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MELBOURNE, THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1939.

Every Friday, 3d

THE TRUTH ABOUT GERMANY

It is not with the idea of defending Hitler, nor the bunch of gangsters he has gathered round him, that this article is written. Our purpose is to point out the fact that Germany threw to the surface the particular belligerent type likely to defend it against the gangsters of finance, rather than representatives of their own outlook and viewpoint. Had Germany not been driven to desperate economic extremes, it is doubtful whether it would have placed the present desperadoes in power. To that extent the situation in Germany today is somewhat on a par with the situation in Germany before 1914. In both cases Germany suffered as a result of the fact that it was not "on the inside" insofar as international trade was concerned. That is now to a great extent due to the fact that finance in Germany has been forced to submit to a higher internal authority, which has the whip hand of it.

REVENGE

The great crime that arose out of the war, greater than the crime of general stupidity that made it possible in the first place, was the post-war crime to which Hitler refers in his speech—namely, the economic strangulation of the defeated nations under cover of the popular appeal of punishing the so-called war criminals. We were foolish and criminally wicked in our support of the "revenge" demands at the end of the war. Germany, to many of us, was the Kaiser, and a few of his more influential generals. When it was insisted that Germany be punished, we quite overlooked the fact that the form of punishment that was meted out allowed the Kaiser to get off "scot free" and

Reaping The Whirlwind

Hitler's anxiously awaited speech has received the usual measure of distortion at the hands of the world's daily sup-press, but the meat of that speech was such that to whatever extent its side issues were capitalised and headlined, however skilfully phrases were separated from their contexts, the point stood out in bold relief from the sabre rattling moron-fodder that was woven around it—Germany's trouble was and is economic.

When Germany, under Hitler, first threw out the challenge, which the so-called democracies looked on as a threat to world peace, it did so in much the same way as a suffering individual would cry out against the cause of his suffering. The democracies replied with friendly words and prayers for peace, the while they applied still greater pressure to the economic pincers. As the victim's outcries increased in intensity the torturers sought to still them with fair words, complaining bitterly when the soft words failed to counteract the effect of the applied economic stranglehold.

his Junker friends to at least live in modest comfort, while the real Germany, the flesh and blood of the country, which is composed of those kindly people who make such good settlers out here, and whom we find so courteous and charming when they visit us in Australia, were condemned to the ultimate depths of misery and degradation. While we aided and abetted the money ring because of our revenge complex, the money ring acquired as much of the pound of flesh as they could manage, and, as Hitler said in his speech, "Hundreds of thousands of Germans were killed by the hunger blockade, which was continued for months after peace, to extort further sacrifices from the German people . . . This state (Germany) lost its internal ability to live."

TROUBLE IS ECONOMIC

Perhaps never before in our world's history has the root of its trouble been so obviously economic as at present. "Vital inter-

ests and living 'space' " is one of the *Argus* sub-heads to Hitler's speech. Vital interests mean foodstuffs, minerals, oil, wool and wheat. Without access to those any country must starve. If we would prevent war, it is obviously our duty, *and to our interest*, to make every effort to see that our surplus of any such raw materials is made available, in exchange for manufactured commodities, to those countries that need them. While our primary producers are faced with financial poverty and a consequent inability to purchase *their* requirements because they are producing "too much" wheat, etc., Germany is threatening the world with war because it hasn't enough. Obviously, then, we cannot hope to avert war merely by increasing defence expenditure, any more than (to take an extreme case) the Government of a country full of starving people, could expect to control them merely by increasing its police force in proportion to the progressive increase in misery.

FINANCE THE KEY

Herr Funk, German Minister of Economics, in an address to the Reichsbank executives, made an appeal for the resumption of trade talks with Britain and France. Such negotiations, to a far greater extent than the Munich talks, determine the world outlook insofar as peace and war are concerned. As things are, the result of such talks depends, not upon the Governments of the democratic countries concerned, but upon the basis laid down by the international banking fraternity -- upon whose shoulders the responsibility of peace or war consequently rests. International Banking decides whether Germany, or any other country for that matter, is to be allowed access, by pound-for-pound trade, to the goods it lacks. If that access is denied, it is then left to diplomats to stave off war if they can.

WAR—WHAT FOR?

If the time should come when their efforts on behalf of peace should prove abortive, and the world should be thrown into the melting pot again, we can be certain that, irrespective of who nominally rules Germany or Italy, France or England, the thing that the "democracies" will actually be fighting for will be that precious thing called "sane finance" and the status quo. It will certainly *not* be for true democracy; and, irrespective of who wins, "lands fit for heroes" will be as mythical as they ever have been.

So we would suggest, ye high priests, that when you rise from your ham bones after praying for peace, that you might do something about removing the CAUSES of war, for "The Lord helps those who help themselves."

IS AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY WILTING UNDER FINANCIERS' ATTACK?

WHAT A HISTORY!

One great writer wrote that history is the best cure for pessimism. That, of course, was before recent Australian history! Although well-informed journals like the *New Times* have been constantly, and perhaps somewhat monotonously, drawing attention to the effects of the present system of debt-finance, which dictates to both Capital and Labor, it is only now being realised that the inevitable storm is breaking with a fury that may well prove the death-warrant of Australian democracy. No doubt, when the Loan Council meets again in a few weeks, our parliamentary representatives (sic) will further pawn us to the private bankers for a few more million pounds. Thus will the chains of servitude be more firmly shackled upon the Australian people.

Moving in conjunction with this financial dictatorship has been the growth of a political dictatorship. While we still have some political liberty, we at least have a chance of throwing off the shackles of

Democracy Wins One Round, But—

By ERIC D. BUTLER

"I am content here to register the conclusion that, if Parliament cannot with reasonable promptness be transformed into an efficient organ of government capable of expressing the popular will, it will be superseded and will deserve that fate."—Dr. C. E. M. Joad, in "Liberty Today."

With the eyes of the Australian public constantly focussed upon the intrigue of European politics for the past few months, considerable attention has been diverted from our own local affairs and the subtle moves which are undermining what little political democracy we still possess. Financial chaos faces the whole Commonwealth, while the potential instrument through which the people can economically emancipate themselves is being brazenly offered for sale to private financiers. Speaking of European affairs, one English politician said, "The lights are going out. We are closing down." We can appropriately make the same remarks about the present trends right here in Australia at the present time. A survey of those trends over the past few years makes it clear—horribly clear—that we are tending towards a dictatorship in this country as effective as anything witnessed overseas.

finance. But without that political liberty our task would "start from scratch." Is that liberty to be taken from us? Taken? Some of it has already been taken. Fed-

eral Parliament assemblies less and less as time goes on. An Inner Cabinet is formed. Freedom of speech on the air becomes a relic of the past. Suggestions are made

for the abolition of State Parliaments. This would mean a more centralised form of government than ever. And we now hear that this government is to have a soundproof underground chamber in which to meet at Canberra!

On top of all this we now have a compulsory national register, which means the thin edge of the wedge for conscription in Australia. Rather significant is the fact that the present Government is opposed to a national register of wealth. All this does not make very happy reading, but, if this wave of reaction does not stir Australian democracy, then God only knows what will.

THE COMING FIGHT AT THE LOAN COUNCIL

With every Government desperate for money, the forthcoming Loan Council will, within the orthodox framework, have to perform a financial miracle to overtake the drift in finance, the snowball of unemployment and the rise in living costs throughout Australia. Money is desperately

(Continued on page 3.)

NATIONAL INSURANCE DISCUSSED

Indignation at Hawthorn Town Hall Meeting

Apology Demanded from Speaker

A spontaneous burst of resentment was expressed by the audience in the Hawthorn Town Hall (Melbourne) on Thursday evening, March 30, when Mr. G. L. Cameron, an insurance broker, said that no one would work if the benefits of any insurance scheme equalled the income from work, and we would have a nation of malingerers.

Voice from the hall: "That is assumption." "It is not assumption—it is a statement of fact. You people in the hall would be the same," the speaker replied.

