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THE

NEW TIMES

"CATARRH"

Clears Up Catarrh.

A. Nasal.

B. Pulmonary,

C. Stomachic.

Obtainable only from

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Vol. 5, No. 20.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1939.

Every Friday, 3d

AUSTRALIA AND WAR

"Common Cause With Britain"**Mr. Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia, speaking to a gathering at the Archerfield Aerodrome, Queensland, said:**

"There are two great tasks ahead for any Government—first, to keep Australia out of war, and second, to keep war out of Australia. I do not believe that a great nation such as Australia can make a contribution to world peace merely by sitting in a corner and pretending that if we say nothing no one will notice it."

"We are with Great Britain, and we will stand or fall with her. If we are to be attacked it will come from a Pacific Power. We can only keep the peace by being active about the business. That means in the Pacific closer and more friendly contact, and wider diplomatic associations with Pacific countries. What is wanted round the Pacific is a group of nations who talk and think peace. There is no reason why such a group should not exist."

Mr. Menzies might well have made this aspect of his remarks a great deal more concrete and practical by not walking right around the fact that it is futile to talk of "a contribution to world peace," "friendly contact," "wider diplomatic associations," or "a group of nations [round the Pacific] who talk and think peace" while the Government's external trade policy remains a standing affront and provocation to Japan and, incidentally, a standing affront to common sense as well as a savage persecution of some of our exporting primary producers and a restriction of the influx of real wealth into Australia.

"MOTHER'S" APRONSTRINGS

However, as far as his words went, there is only one remark, which needs to be treated with extreme reservation. That is his statement that "We are with Great Britain, and we will stand or fall with her," which is parallel with the declaration of Sir Henry Gullett, Minister for External Affairs, that Australia would "make common cause with Britain" in the event of war.

The *New Times* is as pro-British as any newspaper in Australia. Our interest in the welfare of the

citizens of Great Britain is second only to our interest in the welfare of the citizens of Australia. But when we use the term "pro-British," we mean just that. We do NOT mean pro-"City" of London or pro-International Finance. An all-important distinction. It should be sufficient in this connection to ask what real benefits the great mass of England's people gained or maintained by the last war, and, particularly, by Australia's participation in it. It wasn't *their* war at all, although they were fooled into doing the dirty work. Still less was it *ours*. If it be a case of making common cause with the PEOPLE of England in a struggle to throw off the murderous tyranny of that private company, the Bank of England, and its war-generating system of scarcity-finance, then the *New Times* is already asking Australians to do so. But their share in *that* fight can, and must, be fought only in Australia—with votes, not guns.

SAND IN OUR EYES.

The *New Times* takes vigorous exception to the hypocritical behaviour of some men holding influential positions of State, who are abusing the privilege of their high offices by subjecting the in-

nocent people of their respective nations to the interests of the Money Power in its desperate fight to try and retain its domination of the world.

The Australian people have been used as a pawn in this fight, and have suffered to an extent they do not realise; it is not commonly recognised that the plight of our woolgrowers and wheat-growers is partly due to economic pressure placed on certain countries, with the result that some important markets well nigh vanished.

In a previous issue (April 28) the *New Times* exposed the duplicity of the President of the United States of America when, almost at the moment of his "Peace"-message to Hitler, a 25 per cent, import duty was very quietly imposed by his administration on goods coming from Germany. Last week we pointed out the discrepancy between Sir Henry Gullett's past actions and his recent admonition to Japan.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

In juxtaposition to these references we now place the leading article appearing in the Melbourne *Argus* of Saturday, May 13. Strange though it may seem, we commend the *Argus* for the tenor of much of the article, and trust that the change to truth and common sense is not accidental, but indicates its policy for the future. After a preamble of some length, in which the dignity and self-respect of ourselves as a nation is fortified, the article states, *inter alia*:

"In Australia, unfortunately, there is less than complete understanding of the causes of Japan's embarrassments. Faced on all sides by closed or closing doors for her people and her products, Japan felt cramped in her attempt to raise national standards. Unable to employ her expanding population at home unless she could obtain a sufficiency of raw materials and adequate markets for her manufactures, Japan has resorted to courses that were imperatively necessary from her viewpoint, but

provocative and aggressive from that of other nations.

