the Australian Board. What of the London chappies. There is J. F. G. Gilliat, who is also a director of the Bank of Australasia (of the Overseas Group) where he sits with a director of the Bank of England; Sir A. E. Harris, who is also a director of the National Bank of New Zealand; Rt. Hon. Viscount Home, who is a director of Zinc Corporation Ltd. and a strong supporter of re-armament; Sir George Schuster, who is also a director of the Bank of New Zealand, the E.S. and A. Bank, and the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Ltd. (This man is one of the so-called wizards of finance, who has taken an active part in imposing the world-wide scheme to secure world control by bankers; and the Rt. Hon. Lord Hunsdon, who is also a director of the E.S. and A. Bank and the Australian Pastoral Co. Ltd. Through Mr. W. J. Byrne and the Atlas Assurance Co., Mr. Menzies is also brought into association with another director of the Bank of England, via the Goschen family, whose representatives sit on the following financial institutions: Westminster Bank, Ottoman Bank, Chartered Bank of India and China, National Provincial Bank, Mexican Railway Co., London Assurance Co., Assam Tea Co., Anglo-Celtic Trust, Planet Assurance Co., Provincial Bank of Ireland, Sun Life Assurance Society, and Union Discount Co.

### Moves Behind the Scenes

From these particulars, which could be extended considerably, we are in the position to form some idea of what is going on behind the scenes. The *London Times* has announced that Mr. Menzies' resignation, in its sequel, may possibly prove fatal to the Federal Cabinet, and the Governor of the Bank of England is one of the controllers of the *London Times!* That paper went on to say: "It can only strengthen his own personal position. Indeed, he could hardly have remained in the Government after the decision to repeal THE ESSENTIAL PARTS of the National Insurance Act, TO THE SUPPORT OF WHICH HE WAS DEEPLY COMMITTED." From this, and particularly the parts I have emphasised by the use of capital letters, it seems clear that Mr. Menzies will not "lose" anything by serving the interests of the people's enemies, and by standing to commitments apparently made without regard to the welfare of his constituents. The *Argus*, for example, has already told us, on March 16, "he has not gone into the wilderness, and it should not be long before he again becomes one of the high counsellors of the nation." What for, and in whose interests? You can see for yourself.

Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H BROWN

letters from readers, for I am sure there must be some readers who, while they subscribe to the paper, do not agree with all that they read, and would welcome the opportunity to give vent to their views and doubts.—Yours, etc.,

"R. R."

Hawthorn, Vic.