Shouts of "Insult!" came from all quarters of the hall, and demands for an apology. The speaker was counted out. He eventually said that, if the audience was so "thin-skinned," he apologised.

The meeting was convened by the Mayor of Hawthorn, Councillor J. Fowler, to discuss National Insurance. He said, when opening the meeting, that he had received a petition, signed by 200 residents of Hawthorn, asking him to call a meeting. It was originally intended for the purpose of *protesting against* the National Insurance Act. He had considered that, in his official capacity, he could not comply with the request on that basis, but thought it would be beneficial if the matter could be discussed, and both sides of the question reviewed, so that residents would understand the Act and be able to form an opinion. He had hoped to have the Hon. R. G. Menzies and the Hon. J. H. Scullin on the platform, but had received their apologies, saying they could not attend because of other engagements. However, there were other speakers present. He hoped they would be given a good hearing, and that their explanations would be helpful to those present. Dr. John Dale would review the Act from the medical and health point of view, Mr. H. V. Bondeson from the businessman's point of view, Mr. F. C. Paice from a general point of view, and Mr. G. L. Cameron from the insurance point of view.

DR. JOHN DALE'S VIEWS

Dr. John Dale said that the schemes under consideration were so "wonky" that no one expected them to live. Speaking as a citizen—he couldn't help being a Health Officer—he did not like the original Act, because people would have so much a week less with which to buy food. He was in close contact with the poor who at present had access to medical attention, but had not security. The chief causes of ill health, he said, are: (1) Not enough food (2) Insecurity—that is, worry and fear. This was an age of plenty. Science and invention were responsible for this new state of an abundance of everything. The science and invention of the years were a common heritage. It was the right of every individual to share in the abundance these had brought. The economic system needed changing, so as to make the abundance available for consumption. *He had never heard politicians discuss National Insurance from this point of view.*

BUSINESS MAN'S VIEWPOINT

Mr. Bondeson, speaking as a businessman, said no insurance scheme, which lessened the purchasing power of the consumer, could be acceptable to the businessman. The cold, hard reasoning of business demanded more, and increasingly more, purchasing power in the pockets of the community to make possible an increased turnover—this was so apart from any humanitarian consideration.

Business was now looking for more customers, and viewed with awakening concern the large proportion of the community with exceedingly small purchasing power. Dr. Dale had shown the condition of many thousands of Australian people. The aim in the past seemed to have been to work out the lowest possible requirements necessary to keep life together. The new aim, even from a purely business point of view, was to work out the greatest possible incomes that could be distributed in relation to the power of the people to produce. For a special purpose the speaker had visited a street in Sydney and called on thirteen adjoining houses. In the thirteen houses sixty-four persons were living, and only one house pleaded unemployment. The total of weekly earnings amounted to £31/10/-! This was typical of thousands and thousands of houses.

"The basic wage is not sufficient to provide adequate purchasing power; the old-age pension is worse; the dole we'd better forget, and the National Insurance rates are ridiculous," Mr. Bondeson said. None of these provided a sufficiency—merely the means to die more slowly. Dr. Dale had shown the effect of insufficient food and of worry. Under such conditions dying commenced, and was long drawn out.

"These dying bodies are not an asset to business—business wants a healthy, consuming public. There must be a reversal of policy. Higher standards of living must be set up. The money can be 'found.' Wars can be financed; therefore, peacetime needs can just as easily be financed. Business demands that they shall be," said Mr. Bondeson.

MR. PAICE ON DEMOCRATIC ASPECT

Mr. Paice exposed some of the anomalies of the Act, but chiefly pointed out the part electors had played in blocking the implementing of the Act. The individual elector, for the first time, had exercised his right to tell Parliament that it had passed legislation that he did *not* want—which, he demanded, be repealed. The speaker called it "negative action." When the Act was passed, he said, the first general feeling was: "Well, it's law, and nothing can be done about it." But, slowly at first, the idea of writing to the member of Parliament commenced to spread, until every member was receiving numbers of letters, demanding repeal of the Act, each day. Everybody knew the result. The lesson learnt was that democracy can have what it wants if it will only speak. Mr. Paice uncompromisingly stated that the Act must be *repealed*. The issue was now a trial of strength.

WHITHER ARE WE HEADING?

Debt and Its Consequences

By STANLEY F. ALLEN, F.C.A. (Aust.)

The world is staggering under the load of Social Debt and our present Monetary System appears to be on the brink of complete collapse. We might define Debt as something by which we pledge the future to pay for present demands, and to stave off the onrush of economic problems—in short; it is "a deal in futures"—the receipt of an immediate advantage in consideration of a promise of future sacrifice.

It is the most vital question of the age, yet it is one that is pushed aside for others less vital.

In the commercial world the care of debt commitments would be carried through by the businessman, his partner or co-directors, but not so in the case of the Public Debt.

There is no man or woman in public affairs whose tenure of office is certain beyond a few years, and he, therefore, escapes responsibility for Debt, and passes it on to others.

The eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were filled with enthusiasm for passing on to the future something better for the children of the next generation. The twentieth century, however, with a wholly different point of view, says, without a blush: "We will have what we want; we don't care where it comes from, and, seeing that our children and their children have done nothing for us, away with any consideration for posterity."

However, the boomerang effects of Social Debt are now being realised, and this generation, without waiting for the next, is reaping Debt's harvest, due to the fact that the limit has already been reached.

Deeper and Deeper

Robert R. Doane, in a short history of Debt, says: "The world debt increased 47 per cent during the seventeenth century, 466 per cent, during the eighteenth century, 12,000 per cent, at the end of the nineteenth century."

What will it be at the end of the twentieth century at the rate we are going, and what will be the standard of living of the people?

We cannot blame the war of 1914-18 for the effects of this so-called "sound finance" policy, because it is mainly *since* the end of the war that finance has run riot in many mad schemes to cover up the cause.

"Only about one-third of the present public debt," writes Ernest Benn, in "Debt," "is due to the military and naval expenditure upon the war, and the other two-

At Frankston, the speaker said, Mr. J. V. Fairbairn, M.H.R., had stated that he favoured amendment, so that there would be something to build on in the future, and, also, because, if it were repealed, it would be a victory to those opposing it, which meant, the speaker added, victory to the people, Democracy. Mr. Paice affirmed that the Act was a new instrument for taxation-without-the-label. It was designed to overcome the growing drain on Government revenue of old-age pensions and pass on the cost direct to the public.

Mr. Cameron, after his brush with the audience, refrained from continuing his address. However, he answered several questions, which were directed to him.

The Mayor, when asked to put a motion to feel the opinion of the meeting, declined, on the grounds that the meeting was purely to enable persons to form their own opinion, not to gain a consensus of opinion. The Mayor called for a vote of thanks to the speakers, and he was accorded the thanks of those present for calling them together.

—Hawthorn Standard report.

thirds must be charged to our post-war enthusiasm for doing all sorts of original things in original ways."

Social Debt Figures

The figures for the United Kingdom are almost unbelievable:

1913 national debt, £650,000,000; £14 per head population. 1936 national debt, £7,797,000,000; £166 per head population.

We are now informed that the debt of Great Britain is £8,206,000,000, or nearly £200 per head, as against £18 per head before the war, and that, at the rate it is mounting up, the new generation may face an individual share of public indebtedness of £300 per head.

Australia's debt position is also staggering:

In 1913 it was £336,500,000— or over £64 per head population. In 1938 it was £1,275,000,000— or over £185 per head population.

Taxation

We cannot escape the consequences of a financial policy based on Social Debt—on the one hand an increasing burden on the community by the many forms of taxation, and on the other, an increasing economic insecurity for Governments, industry and people.

The *Economist* disclosed the following position in Britain:

1837.	1936.
Taxation £48,402,000	£755,719,000
Population 26,709,000	47,098,000

The population had not quite doubled, so we see that taxation *per head* had become almost *nine times* as heavy.