"For a situation that was exasperating to a proud and efficient people other countries must accept some measure of responsibility.

"Affronted by exclusive immigration laws, and incensed by tariff barriers, it is scarcely to be wondered at that Japan should have lost faith in former friends or developed hard feelings towards neighbours who, in her opinion, were less than considerate.

"All that is urged is that action has provoked reaction, and that restriction has provoked resentment. We are painfully conscious, in these days that the responsibility for consummately difficult situations is not one-sided.

"The time is probably close at hand when gestures of friendliness and understanding may bring surprising results.

"At least it can be said that Australia will gain rather than lose prestige by taking the initiative in the search for peace."

COMMON SENSE WANTED.

The last of the excerpts deserves emphasis. Although diplomatically expressed, the meaning is clear and agrees with the closing paragraphs of our front-page article of last week. The purport of these was that Australia is equally responsible with any other country for world unrest, and *Australian tariffs* may easily prove to be a deciding factor as to whether peace is maintained.

Australia is a nation, and as such has the constitutional right to shape her own destiny. The fact of her being an important economic unit places her in a position to influence world affairs by *internal* action.

A policy of common sense, if adopted by Australia, would prove to be a decisive contribution to world peace. Too long have the innocent peoples of the "democracies" been chestnut-rescuers for the Money Power (or some section of it).

It is high time for them to fully wake up.

The period of watching is over. The time for action has come. The COMPULSORY National Register, harmless though it may appear to be on the surface, represents an initial step on the road down from our present semblance of democracy to a concrete and absolute political dictatorship with its consequent degradation of all those who for lack of interest or foresight submit to its imposition.

WHY A NATIONAL REGISTER?

Obviously the reason for the compilation of a National Register is that, with the information so gained at its fingertips, the Government will, at any time, be able to control any section of the community that it so desires. At the cry of "National Emergency!" any section of the community may be

THE THIN END OF THE WEDGE**Menace of the National Register**

Six months ago, when the "New Times" warned its readers of the possibility that R. G. Menzies might be the next Prime Minister, it pointed out the danger that such a Government might be to such democracy as exists in Australia.

We suggested that, under cover of "national emergency," we would, unless we watched carefully and acted quickly and efficiently, find ourselves subject to arbitrary rules and regulations that would be imposed on us from above, not because the people as a whole would feel that such rules and regulations would be to the benefit of the country, but because a man of dictatorial outlook and bearing had been imposed on them by a small "Fascist" minority in our community.

completely regimented into performing a task set by the Government of the day. National emergency measures may be brought in to force any section of the comm-

unity to subordinate itself to a District Commandant, under penalty of fine and imprisonment. Already we are threatened with a fifty-pound fine or, in default,

three months' imprisonment if we do not fill in the National Register form—if the Bill is allowed to become law. On that showing we can be certain that, should a section of an industry which the Government desires to use for its ends (and it should be remembered that the ends of a minority Nationalist Government with a Bank of New South Wales nominee at its head are not necessarily the ends of the Australian people) refuse, on the grounds of unsatisfactory wages or conditions, to accede to the Government demands, the catch-cry, "National Emergency," can be used as a pretext to coerce those workers into doing as they are told, or suffering as those who will refuse to sign the National Register are warned that they will

(Continued on page 7.)

DEMOCRACY DOES NOT FAIL WHEN TRIED

The Story of the Pink-Slip Strike in America

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE NEW CANADIAN ELECTORAL LAW?

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

The week before last we dealt with the progress of pressure politics in California. This week the writer proposes to briefly outline the story of one of the most remarkable campaigns ever conducted in America, and the lesson to be learnt from it. It may also prove of interest to readers if the electoral law introduced into the Canadian House of Commons last year is also dealt with.

THE PINK-SLIP STRIKE

One of the best modern examples of how public opinion can get results is to be found in the history of what is known in America as the Pink-Slip Strike. Approximating, as it does, the same tactics as the Electoral Campaign, it offers further refreshing evidence that members of Parliament are the servants of the electors, and can be made to yield to a mass demand. This campaign took place in America in 1935, and the writer takes his factual material from the *Saturday Evening Post* of June 8, 1935. The article was also condensed in the *Reader's Digest* of August 1935.