During the same hundred years the output of real wealth multiplied MANY times. No wonder the *Economist* observed during the Coronation celebrations that "today, when we survey the inheritance our Victorian progenitors have bequeathed us, we have room for gratitude, but little for complaisance. The cost of war challenges the cost of welfare in the national accounts. There are 1½ millions unemployed this Coronation time." (Now, in 1939, it is over 2 millions.)

Australia is little better off. Her disclosed *taxation load has increased from* £16,731,000, or £3 15/7 *per head, in 1910, to* £118,714,278, or £17/6/- *per head, and is still mounting up at an enormous rate.* And this does not include indirect taxation or the increasing rate levies made by semi-governmental institutions.

—and Poverty

Poverty and insecurity in the midst of plenty is apparent to all thinking people. Sir John Orr, Research Lecturer on Physiology and Nutrition at Aberdeen University, estimated that *over twenty million persons in Britain were below the economic level necessary*

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IS AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY WILTING UNDER FINANCIERS' ATTACK?

(Continued from page 1.)

wanted. Where is it to come from? It appears that the private bankers are tightening up, and the landslide towards depression is quickening in tempo. Earlier hopes of being able to borrow on the open market have been dashed by the failure of the last two loans, in which the Commonwealth Bank was forced to take up a large portion of both. Mr. Stevens, facing a probable deficit of £2,000,000 at the end of the financial year, now wants the Loan Council to make up his deficit by a special issue of Treasury Bills. However, as the Commonwealth Government itself may also have a deficit next year, of possibly nearly £5,000,000, it will no doubt, strongly oppose this suggestion. The outstanding feature is that depression conditions are settling in faster than the Governments can deal with them. Even the huge defence expenditure has had no effect upon employment. The Commonwealth Bank's monthly statistics show, on its index figures, a slump in employment during January of 5.2 per cent, in factories and 17.2 per cent, in retail stores. And for the same month the Commonwealth statistician reported a rise in the cost of living of 1.2 per cent. There are two alternatives facing the Governments at the present time. One is to have another Premiers' Plan. The other is for the Loan Council to urge that the Commonwealth Bank be used to expand the supply of credit without further debt or taxation. This latter appears to be very unlikely, so we will either have intensification of the present financial collapse, or, alternatively, if the private banks make the necessary amount of money available, further debt and taxation will be the order of the day. It appears that we will lose whichever way it goes.

WILL WE LOSE OUR BANK AND OUR PAPER?

Amidst this welter of chaos and collapse the fight to save the Commonwealth Bank is being carried on. Democracy is being put to the test again. The victory which public opinion had against National Insurance should prove an inspiration to all democrats to carry on urgently with the work of reform while there is still time. Democracy won one round. Can it win the next? That depends upon each and every individual.

Big issues are at stake at the moment, and the decision of those issues will decide whether we are to have liberty or serfdom, happiness or misery, democracy or dictatorship.

Most people will agree that one of the main essentials of a healthy, virile democracy is an independent paper, not controlled by any vested interests, and not the mouth-piece of any political party. Up until the present time the *New Times* has been doing a magnificent service for Australia. It is a people's paper. It played a big part in the fight against National Insurance, and was the first paper in Australia to oppose the Commonwealth Bank Amending Bill. Will it carry on with this splendid work? Once again that depends upon the individual. If we lose our paper this will prove a catastrophe of a very serious nature.

Some people may not think that the dictatorship of the press in Australia is as bad as we constantly point out. Perhaps the writer might quote from his Assembly Hall address, where he dealt with the dictatorship of the press in this country.

"But let us take our minds back to that period in Australian history when J. T. Lang was making such a determined fight for the Australian people against the private banks. Every distortion, suppression of truth and misrepresentation was utilised against him by the press, and any suggestion that there is a democratic press in Australia was given a shattering blow when, in 1932, the directors of Associated Newspapers carried the following resolution: 'That in the interests of the community generally, as well as of the shareholders of the Company, it is not desirable that any election advertisements be accepted from the Lang Section of the Labor Party.' That resolution meant that the proprietors of a chain of important newspapers solemnly declared that they would not publish a single item reflecting the views of a political party for which one half of the electors of New South Wales voted." Comment should be unnecessary. We must fight to keep an independent paper. If we lose, democracy in this country will receive another setback.

A CHALLENGE

Time and time again over the past few months we have asked for

a greater acceptance of personal responsibility by all supporters. We are not playing with an intellectual hobby. It is war. As to how we are to fight, there is no need to discuss. Electoral Campaign tactics have been practically demonstrated as the only manner in which financial dictatorship can be effectively fought. To say that this fight is a matter of life and death is understating the position. Without distinction of class, creed, or political opinion, all can rally to the banner of this dynamic campaign. All shades of thought can take their place in the great army of democrats. During the last war the Australian people showed their wonderful fighting qualities in a state of emergency. Today, our country, with its half-starved thousands, its ruined homes and despairing people, is once again in a state of emergency. The call is not a demand for futile sacrifice, or to engage in bloody combat with other communities forced to obey the code of finance and lay down their lives in needless sacrifice—but to overthrow the enemy in our own country and build a new Australia. This is a challenge to the whole nation. Will we accept the challenge? Your answer is needed. The answer of every Australian is needed. But the sands of time are running out, and there is much to be done. We won one round. Can we win the next? What about giving us a hand? Have you bought your extra copy of the *New Times* yet? If not, why not? Can you help in any way? Let us know—NOW. For, as Dr. Joad so truthfully and ably points out, unless parliament can, with reasonable promptness, be transformed into an efficient democratic instrument, it will pass away. *And it will serve us right.*

HUMAN NATURE NOT ALWAYS WHAT IT SEEMS

CAUSE AND EFFECT

"The actions of individuals in highly developed societies, such as our own, are not necessarily an index of the fundamental tendencies of mankind as a whole -----"

"It is only necessary to think for a moment of the conditions of the upbringing of a child, to realise that a naturally peaceful and gentle creature can be made violent and cruel."

Environment and the Child

"The upbringing of many children is violent to an extreme, and punishment, often cruel, or the fear of punishment, is all too frequently the mode by which a child is brought up to be a 'decent' member of society."

"Everyone who has associated with children must realise that their dispositions are moulded almost entirely upon their surroundings. For the first few years it is hardly possible to detect any really original thoughts or actions. Play is imitative; so is talk and general behaviour. When, therefore, a tired mother slaps her young child she is probably teaching it a lesson it will never forget. The tremendous prestige of the parent will endow violence with a definite sanction, and this form of behaviour will tend to be accepted as natural and reasonable. 'If you do that again, I will slap you,' is a common expression."

The Consequences

"The consequences are all too well known. A struggle develops between the adult and the child, and divers types of behaviour are engendered. Resentment, the desire for revenge, hatred of the

WHITHER ARE WE HEADING?

(Continued from page 2.)

to maintain health. The U.S.A. Secretary of State, Mr. Cordell Hull, speaking before the American Congress, stated that *nearly 80 per cent, of the world's population of two thousand millions is today living below the poverty line.*"

The World Committee of Relief says that 2,400,000 human beings died of starvation and 1,200,000 humans committed suicide because of economic distress in 1934. *At the same time, 1,000,000 freight-car loads of grain, 267,000 freight-car loads of coffee, 500,000 cwt. of sugar, 50,000 cwt. of rice, and 50,000 cwt. of meat were deliberately destroyed to keep up market price levels.*

All this poverty and chaos because of some debt figures in bank ledgers!

Power and Penalty of Debt

It was not until 1914 that the financiers and real controllers of our Money (Ticket) System fully discovered the immense economic advantage to themselves (but, of course, at the people's expense) of the Debt System. Most politicians today have become mesmerised with the so-called mysteries of money, and are but tools in the hands of Financial Interests.