The Pink-Slip Law was quietly introduced into the Revenue Bill of the American Congress in 1934, but it was not until early in 1935 that the average taxpayer read the pink slip, which accompanied his income-tax form. Briefly, the idea of the slips was to record the intimate details of average person's income; to exhibit every taxpayer to a sort of fiscal fan dance. Most of the taxpayers voiced their disapproval to their associates, but beyond that it did not appear that any protest would be made. Hearing these casual protests, Mr. R. Pitcairn, chairman of the Sentinels of the Republic, immediately wrote to people in many of the States. The following events can be best described in the words of Pitcairn himself.

"I decided to do something about the pink slip. As a result, the Sentinels of the Republic swung into action. Our first step was to mail 12,000 letters to men throughout the United States. 'Do you want the inquisitorial income-publicity law repealed?' we asked. In order to make the resentment of taxpayers heard, we proposed that each recipient: (a) Write across his pink slip: 'I protest against this outrage to my right of privacy'; (b) write a note to the editors of one morning and one evening newspaper, telling how he (the taxpayer) felt about it; (c) drop a similar note to his Senators and representatives. The letters brought immediate responses to us, and started a deluge of protests on their way to Washington. The Pink-Slip Rebellion was on. Hundreds of thousands of protest forms were printed, signed, and sent in from all over America. By this time our mailing list had reached amazing proportions. Heads of professional groups—architects, lawyers, engineers—in many cases asked us to circularise their whole membership. Editorial writers, columnists and commentators joined in the general attack. Before the campaign ended we had distributed more than half a million each of the forms with the statement: 'I protest against this outrageous invasion of my right of privacy.' We used the wires, too. The mail of Senators and representatives was daily swelling with

protests from the people. A few weeks later Representative Doughton reported out the Repeal Bill, and on March 11 the House passed it by a three-to-one vote. We had now won our first battle. We next faced the Senate and its Finance Committee. Shortly the Bill was reported favourably from the committee to the Senate. Then, suddenly, a real threat loomed. We were told that Senate supporters of the Pink-Slip law were planning a neat bit of Parliamentary strategy that would block consideration of the Repeal Bill. That called for quick action. We immediately got a new pink-slip protest out, and once again the mailbags swelled with hundreds of thousands of letters of protest. On March 29 the Bill was repealed by a vote of 53 to 16. Public opinion had tapped the Congressional sense of realism."

Now, what does it all prove? Well, it proves that the vast power of pressure politics need not wait for elections to repeal legislation, which a majority of the electors do not want. Similarly, a majority of the electors can get any desired legislation if they will only unite and demand it. That is democracy. It does not fail when tried.

FASCISM IN CANADA?

Canada has been long recognised as being a danger spot to those financial institutions, which keep us poor in the midst of plenty. Public opinion in that country has been aroused on the issue of monetary reform for some time, and most significant of the reactions, which the Electoral Campaign tactics have produced in Canada, is a new electoral law, which is obviously aimed at thwarting the campaign. According to Canadian press reports, a special committee of the House of Commons, Ottawa, considered, and approved, two subjects never before touched in the electoral laws of the Dominion. The first would make it an offence for any Parliamentary candidate to sign a questionnaire or pledge binding himself to any specific course of action. And the second would make it illegal for any candidate to pledge himself to promote the expenditure of public money on behalf of any persons or organisation.

Both these extraordinary proposals were introduced by the Honourable C. G. Power last year—1938. These measures would, of course, have the effect of placing the Member of Parliament beyond the control of his constituents, and there is little doubt that this is their primary, if not their only, intention. In the following extracts from the *Montreal Star's* report of the meeting of the special committee will be recognised the true aims of this suggested legislation:

"Questionnaires submitted by various organisations to candid-

ates at election time were a nuisance,' said Mr. Power. Sometimes they were a danger. If a candidate signed enough of them he could become simply a delegate, perhaps for the expressions of views of minorities. This was a negation of Parliamentary responsibility.

"Mr. Power said it might be going pretty far to make the submissions of pledges an offence, but it was worth considering.

"Mr. Power also said that the bonus paid to war veterans in the United States was an example of pressure politics worked through signed pledges.

"All the common-sense in the United States couldn't prevent them spending 4,000,000,000 dollars,' he said.

"Mr. Power then proposed a clause to forbid a candidate, or anyone on his behalf, to make promises of the expenditure of public money, on behalf of any individual, group or organisation. Such a section would not forbid promises of the expenditure on public works, but bonuses or money payments to individuals, or pensions, are a different matter."

The last sentence is most significant and shows the true nature of the measure.

Comment is unnecessary. However, this should serve as a warning to all democrats in Australia to push on with our campaign before similar steps are taken in this country. The Pink-Slip Strike showed how it can be done.

"SAVE THE PEOPLE'S BANK" CAMPAIGN

Electors of the Commonwealth Unite in Opposition to the Commonwealth Bank Act Amending Bill, Designed to Pawn the People's Bank

This all-Australian campaign, which was launched by the "New Times" in the issue of February 24, is proving to be one of the greatest steps taken by the people in the cause of truth and justice. In submitting the following report from the citizens' committee, whose honorary members are conducting the campaign in Victoria, we would urge every reader to make a final effort to bring the campaign to a successful conclusion.

"Increasing activity is in evidence in all parts of Australia. Letter-forms, to be signed by electors and dispatched to members of Parliament, have been issued by this centre at the rate of over one thousand per day recently, indicating that campaigners recognise the time-limit as the vital factor. Parliament meets again on the 23rd of this month, and apparently the Bank Bill comes third on the agenda, so that it is possible that in the near future the opportunity of enlisting the support of electors who have not yet asserted their prerogative, will have passed. We therefore appeal to all to do their utmost while there is yet time.

"Organisations which joined the issue only recently have promptly given their members what was possibly their first taste of positive democratic action, and we believe it will have a lasting effect upon their future attitude towards their representatives in Parliament. Their first lesson in Political Democracy has been learnt. Another lesson, which is being automatically taught, is that the daily press of this country, in its refusal to reveal the truth behind the Bank Bill proposals, has been consistent in placing in jeopardy the vital interests of the people.

"This campaign has been instrumental in educating the public

to the fact that the Commonwealth Bank is a public institution and must be allowed to function in the interests of the public, and not merely for the benefit of private financiers who seek to control its policy. We venture to predict that there is now sufficient enlightened public opinion to guard against any future attempt to deprive the people of their Bank, and we feel confident that if the present pressure on Parliamentarians is maintained, the Bill before the House will shortly be defeated by the people through their elected representatives—which is just as matters should be in a Democracy."

"Your readers are reminded of the broadsheets which deal fully with the subject, and which are obtainable at two pence per copy or at one shilling per dozen, posted 1/2. These are of excellent educational value, and include a detachable letter-form.

"Letter-forms are also available at 50 for 9d., postage 1d. extra; 100 for 1/3, postage 2d. extra. 'The Story of the Commonwealth Bank,' by D. J. Amos, is available at sixpence per copy, posted sevenpence. 'Money,' by S. F. Allen, at 1/-, posted 1/1. All enquiries, and orders accompanied by stamps or postal orders should be addressed to the Hon. Sec., 'Save the People's Bank' Campaign, Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne."

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FROM THE RIGHT NUMBER!

FOR NEW READERS

By "THE WALRUS," in "The New World."

According to the "Australian Women's Weekly," Australians are looking forward to the arrival of the Duke of Kent as Governor-General, not only from patriotic fervour, but also from a lively appreciation of the consequent elevation of Australian society functions from Vice-Regal to Royal status. On looking at the formidable order of precedence, however, I imagine the feelings of many of those liable for participation in Court proceedings will include trepidation at the prospect of the rigidity of a royal function considered in its sartorial and gustatory aspects. (He means "strides" and "eats."—Ed.)

Society is very sensible in its ordering of precedence. The arrangements preclude any possibility of a mistake. Everyone has a number strictly according to class, and every class has accommodation for 1000 persons, which allows abundantly for growing. Class 1, for instance, will consist of the Governor-General and family, and - - as far as I can figure 996 blanks; quite a generous family allowance. But with democratic impartiality, the same elbowroom is accorded to all other classes, so that even M.L.A.'s—probably the most numerous class—have nothing to complain about, except, possibly, that they were beaten for last place only by the mayors of capital cities. Also, they will have to mind their "p's" and "q's" in the presence of M.H.R.'s, who rank 3000 higher in the scheme of things. This circumstance should suffice to make up the minds of State politicians with Federal ambitions.