Philosophers will be interested to reflect that when the common people had little or no interest in the matter, they were, in fact, imbued with a sense of right and wrong in borrowing and lending. Now, when this public debt is raised not only in their name, but upon their own personal property, possessions, earnings, and at the expense of their standards of living, they appear to know nothing whatever about it, and indulge freely in all delights of further increasing the Social Debt, and never, if public discussion is any guide at all, bother with the thought that *a debt has a sting in it.*

The Great Illusion

It is a strange, but tragic, paradox that the more we appear to progress and plan for security under this Social Debt System, the poorer we become. Our make-believe prosperity and security is, after all, but a sham and an illusion.

Debt, Taxation and Poverty are man's three great enemies—and, as he has mastered the power to create real wealth abundantly, and harnessed great natural forces to his service—he has now to master the money means to the full distribution of that wealth. *It can, and must, be done.* Well might we say: "God save us from our own stupidity."

tyrant, stubbornness—all appear, to the great detriment of the character of the child, and, as is well known from the modern study of psychology, of the adult. Therefore, so long as adults continue, in this and other countries, to ill-treat children in their desire to train them, or, what is more common, in exasperation at their behaviour, it will be unscientific to maintain that the violent behaviour of children has any reference to any other society than our own." - W. J. Perry, in "The Primordial Ocean."

C. FORD

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A Nigger in the Woodpile

On the surface, the leader con-
tained in the Melbourne *Argus* of
April 3 would almost seem to sug-
gest that dear old "Granny" has
switched round to a monetary re-
form policy. Headed, "Money
Must Be Found," the leader ex-
presses dissatisfaction at the Loan
Council's decision to postpone un-
til May the problem of financing
defence and other public works.

Referring to Mr. Casey's re-
marks of a few months ago, to
the effect that money would be
found without limit for defence
purposes, the leader then goes on
to say, "Such a promise connotes
a method of financing independent
of either the taxing field or the
willingness of investors to support
fresh loans. It would be absurd
if the defence of the Common-
wealth had to be curtailed in the
event of a loan being under-sub-
scribed or the amount obtainable
from taxing falling short."

There is more to come. The
Argus goes on to say that, "Pre-
sent tentative plans provide for
part of the defence expenditure to
come out of current revenue and
part out of loan money. The pro-
gramme is so colossal, however,
that these sources cannot be re-
lied on entirely. Moreover, de-
velopment needs are of almost
equal importance, since the econo-
mic strength of Australia depends
upon its capacity to employ its
present citizens and absorb new-
comers . . . The Commonwealth
Bank Board, as the central bank-
ing authority, can effect this ex-
pansion quickly and safely by meth-
ods which appeal to it as the
most effective. There is not the
slightest danger in this course."

As we said at the beginning of
the article, it would almost seem
as though the Granny section of
the public are to be awakened
from their long, long sleep. If
we are to be shown an example
of Commonwealth - Bank - issued
money for defence and public
works, it is almost within the
realms of possibility that they may
wake up sufficiently to see the

THE HUMAN COMEDY

In the course of a satirical re-
view of the situation and fore-
cast - - published by "Picture
Post" at the beginning of this
year—Leslie Henson, famous
English comedian, made the fol-
lowing pronouncements:

THE GENERAL OUTLOOK

"The situation, as I see it, is
such that every effort should be

possibility of using Common-wealth-
Bank-issued money for pensions,
wheat and wool subsidies, and so
forth.

Actually, however, the *Argus*
does not for one moment suggest
that the money should be issued
debt-free or interest-free; nor, we
presume, does it intend the in-
terest on this proposed expendi-
ture to revert to the nation. One
could hardly expect the protagon-
ists of "sane finance" to alter their
present belief that interest-free
money must necessarily result in
inflation, whereas interest-bearing
money (as long as it isn't spent
by Labour, of course), can be is-
sued "without the slightest
clanger."

The point is, of course, that the
Commonwealth Bank is shortly to
be handed over to inscribed stock-
and debenture-holders (if the pub-
lic doesn't prevent it), and finan-
cial interests will then be certain
of getting their toll on the de-
fence and public-works money
even though it is issued by the in-
stitution which was once "The
People's Bank."

That, of course, is the nigger
in the woodpile.

made, by all who have any kind
of interest at heart or elsewhere,
to secure the evolution of those
fructifying forces which tend to
exercise a beneficent, rather than
a retrograde influence on the
progress of events."

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

"Casting our eyes abroad,
what do we see, if, indeed, we
can be said to see anything at
all, and not rather to be gazing
with horrifying uncertainty at a
maelstrom of conflicting im-
pulses tending towards an ever-
more-possible—if not absolutely
inevitable—dissolution?"

HOME AFFAIRS

"Turn rather to events at
home. Here we are fortunate in
the possession of a multitude of
prophets, able to forecast from
the increasing number of bicycle
sprockets employed by the
crofters of the Western Isles, an
ever-growing demand for more
of everything, everywhere."

PERSONAL AFFAIRS

"And so, in a cloud of uncer-
tainty, the year goes out. For-
tunately, in our private lives,
we are on firmer ground. We
can be sure that we shall be
genial, large-hearted and pro-
gressive - - and that everyone
with whom we come in contact
will be mean, narrow-minded
and depraved."

FINANCE

"I foresee a difficult time for
financial experts. There is little
money in the money-market, and
people tend more and more to
take out what little there is."

DISARMAMENT

"It will be illegal to carry a
revolver or a life-preserver. But
to carry a rifle may at any time
become compulsory, particularly
in the civilised countries."

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

When this issue went to press (last Wednesday night) the financial response and available indications of increased circulation were quite encouraging. However, the response so far is only a portion of what is required.

If YOU have not already "done your bit" in this matter, the question is simply—WILL YOU? Please don't leave it to "the other fellow," and please don't delay.

BEWARE OF MR. BRUCE

(XI.)

His Real Purpose Not Disclosed

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H. BROWN

Sir, —Now that Mr. Bruce has left Australia on his way back to London, perhaps we should leave him alone, but the fact is that his influence still remains. Notwithstanding his frequent and vigorous disclaimers, he is still a strong force in the political sphere, and what he says the Government invariably does. That being so, it is essential that every one of us should continue carefully to examine his utterances so that we may be sure of not being misled. On the occasion of the visit just concluded he went from place to place telling members of Parliament the story of the international developments "up to Munich," and the politicians listened to him like lambs, apparently too mesmerised or too feeble to ask any pertinent questions. If one here and there did ask anything about the financial implications of it all he was immediately informed by Mr. Bruce that he was "now out of politics!"

Out of Politics, But in Cabinet

Can you imagine a man who is out of politics not only being admitted to the sacred Cabinet meetings, but actually being more powerful there than any of those who ARE "in politics"? This claim of detachment from politics is far too thick for acceptance, more particularly when we recall that similar secret meetings with the political bigwigs were also arranged during his previous "mission" in 1934. These "private" sessions lead us to wonder whether it was their own business they were considering or ours. But this is rather typical of Australia's Noblest Son and Greatest Democrat. He seems to like to talk about things behind closed doors.

His Contacts Since 1929

Many of us were surprised when he was defeated at the Federal elections in 1929, and there was further surprise when he left so soon afterwards for London. He spent practically the whole of the succeeding two years in Britain and then returned to Australia to secure re-election to the House of Representatives. Following his success at the poll, he was appointed Resident Minister in London, and immediately resumed residence there. Since 1929, therefore, Mr. Bruce has been a resident of London, and the evidence shows that during the past ten years he has had close personal contact with financial and banking opinion there. Particulars previously quoted in these columns also indicate that the activities in which Mr. Bruce is reported to have financial interests include three of the leading banks—viz., the Bank of Australasia, the Union Bank, and the E.S.&A. Bank - - ALL OF WHICH HAVE THEIR HEAD-QUARTERS IN LONDON! These three banks had a lot to do with the Premiers' Plan, under which salaries, wages, and pensions were cut. He is also the man who, in the significant year of 1929, and at the direction of the credit controllers, sought to abolish our living standards through the cancellation of the Arbitration system.