The provision for 25,000 persons in all, is probably designed to give a colossal impression of Australian Society, and when my eye first encountered this figure, I grabbed pencil and paper, and was immersed in a calculation of the time required for four or five divisions of infantry to march past a saluting base, before I spotted the hollowness of the scheme. Even as it is, given a moonlight night and a favourable weather report, I imagine the man from Woop Woop will have to squeeze in sideways.

I suppose it will be somebody's job to decide the order of seniority within classes, but I expect there will be some pretty healthy scraps before everyone settles down, particularly as this will be an occasion when the ladies will take an active interest in politics. Imagine the job of the unfortunate politician who has to go home and explain to his wife how in the Canberra game of snakes and ladders she has to drop 7000, just as she has decided the particular form of snub to be administered to a lady now definitely her superior. Divorces have happened for less.

I must confess, of course, that in this new world of numbers I am rather at sea. The only people with numbers I know anything about are convicts, and they don't like numbers at all. But as they are never likely to be present at a Court function (having been found out in time) their likes and dislikes in the matter of numbers needn't concern anybody. What gave rise to the thought was that it would simplify proceedings, at any rate for the first convivial evening or two, if everyone could wear his or her number. This would immediately identify the waiters, and prevent the embarrassment of being insolent to a superior.

It may not be long before the numbering principle is extended to the whole of society, and the National Register will provide the opportunity for the extension. The effect will be most democratic and levelling. The Cholmondelyffliott-Beauchamps will then no longer be able to benefit by a

false start from the Bloggses. The work of the passport authorities will be simplified, as it is easier to get away with a false name than with a false number, and besides, everybody knows that the present means of identification by photograph is thoroughly futile, since all are made to resemble in appearance, the off-scourings of the criminal asylums and the rogues' galleries. There will be many other advantages, and there need be no difficulty in classification. Everybody who is anybody will already have been classified in Canberra: the rest will simply receive a birth number. In the case of conscription, a proclamation calling up number groups will be all that is necessary. I really don't know why this hasn't been done already. The age of individuality is past or under definite eclipse. Everything is standardised. Anything, which diverts the eye from the streamlines of the mob, is an offence crying for elimination. The time is ripe for the substitution of numbers for names throughout.

In the realm of finance, the substitution of numbers for things has already taken place with such effect that we are now quite unable to distinguish between numbers and things. No one but the

PROCRASTINATION IS THE THIEF OF TIME

Have you ordered that EXTRA copy of the "New Times" yet?

unsophisticated ever says, "I have so much of this or that," but "I have so many figures in a book at the bank." Rightly so, obviously. For everybody knows that on occasion he might double his production of things without increasing the figures; and, as everybody else demands figures in payment, it is clear there is no reliance whatever to be placed in things. When statisticians talk of national output, they never harrow our feelings with hard-luck stories of fruitless toil, of produce decaying on wharves and farms; they give us the story in round figures sterling. All hard-luck stories are reducible to round figures sterling. Mine, at any rate, is reducible to one round figure - - the one notorious for its roundness—a cipher.

Beyond a doubt figures are expressive of our civilisation. I see no reason why all public and private institutions should not be allotted a number instead of a name. The army already allots numbers to many things, if not to everything. The Yanks had the germ of the idea when they numbered avenues and streets. But why avenues and streets? Why not just numbers? It would be so nice to have everything in line, Court, army, prisons, asylums, financial system, cocktails, everything.

No doubt romantic literature would suffer a little. Cuthbert Al-

The Truth About Money and the Banking Swindle

As Described by a Competent Correspondent

SIMPLE FACTS.

The simple facts cannot be stated too often. Money consists of printed notes (2d. a dozen!), coin, and cheques. The notes and coin are issued by the Commonwealth Bank, and are known as legal tender or Government money. The cheques represent figures written in books at the banks, and are known as bank credit. The former is used mostly in the retail trade and for the payment of wages, BUT THE LATTER IS USED FOR MORE THAN 90 PER CENT OF OUR BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS. This bank credit is just as effective as legal tender money, and, as it controls practically the whole of our community activities, it is obvious that those who hold this enormous power will fight to retain it. It is the contraction of this volume of credit or cheque money that brings about depressions. The volume of notes and coin is more or less constant. And, whether we are willing to believe, it or not, the fact remains that, unless the right to create and cancel money is transferred from these private individuals to a statutory authority responsible to the National Parliament, then efforts to secure reform cannot succeed.