"In Accordance With Economic Conditions"

It was in the interests of the self-same credit controllers that he came here in 1934 and told us that we must regulate our production "in accordance with economic conditions." He was careful NOT to say what he meant by the term "economic conditions," or by whom they were to be determined. However, some idea of how the economic conditions are determined may be gathered from the following: Henry B. Steagall, chairman of the Banking and Currency Committee of the House of Representatives in the United States, pointed out to the House in May, 1932, that in the years 1920 and

1921 the Federal Reserve Board had shown its power by contracting currency and restricting credit to the extent of about two thousand million dollars, with the result that prices were cut in half and caused widespread confusion and distress. After achieving that, the policy was reversed, expansion of currency and liberal credit being substituted, and for several years we had a period of prosperity. In 1929, however, the same Bank again brought about a contraction of currency and credit, which caused such a decline in prices that we experienced a wave of panic, bank failures, bankruptcies, and suicides. That explains how economic conditions have been determined in the past, and yet Mr. Bruce has kept on telling us that our future activities should continue to be controlled by the same barbarous methods. Just at this point we should give thanks again for the late Sir Denison Miller, who resolutely refused to allow the Australian bankers to impose similar conditions in this country in 1920 and 1921; but, unfortunately, through the actions of Mr. Bruce, Sir Earle Page, and Sir John Latham, the Commonwealth Bank in 1931 assisted the private bankers, instead of protecting the Australian people.

Even the British Conservatives

All this information was available to Mr. Bruce, and he could hardly plead ignorance of the fact that the advice he gave could only lead us, as a community, into further hardship and needless suffering. Even the British Conservative Party had wakened up to the dangers of the methods hitherto followed, for at its National Conference in 1932, attended by 1700 delegates, a motion was adopted against currency restriction. It also urged the British Government to consult the Dominions, "with a view to stabilising the purchasing power of money within the Empire, on the basis of an index scale of wholesale commodity prices." (On the quiet, the notorious Mr. Lang had advocated something similar at the Premiers' Conference in 1931, and had been denounced by Mr. Bruce and his friends for doing so!)

Discouraging and Sickening

Giving evidence in March, 1932, Professor Irving Fisher, the American economist, said this: "It is discouraging and sickening to read all that stuff spouted by the in erudite about the fear of an inflation. They simply do not know anything about the real situation. They do not know where, when, nor how their own bread is buttered. Their policy has killed agriculture, and now the inability of agriculture to consume, as well as to produce, is killing all industry and investments." That is even more true today, and yet this man,

mistakenly called our "noblest son," still seeks to persuade us to submit ourselves to the machinations of such unscrupulous and traitorous people! We should tell him plainly, whether the political heads of this country like it or not, that we have had enough of currency contraction and credit limitation, and that those responsible for it have already gone too far. Many people fear that the British Empire is in the process of disintegration, and it is a regrettable fact that Mr. Bruce's activities have contributed materially to those fears, because he has supported the system under which the Empire's activities have been regulated by the dictation of the international financiers, working through our local banking institutions. What is more, it is alleged that he has been a personal beneficiary of that very system.

Three Questions

In 1934, after closely examining the events of that time, I found myself asking three important questions: (1) What were the real grounds upon which Mr. Bruce and the British people he represented were demanding a curtailment of our exports, and, at the same time, a larger share in Australia's market? (2) What precisely did Mr. Bruce mean when, in Brisbane, he emphasised the importance of doing everything possible to maintain Australia's credit on the London money market? (*Argus*, 30/4/34.) (3) Who was Mr. Bruce representing on his visit to New Zealand, and in the discussions with the New Zealand Government, "behind closed doors"? (*Melbourne Herald*, 5/5/34.)

"Repugnant to Australian Sentiment"

There can be no doubt, in the face of facts, that his mission in that year was FINANCIAL and not economic, and that its main purpose was to serve the interests of the international financiers by retarding the much-needed reform in the monetary system. Not only so, but he was so much their tool that he came out here to foster ideas which were "repugnant to Australian sentiment." On May 3, the *Melbourne Argus*, in a sub-leader, wrote this: "Mr. Bruce leaves Australia with the knowledge that the policy of restriction of output, which it has recently been his duty to discuss, is repugnant to Australian sentiment," and on May 7, in a report from New Zealand, the same journal informed us that "After the conference, Mr. Bruce said that it was impossible for him to speak in New Zealand of subjects that were confidential to Great Britain." This was AUSTRALIA'S High Commissioner speaking in New Zealand of subjects that were confidential to GREAT BRITAIN, and when we speak of Great Britain we mean the financiers of the City of London!

His "Duty" for Whom?

From this the question naturally arises: "How did it become his DUTY to do something the Australian people found repugnant, and under whose direction did he do it?" It is clear that he was not representing us, and he admitted that what he was doing in New Zealand was not being done for Australia. Then from whom DOES he get his orders? On April 3, 1934, the *London Times* published an article headed, "Planned Empire Marketing," in which the following appeared:

"Mr. Bruce's experience in London has convinced him that the economic salvation of the Commonwealth, and, indeed, of the whole Empire, depends upon a concerted policy of trade pro-

duction, in which the Governments will combine with the leaders of agriculture, industry, commerce, and finance." His "experience" in London, as already shown, was all financial and banking, and, therefore, his proposals for the restriction of production in preference to the feeding of the people originated there. And how did the *Times* get to know about it? The Australian Press and the Australian Government had evidently not been made aware of these important "convictions" on the High Commissioner's part. Evidently the people behind the *Times* knew of it even before Mr. Bruce was aware of his own convictions, for Mr. Montagu Norman, Governor of the Bank of England, is one of the controllers of the paper! The financial rulers not only formulated the orders, but were astute enough to select one of our very own to be the medium through which they were to be given.

Our "Sound Financial Position"

If we had any doubt at that time it was short-lived, for only two years later—i.e., on 15/2/36—he inserted a half-page advertisement in the *London Economist* praising Australia's "Sound Financial Position," and opening with these words: "In 1931 Australia set herself the task of adjusting her financial and economic structure to the conditions brought about by the fall in world prices." If a system, which causes the wholesale destruction of food while people actually starve is a "sound" system, then what would constitute an "unsound system"? And is it true that we "set ourselves the task"? It is not true, and he knows it is not true, for he is well aware that Sir Otto Niemeyer, of the Bank of England, came here and dictated it. But, even if we accept the plea that the adjustment was brought about by the fall in world prices, the immediate question is: "Then by what was the fall in prices brought about?" To this the Monetary and Banking Commission has recently supplied the answer that the fall in prices was brought about by an alteration of the bank rate by the Bank of England! What a strange thing it is that this "great world figure" never says a word about that aspect of the business.

The Real Government

We have been encouraged to believe that we are governed by our elected representatives, but we are not. Parliaments and other bodies do enact legislation (and quite a lot of it), but, except in a case of financial emergency, they usually limit their activities to matters which are more or less innocuous or routine, such as spitting on the footpath, straying cattle, the passing of a Crimes Act, or, perhaps, something relating to what is called "insurance." When it comes to the removal of the real burdens, which oppress the people, however, our Parliamentary institutions are subservient to the interests of those who control finance, and actually endeavour to turn our attention away from the cause of these burdens. Similar movements are afoot again, and Mr. Bruce has been one of the outstanding spokesmen for the financiers. For that reason he has forfeited all claim to our trust or respect. Generation after generation has had it put over it by these financial people and their paid agents, and it is up to the present generation to stretch itself and look around.

The Basic Swindle

Many of the best-known men of the world have admitted that those

(Continued on page 8.)

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(Continued on page 7.)

WHAT IS A CITIZEN?

The Association for Education in Citizenship recently held in London a "Conference for Youth" entitled "Democracy Today and To-morrow."

Quoth Lord Baldwin—

Lord Baldwin addressed the opening session, the chairman being Sir Ernest Simon. Democracy, he said, was from the *heart*. It was easy to make a dictatorship work, but in democracy every man and woman must see to it that their representatives were men of *wisdom, character and capacity* ("men about us that are fat"! Perfect Democracy was ordered *freedom, discipline and sacrifice*. We had to discover how to *keep an even keel*. All useful work implied *Sacrifice*, and it was wrong to *mistake acceleration for civilisation*.

It was said that our young people could not *sacrifice* so well as young Nazis or Fascists. This was unfair; when need arose they could do so, for their *want of enthusiasm* was due to *familiarity with freedom*. When we *lost freedom*, we should *appreciate* it.

The *true democrat* was a Respector of Human Personality, which meant that the Poorest should be allowed to Live his Life. A Great Leader must have a Love of Struggling Humanity. (Reader, have you ever peered into a fisherman's box of worms?)

Though the Brotherhood of Man had not yet been attained, one day the barriers would be pulled down by the Fatherhood of God. If we believed that, we should never feel the Sacrifices we made for Democracy. Democracy required the High Spirit all the time, or it would *deservedly perish*. (Long and sustained applause from several perambulators and a bath chair.)

—and a British M.P.

Mr. Ronald Cartland, M.P. for King's Norton, whom we know from other evidence to be a thoughtful individual with a realisation that the part taken by the electors at and between election times is woefully inadequate, addressed the Saturday afternoon meeting. He scarcely did himself justice; he showed a certain amount of confusion between means and ends, and also expected electors to act in the realm of opinion and ideas, rather than in that of will. It must be stressed that political action can only be concerned with desires and will. Mr. Cartland, therefore, spent unnecessary time discussing the extent of the curtailment of individual liberty in order to increase "total liberty." To offset this he laid down as essential beliefs the two principles that authority is only a convenience, and that there is no absolute political good—with which we should find little to quarrel.

Four foundations of democracy, he maintained, were (1) an equal share in making the laws; (2) freedom of choice; (3) power to remove authority; (4) right to protest or agitate. I would contend that *real* freedom of choice (of results required), *plus* the power to remove authority, would obviate the necessity for points (1) and (4).

Analogy

Mr. Cartland has few illusions on most of the defects of the party-machine, on political propaganda and the "hidden hand" of bureaucracy. Yet it seems to me that he views the political business as being in quite a different category from any of man's other associa-

MR. H. G. WELLS PULLS A FAST ONE!

"The Holy Terror" IS a Holy Terror

BOOK REVIEW BY JOHN RUTLAND

"Socialism has been poking about in the factory when it ought to have been going through the books in the counting house. Setting the worker against the employer has been barking up the wrong tree. It's the banker—the private banker. The Bank is the key position in the social war. Go for that, control banking, control the issue of credit—and money you know is just a credit counter—and private enterprise is yours to do what you like with."

Thus Chiffan, one of the main characters in H. G. Wells' latest novel. * But—that is Chiffan; and Mr. Wells, in a neat "Preliminary Note," scrupulously and suavely disowns the prattle of the figures who scurry from his pen. That, I think, is the keynote of "The Holy Terror."

WELLSIAN TECHNIQUE

For half a thousand pages we run the full gamut of polished Wellsian technique. Fantasy, originality, depth of thought, the condensation to a paragraph or less of a volume of truth. ("These bishops and parsons, with their beloved Christianity, are like a man who has poisoned his wife and says her body's too sacred for a post mortem"). And Mr. Wells would have us believe it's just another novel. Wise Mr. Wells—but I for one don't believe him. Which doesn't mean that I will run and tell Sir Alfred Davidson that Mr. Wells makes two men say: "Speculation is a social disease. It's as natural and desirable as—syphilis." "Well, we're curing syphilis by telling people about it." And again: "Finance—is an aristocracy of pickpocket area-sneaks!" I wouldn't be so rude. After all, it's in black-and-white, and, whether H. G. means it or not, thousands will read it.

"The Holy Terror" is a nasty little boy who grows up to be World Director, Rud Whitlow—with a penchant for smashing the things he hated - finds many things to smash in a *crazy* world, smashes them, finds he has smashed the world into sanity—and promptly goes mad.

Of course, there is more to it than that. The fantastic story of Rud Whitlow is the peg on which the author hangs innumerable diatribes on innumerable problems. While anyone who has read—in the nineteen-thirties—the 1896 edition of "The Sleeper Awakes" will not be deaf to the appeal of Wells, the prophet, it is easily seen that the significance of this novel is almost wholly the conversation of the characters.

SIGNIFICANT CONVERSATION

"The world, I tell you, is bored—bored now to the explosion pitch. It's bored by all this incessant war preparation. It is bored by aimless violence—now here, now there. It is tired of hatred politics. It's tired of fresh murders every day. It is not indignant, not excited. It is bored—bored and baffled . . ."

"For three thousand years the Common Man has been fended off from the full and glorious life he might have

tions. In the firm of Smith, Brown and Robinson, for example, owned by the three in question, no one of them clamours for an "equal share in making the office rules" or "right to agitate," or to be appointed an office executive himself. They leave details to the manager whom they pay to see to them, and from whom they require certain specified *results*. Electors in a democracy are in the same position as Smith, Brown and Robinson—owners of the business, concerned with the *results* of the business, but *not* with management technicalities.

—By "M.H."; condensed from an English contemporary.

had, by Make Believe. For three thousand years in one form or another he has been asking for an unrestricted share in the universal welfare; he has been asking for a fair dividend from civilisation. For all that time, and still it goes on, the advantaged people, the satisfied people, the kings and priests, the owners and traders, the gentlefolk and the leaders he trusted have been cheating him, tacitly or deliberately, out of his proper share and contribution in the common life. When he called upon God, they said, 'We'll take care of your God for you,' and they gave him organised religion. When he calls for Justice, they say, 'Everything decently and in order,' and give him a nice expensive Law Court beyond his means. When he calls for order and safety too loudly they hit him on the head with a policeman's truncheon. When he sought knowledge, they told him what was good for him. And to protect him from the foreigner, so they said, they got him bombed to hell, trained him to disembowel his fellow-common men with bayonets, and learn what love of King and Country really means."

"The history of mankind has been a history of betrayals, the perennial betrayal of the common man by the men he has trusted. The history of mankind from the very beginning has been a history of over trusted trustees, corrupted by their unchecked opportunities."

"We English are profoundly tired of our Empire. Indeed we are. Tired and bored. Don't you realise that? The Empire's become public-schoolmasters' cant and the Boys know all the answers. It's being stripped and exposed; it's an empire of kraals and slums, loincloth villages and Bombay sweatshops. It has never educated, never released; it has no constructive vitality at all; it's nothing to be proud of. The intelligent boys are ashamed of it."

Beyond doubt Mr. Wells, as usual, has something to say. This discretion in denying the paternity of the ideas his puppets proclaim is quite beside the point. Wait until our local "aristocracy of pickpocket area-sneaks" feel the impact of "The Holy Terror"! (They may even ban it!)

* "The Holy Terror." Michael Joseph, publisher.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COMMUNISM AND THE "NEW TIMES"

Sir, —The letter from your correspondent, "R.R.," in the issue of March 24, in my opinion, appeared none to soon.

For some weeks the public have been generously granted space in which to give their opinions on the above subject, and as a keen scrutineer my only reason for not having also had my say in such controversy was because I think this questionable topic has been well overdone recently.

In all fairness to those Communists who have genuinely studied the real problem and who really believe that their proposition is the only way out, and in deference to a number of your readers who have displayed such latitude and tolerance toward them, I see no reason why they should not be allowed to air their views; but when we realise that agreement with the Communist philosophy means acceptance of their openly declared method of attaining their ideal, then I for one must draw the line.

I want to see a revolution—of the mind, NOT OF THE SWORD, and I have sufficient faith in Australians to believe that, in spite of all ominous rumblings, there is yet time to win the case for humanity that way.

In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, when one overhears the term "Capitalism," it comes from a Communist, and practically, without exception, those whom I have met will not face up to the fact that a "capitalist" may mean a multi-millionaire or a mere punter who puts his last "two bob" on a "cert."