PRIVATELY PRODUCED MONEY

Some idea of the power of these private creators of bank money may be gathered from the fact that, while the total amount of legal tender money actually in existence in Australia is only about £55 millions, the bank credit, in the form of deposits, is more than ten times that figure. This great volume of private money was brought into existence by the simple process of writing words and figures in bank accounting books, generally known as "ledgers." And believe it or not, this privately-written money is the sort of money our Governments borrow. It is the sort of money on which we as taxpayers are robbed of a million pounds a week with which to meet the interest demands.

HOW LOANS ARE OBTAINED.

Let us visualise what actually goes on when Governments obtain a loan. The loan is "placed on the market," and the members of the public invited to subscribe. Applications are accepted at banks, stock exchanges, and post offices. Speaking generally, applications lodged with the first two

are paid by cheque and those lodged at post offices are paid by cash. The "cash" applications are always comparatively small, and simply mean in actual practice that the amount of cash represented by these applications is transferred from the public to the banks. With this additional cash in their tills, the banks may safely create and "lend" further credit (£10 for every £11), which they do. The applications, which are paid by cheque, mean that the banks' liability to the depositors becomes a liability to the Commonwealth, and this is recorded by debiting the depositor and crediting the Treasury in the bank ledgers. No legal money is involved: it is simply a transfer of credit. The proportion of the loan not subscribed by the "public" is taken up by the banking system, which merely enters appropriate figures in its books and issues a cheque. No cash is passed over to the Treasury, and the banks have only undertaken to accept Commonwealth cheques to the figure stipulated, because, if they run short of cash, the only source from which they can get more is the Commonwealth itself. Government money, as we know it in notes and coin, is not increased at all. The transaction is simply an extension of credit, increasing the national debt and committing us to additional payments in perpetuity, each year for interest on this privately created credit money.

WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE

You may now see what these loan funds would look like if you could take a peep at them—a big heap of books—and how, when the Federal Treasurer says, "Funds are not available," he merely means that the accounting books have not had sufficient figures written in them. In 1929 these credit extensions for community benefit were not only arbitrarily stopped, but similar advances, in the form of overdrafts to industry, were also called in by the banks. That was no act of God, and nothing to do with the tariff. It was the action of conscienceless men whom we refer to as the international financial gang. Have you farmers, you public servants, you wage earners, and you pensioners nothing to say about such a mean confidence trick, which robbed you of fair prices, fair pay, and fair comfort in old age or infirmity?

KEY TO ABUNDANCE

It is literally true to say that money can be created by a mere stroke of the pen, and yet how we go on suffering because these costless funds "are not available!" Even the London *Times* has admitted that Finance is the key of nearly all policy, but it never suggests that it is about time this key was used to unlock the world's abundance for the benefit of humanity. Why are people so timid in tackling this issue? There is no such thing as "natural money"; every bit of it is MADE or CREATED by someone, and that someone is NOT the King or his representatives. What we have to insist upon is that the Nation, AND THE NATION ALONE, should be the initial owner of all money, and that the money should never be cancelled at a rate greater than the value of the services used and the goods consumed.

phouse Wymondham St. Clair would no longer bow his curly head over the petal-like fingers of the Lady Ermytrude Idis Daine: but No. A 1,234,567 would bow Z 649 over D8(S104) of B 1,890,123. Still, who believes in romance anyway?

Almost the sole repositories of that commodity nowadays are the cinemas and the public libraries. And what is the sacrifice of a little romance beside the scope afforded for a new kind of expert—the expert who with a glance at the "Lost and Found" column—could distinguish a lottery ticket from a set of false teeth?

Anything, which creates unnecessary toil, is an acknowledged ornament to our culture, and a boon to our economic system. Yet something tells me that in this age of frustration my plea for consistency will come to 0.

The New Times

A non-party, non-sectarian, non-sectional weekly newspaper, advocating political and economic democracy, and exposing the causes, the institutions and the individuals that keep us poor in the midst of plenty.

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FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1939.

No. 20.

IS TAXATION ROBBERY?