"R.R." is right about the Communists encouraging class-hatred, which becomes both bitter and relentless, and this is a point, which may have to be carefully watched in the very near future. It is a fundamental mistake; it is both illogical and illusory and it heaps trouble upon trouble instead of attempting by calm reasoning to alleviate it.

Few Communists, in my experience, go so far as to study the CREDIT and MONETARY policies of the present and past: the majority of them ignore it every time they are pinned down

to a fair discussion. If they studied this they would realise that Capital and Labour could, and should, be made to go hand in hand, and that if some people used their heads more and their feet less (e.g., strikers, hunger-marchers, etc.), they might get somewhere.

I do not expect, Mr. Editor, to have the last word in this matter, but I do think that "R.R." came right to the point, and that space in the *New Times* is far too valuable to be used in the pursuit of a "dog chasing his tail" controversy. —Yours, etc.,

NORMAN F. ROLLS,
East Melbourne.

A CHALLENGE

Sir, —As one who has put in a lot of work and some money towards increasing the scope of the *New Times*, I would appreciate the opportunity of addressing a few words to the regular *New Times* readers who are not doing much (or anything) towards putting the paper well on its feet.

I wish to make this a personal challenge to those thousands of readers who obtain their one copy every week, read it, nod their heads, agree with what they read, then do absolutely nothing to help the cause.

At the present time there are a few stalwarts in Melbourne who are out on the streets for hours on end in the city and at the suburban street meetings on a Friday night. We are able to sell a dozen or so each, but there are so few of us, immediate and worthwhile results are so desperately needed, that our efforts, try as we do, are pitifully inadequate.

Now, your reader, if a man, probably smokes. He spends at least sixpence per day on cigarettes or tobacco, thereby helping to swell the profit of the sugar, tobacco, gas monopoly; if a woman, she will more than likely spend similar amounts on cosmetics, thereby helping to swell the profits of the metal, shipping, chemical monopoly. Well, I say, what about spending *sixpence per week* on two copies of the *New Times*; one for themselves and one to give away? There is an old saying that many hands make light work, and if only one or two thousand of the many who regularly buy, read and agree with the *New Times* will take this small indi-

vidual action, then the position of their paper will be assured, and they will get more value for their money through greater efficiency in the publication.

Also, I would like to suggest that those people who appreciate the *New Times* should write to the staff and let them know. If they knew the Herculean work and worry which goes into every week's edition, they would not rest a minute before putting pen to paper for that purpose.

So I, as one insignificant worker in the cause, put it to my unknown fellow-thinkers to spring in and do their bit regularly to keep the *New Times* in print. —Yours, etc.,

AN HONORARY WORKER.
Elwood, Vic.

WATERFRONT POSITION

Sir, —As one who has taken great interest in the waterfront activities of Melbourne, I consider that the State Government should conduct a searching inquiry into the practices of some firms operating on the State-owned and equipped wharfs of our port. Some years ago the Victorian Railway Department withdrew from the work of cargo handling on the wharfs, and since that time the prices and conditions imposed by certain firms in control have been unreasonably severe, although our port developments have been planned successfully to secure cheap and efficient handlings, and the current services provided by the railway and port authorities have been booked to the companies at a low figure. Aware of the work required to be done, and of the margin available for a firm prepared to deal reasonably with the owners of cargo, in 1921, I founded, and for some years helped to conduct successfully, the Port Phillip Returned Soldiers and Sailors' Co-operative Stevedoring Company. In addition to giving to our shareholding and other workers the most generous conditions on the waterfront, and distributing to the shareholders pecuniary and other benefits as a co-operative society, we paid dividends and bonuses ranging from 100 per cent, to 175 per cent, on our paid-up capital. As we continued in our policy of reducing charges to our customers and distributing benefits to our working shareholders and employees, we reached a position, which predicted considerable enlargement of business to us and a substantial reduction in stevedoring charges to the public. But, by a tragic reversal of policy, sufficient members of our company called a halt in its competitive activities, and, in my opinion, very unwisely restricted the company's operations to a programme that was declared agreeable to those who sought to dominate the stevedoring industry of Victoria. Since that time shippers of general cargo — inward and outward — and primary producers, whose landed costs abroad are of ever-growing importance, have been mulct by charges, which seem to me altogether unwarranted. A coterie of firms with interlocking interests seems able to dictate terms, which are crippling in their effects on industry at large.

The Governments of Victoria, in constructing and equipping the Port of Melbourne, have spent their millions freely to provide the best port services for the shipping industry. The public who furnished that money naturally demand that those services be provided economically and equitably to all. Therefore, I consider it is the duty of the State Government to effectively break up any unhealthy combination of parties who may impose on us an unfair scale of charges and delay to the Victorian people the enjoyment of those benefits for which the port was designed. I suggest that the Victorian Government conduct an inquiry at an early date as to—

(1) Whether, as managing authorities of the Melbourne Government wharfs, the Melbourne Harbour Trust, jointly with the Victorian Railway Department, should perform all wharf work of loading and discharging cargoes, and what revenues are to be earned from performing such work.

(2) Whether any firms, while using Melbourne Government wharfs and equipment, have practised a policy of agreements and rebates which have artificially increased the charges of cargo handling in the port.

(3) What extent wharf handling and stevedoring charges might be reduced, and what effect such reductions would have on the Melbourne shipping trade and the export of primary produce from the port of Melbourne.—Yours, etc.,

J. BERTIE.
Port Melbourne.

"Montagu Norman" in Melbourne

How Real Actionists Sell the "New Times"

Some people talk about reform—but do very little. Others, like Miss J. Robinson and Norman Rolls, get out and act. And when they act they get results in a big way, as will be seen by the following efforts.

Impersonating Montagu Norman, Mr. Rolls caused a mild sensation again last Wednesday week, when, with the assistance of Miss Robinson, 30 copies were sold outside the Melbourne G.P.O.

At the conclusion of the Hawthorn Town Hall meeting next evening (Thursday), another 27 sales were added. "Montagu Norman" brought the progressive total to 299 at the G.P.O. on Friday evening with a further three dozen sales, and led a megaphone drive at Glenferrie that night, when another 33 copies were sold. Saturday's midday crowds were given another taste of the Press versus Suppress when Miss Robinson and "the man in the mask" sold another 48 copies, and brought the total to 380 copies! Now for a little mathematical problem. If two supporters, with a little help and the expenditure of a little personal effort, can sell 380 copies in a few spare hours, how many copies could a mere twelve people sell? It would mean a total of 2,280 copies! This would mean that the "New Times" would be in no further danger of closing. Are there ten people who can, and will come forward? If so, Mr. Rolls would be pleased to hear from them.

1000 COPIES MUST BE SOLD BEFORE THE END OF NEXT WEEK!

New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

PATRONISE THESE ADVERTISERS.

Their advertisement helps your paper. Say you saw it in the "New Times."

MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 6.)

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ANDERSON'S, 141 High St. Authorised Newsagent. Haw. 1145.

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

C. KENNEDY, Grocer, Haw. 229. Opp. Cemetery Clock, Parkhill Rd.

DRY CLEANING, Depot & Library A. I. Fraser, 182 High St. H. 3733. E.

WHITE, 109 High Street. Confectionery and Smokes.

GIFTS, & All Jewellery Repairs. Old Gold Bought. Greaves, opp. Rialto.

IMPERIAL DAIRY, R. H. Kent, 9 Brougham Street. Haw. 3243.

M. J. MARTIN, 157 High St. Haw. 3794. Shoe Store, Shoe Repairs.

MOTOR GARAGE, Kew Junction Service Station, Cr. High and Denmark Streets. Haw. 6457.

RADIO EXPERT, J. G. Littlewood, 267 High St. Also Elec. Applncs.

MORELAND.

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

NORTH FITZROY.

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

NORTH CARLTON.

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A. RYAN, opp. Stn., Shoe Repairs. Tennis Racquets Restrung from 7/6

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"SAVE THE PEOPLE'S BANK" CAMPAIGN

The following favourable report is to hand from the citizens' committee conducting this all-important campaign; a report which will be most encouraging to those stalwarts who have stepped into the breach and who are holding the fort at such a critical time in Australia's history. It should serve to inspire others also, who have either not yet recognised the tremendous importance of this campaign or who have up till now fallen short of the acceptance of individual responsibility and failed to add the necessary courage to their own convictions.

"Correspondence continues to come in from all parts of the Commonwealth, from individuals, groups and organisations who are keen to play their part in their particular districts, and there is no doubt that the action being taken on non-party, non-sectarian lines is acceptable to all who, in this period of urgent national emergency, realise that there is a job to be done—and done NOW. We would be glad to hear from at least one person in each district, which is not recorded on our 'action map' of Australia.

"Letters expressing appreciation of the prompt action taken by the *New Times* are too numerous to mention, but we are confident that in the near future its courageous fight for the people's rights will be rewarded by an ever-increasing circulation. Certainly it will be recognised as the first newspaper in the whole of Australia to take up the reins on major issues, such as the Marketing Referendum, National Insurance, and the present Commonwealth Bank Bill, and steer an otherwise unenlightened public along the only safe and Democratic course. On the other hand, the orthodox press will be remembered, not as a medium of expression, but of suppression.

"Two more members of the House of Representatives have replied to our letter most favourably. Several big organisations are now studying the implications of the Bill, and their whole-hearted support can be confidently expected at an early date. We understand from the Adelaide committee that tables at the City Markets present a scene of activity in the drive for signatures. This is Democracy in ACTION. Time is short, and South Australians are to be complimented upon their prompt recognition of the fact that what is to be done must be done NOW. No greater opportunity to demonstrate the power of public opinion ever presented itself to the people of Australia.

"The *Workers' Weekly Herald* and the *South Australian Wheat-grower* have published the Demand-Form Circular used by the S.A. committee.

"Queenslanders have opened up in two more important centres; N.S.W. is represented in many parts of the State; Tasmanians are being awakened by strong groups in both the North and South; whilst W.A. activities have spread to a number of country centres, which are well on the job. Victorian groups are in action in all parts of the State, and it is certain that any Victorian Parliamentarians who may fail to act in the

interests of the people on this measure, will receive their marching orders at the first opportunity from the hands of the electors.

"The despatch of the letter forms to Canberra in the ordinary way would cost two pence per letter. If each worker would collect one penny from each person signing a form, reimburse himself for the cost of the forms, and forward the balance, together with the forms, to his campaign committee, he will have saved every signatory a penny, and made a

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

VICTORIA

ERIC BUTLER is on deck again. He met with an accident, a slight concussion, which necessitated him remaining in bed for a week. But we are pleased to report that he is back to his old form again. Most likely his Riverina friends will see him, and Norman Rolls, in a few weeks' time. Mr. Kerr has intimated that he will devote his holidays to motoring these two "live wires" on a country tour.

A HOME MEETING was held at 350 Gilbert-road, West Preston, the home of Mr. Strahan, on April 3. There were ten persons present, and the evening proved well worthwhile. This meeting, not content to only learn, decided to do things. Certain activities were decided upon and will be put into operation. Another meeting will be held at the same address (above) on Monday, April 17. If you are within reach, you are cordially invited to be there.

ANOTHER HOME MEETING was held at the home of Mrs. Mackay, 40 Wentworth-avenue, Canterbury, on Tuesday evening, April 4. There were eight present, most of whom heard the idea of pressure politics for the first time. The results of this meeting, and the one at West Preston, prove that, for usefulness and results, the Home Meeting is at the top. There are two for this week—sounds good, doesn't it? Work that out at a "compound interest" and see how many there will be per week before the winter is ended.

HEIDELBERG—Several individuals are evincing curiosity, as ratepayers, in the matter of municipal finance. Their procedure is to write to the council asking why finance is not ob-

continuing fund which would ensure the rapid and effective distribution of literature and letters wherever required. This is most important, and should be adopted by every group wherever it may be functioning.

"The special folder, which includes the letter to members, reproduced from the *New Times* of February 24, is available at the following rates:

Price per 50, 1/3 Postage, 2d
Price per 100, 2/3 Postage 4d
Price per 250, 5/6 Postage 10d
Price per 500 10/6 Postage 1/8
Price per 1000, £1. Postage, best rates.

"The brochure (by Mr. Bruce H. Brown), giving details defining 'debentures,' 'inscribed stock,' etc., which has been sent to all Senators and members of the House of Representatives, is available at 4d. per copy (posted), or at 2/- per dozen; postage, 3d. Orders should be accompanied by stamps or P.N., and be sent direct to the 'Save the People's Bank' Campaign, Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne."

All are invited to attend. Prepare for the ever-growing demand for speakers by attending the next class on Tuesday, April 11, at 8 p.m.

Library—The Youth Section find that suitable words fail them when expressing appreciation and thanks to the donor of the bookcase for the Tom Moore Memorial Library.

Donations of books for the library will be received by the Librarian. Library fees: 3d per book per fortnight; pamphlets, 1d per week.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Report Held Over—Owing to last-minute pressure on our space, an interesting account of South Australian activities is held over until next issue.

BEWARE OF MR. BRUCE

(Continued from page 5.)

who control the currencies control the national policies, and if confirmation were needed we have had it in abundance in Australia since 1930, when all our Governments have simply done what the bankers permitted them to do. Professor Walter Murdoch, in an address to the Perth Rotary Club on the art of swindling, said that the basic swindle of our present distress was the banking system, which could create and destroy money at the will of a small group of men who had become the irresponsible lords of the world. It is as the agent of these irresponsible lords that Stanley Melbourne Bruce has received all the limelight, and when you come calmly to examine his public conduct you fail to find one thing of true benefit to mankind in general, or to his own Australian people in particular. He is a man of whom, in public matters, we must beware. —Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H BROWN

SOCIAL NOTES

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Cosmo Lang, is about to take a health cruise as the guest of Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, in whose yacht he will sail.

ing made to enter whole-heartedly into the Campaign against the Flour Tax. Important announcements will be made in the next issue of the *New Times* in connection with the action to be taken in the Campaign. Good work is going on by interviewing secretaries of Women's organisations. Don't wait for an invitation—come in and join up, and help in the work that's worthwhile.

YOUTH SECTION. - - Wadong Meeting: A successful meeting was held at Wadong on Saturday evening last. Miss Grace Iggulden and John Iggulden addressed the gathering with excellent results. Back copies of the *New Times* were distributed. Miss Iggulden was presented with a bouquet of flowers by a member of the audience.

Any member who is prepared to arrange a meeting or a house meeting will always find the Youth Section prepared to address the audience, no matter how small.

Street Speaking—On Friday, April 14, Y.S. speakers will speak at Preston. All interested are invited to be present to help sell *New Times* and literature. Meet in High street, near the Town Hall, at 7 p.m.

Speakers' Class—This class is not for the Youth Section alone.

If War Does Not Come

"It would appear that a time must come when the whole-time efforts of the military aircraft constructors of this country will not be required on military work. In the meantime, an enormous addition to the industry for the design and construction of aircraft generally has been built up. It is difficult to say just at the moment exactly what line the release of this great force will take, but it is not improbable that companies who have been engaged on military orders may throw their weight into the civil field in an effort to get work."—Mr. S. A. Butler, Chairman of De Havilland Aircraft Co. Ltd.

STOP! Have You Read "MONEY?"

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IMPORTANT

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THE COMMONWEALTH BANK ACT AMENDING BILL
10,000 Leaflet-Demand Forms to be Distributed in One
Afternoon: Saturday, April 15.

Reformers of All ilk Please Rally and Help to Make the
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Send in Names to: The Democratic Vigilance Committee,
Room 8, 1st Floor, The Block; or to "Save the People's Bank,"
Room 9, 5th Floor, McEwan House; or Muster at
CAULFIELD TOWN HALL ON SATURDAY, APRIL 15, at
2.30 p.m.