A correspondent recently upbraided us because the statement that "Taxation Is Robbery" was made in our columns. He said that civil servants and persons engaged in public works must be fed, clothed and so forth; and that this can be done only by those engaged in production producing sufficient, not only for their own requirements, but also for the requirements of the non-producers referred to—an easy task nowadays. If producers part with the extra production required by the non-producers, they are being taxed, he said. He went on to assert that this procedure was not "robbery," but merely a fair and necessary exchange by the producers of their surplus output for social services.

In its PHYSICAL (as distinct from FINANCIAL) aspect, his proposition is quite correct. If the total of MONEY-incomes derived direct from Industry (primary and secondary) were sufficient to purchase the entire consumable output at remunerative prices, the proposition would also be correct in its FINANCIAL aspect—after producers had satisfied their own requirements they would have a MONEY-surplus as well as, and equivalent to, the GOODS-surplus intended for the non-producers. The extracting of this money-surplus from producers, and its transfer to non-producers would be a painless and legitimate operation. The non-producers would then, of course, use the producers' erstwhile money-surplus to claim the goods-surplus. And everybody would live happily ever after!

Unfortunately, it is only too obvious that the total of MONEY-incomes derived direct from Industry is NOT sufficient to purchase the entire consumable output at remunerative prices. Thus, producers (if they purchase their own requirements, and they cannot, as a whole, do even that) CANNOT have the requisite amount of MONEY-surplus to meet a MONEY-tax that would enable the non-producers to claim the extra goods produced for them. When producers ARE taxed to this extent, they are left without sufficient MONEY to claim their own rightful share of their production. That is elementary. And it is also elementary that when anyone is compulsorily deprived of what is rightfully his, he is ROBBED.

When the subject of the tremendous and increasing burden of taxation is raised, many citizens seem to conjure up a mental picture of festive hordes of corpulent politicians flaunting gold passes as they disport themselves in the august halls of Canberra and other such restful retreats; of armies of burly policemen either strolling in the Melbourne sunshine and pausing occasionally to inscribe tell-tale chalk-marks on tyres of motor cars whose owners have dared to stop less than a mile from their ports-of-call, or descending upon harassed housewives in their suburban fastnesses in the capacity of debt-collectors for the benefit of loan-sharks and cash-order firms. And so on. Such visions rouse the ire of these worthy taxpayers, who seem to believe that they have just beheld all the niggers in the taxation woodpile.

While it must be admitted that we might manage to rub along with fewer politicians, and that the men in the police force might be employed in more manly, noble, and useful ways than those mentioned, it must also be recognised that a little pruning of politicians, policemen and other public servants, would have no appreciable effect on the taxation burden, and in many directions would be a retrograde step, because most Government and semi-Government bodies are spending far less than enough—for example, Education Department and Forests Commission.

But there is one different purpose for which our Governments tax us which ALONE takes half of all taxation. That is payment of interest on the National Debt. Most of this debt has arisen by the PRIVATELY-OWNED BANKS lending PRIVATELY-MANUFACTURED MONEY to Governments. When a private individual or company MANUFACTURES money, their action is correctly described as COUNTERFEITING. To be compelled to pay tribute to counterfeiters is to be ROBBED. Furthermore, even if the privately owned banks had been licensed to manufacture the money for the Government, the money would BELONG TO THE GOVERNMENT when it was manufactured and the banks had been paid for their trouble. Instead of which the banks arrogantly arrogated the ownership and the right of disposal, and had the colossal effrontery to lend the Government its OWN money at interest! Citizens, being taxed to meet such interest, have been and are being ROBBED. Further still, the charge imposed by the banks is fully TEN TIMES greater than a reasonably remunerative, price for the work involved, and although paid in full, is successfully demanded again each year! ROBBERY AGAIN.

The conclusion is inescapable: If demanded in money, or for bank interest, TAXATION IS ROBBERY.

A Letter From the Editor to YOU

Dear Reader, —

In the "New Times" of March 24 and subsequent issues I published the following statement:

"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. (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/-(£) or more, if you can) TO-DAY. Even 3000 shillings will mean £150. THE DECISION IS IN YOUR HANDS"

Although the response, which that statement has called forth, has not yet reached the necessary minimum objectives set out therein, it has been extremely gratifying and heartening. The financial response each week so far has been a sufficient subsidy to enable us to publish the issues in question, and, while complete and accurate circulation figures cannot be compiled until later on, when all relevant returns of unsold copies are to hand, I am able to definitely assure you that the increase in circulation since March 24 is now somewhat more than 500 copies weekly.

If you have already sent a donation and you are buying an extra copy of the "New Times" every week, it is my privilege to thank you—and not merely on behalf of myself and others (not all alive today, alas!) who have laboured and sacrificed that this paper, this weapon of truth and commonsense and decency, might go forward. However mundane and trivial it may appear to you, you have done something far more important and worthy than you, perhaps, realise. Every real trench taken for truth and commonsense and decency is a step, present or potential, in the emancipation from bitter thralldom, not only of yourself and yours, but of all those cheated, frustrated workers; all those farmers gamely struggling against artificial and impossible odds; all those businessmen needlessly harassed to the brink of suicide or beyond; all those hopeless inhabitants of the economic scrap-heap; all those weary, distraught widows who are forced to fight for life in the economic jungle; all those, in short, whose battle the "New Times" is fighting—and I take upon myself the privilege of thanking you on their behalf. I know that you will continue this little extra effort.

If you have not, as yet, sent us a little donation and started buying an extra copy every week, may I earnestly suggest that you delay no longer? Time is an essential factor, and procrastination, as I have reiterated elsewhere, is the thief of time—it may steal this nearly won victory from us. This particular job is not completed; the outcome hangs in the balance, but "its back is broken." May I, without impertinence, remind you that you shouldn't "let the others down"; the other readers who have taken the first cold plunge without any assurance, other than their faith in you and me that this job would be carried on to a successful conclusion? I am sure that, bring reminded of this aspect, you will not fail; for to do so would be to fail not only yourself and me, but all those others I have referred to, whose battle the "New Times" is fighting.

With this issue the "New Times" completes its fourth year of publication. From a tiny voice, crying in the wilderness that is Melbourne, it has grown, on its merits and by a "natural" process, to be something of a "power in the land," with a worthwhile, though insufficient circulation in every State of the Commonwealth. Since the first issue (which bore the main front-page heading, "Don't Blame Your M.P.—Tell Him!") a forecast of our present increasingly successful policy) we have been travelling the financially uphill section of our road. At last, we have almost reached the end of the steep grade; we are far, far nearer than ever before to the more level stretch of faster travelling which leads to our objective—and yours. The last push required—now more than half effected—should be only a slight effort if divided between those of our thousands of supporters who can do the little that is asked of each, a very slight effort if each one actually pulls his weight. Whether we pass the brow of the hill depends on YOU as much as anybody else. I can only continue to play my part to the utmost of my ability and confidently await YOUR verdict. — Yours sincerely,

THE EDITOR.

BANKS ARE PRIVATE MINTS!

Manufacture "Fountain-Pen" Money

Professor and Big Banker Reveal Facts

"I am afraid the ordinary citizen will not like to be told that the Banks can create and destroy money.

"The amount of money in existence varies only with the action of the Banks in increasing or diminishing deposits. We know how this is effected. Every Bank loan and every bank purchase of securities creates a deposit, and every repayment of a bank loan and every bank sale destroys one."

—Hon. Reginald McKenna, Chairman, Midland Bank, England.

* * *

"The cheque system, itself beneficent, has enabled the banks continuously to create and destroy money at will. It is this power of the PRIVATE MINT, which imperils the future of scientific civilisation; which makes politics a sorry farce, and reduces Parliament to a sham. It is a manifest injustice to those who have to EARN money that private firms, by a stroke of the pen, should be empowered by the cheque system to CREATE it. But it is far worse that the money of the country, by a mere refusal of a banker to continue a credit to a debtor, should be suddenly and secretly destroyed again."

—Professor Frederick Soddy, England.

MR. MENZIES AND "WOMEN IN INDUSTRY"

A Dangerous Pretender

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir, —In 1934 Mr. Menzies said that the four questions which needed "earnest, unprejudiced, and courageous consideration" were the Training of Artisans, Women in Industry, Hours of Labour, and the Exporting Industries, "upon which our economic safety rested." At that time Mr. Menzies was a leading member of a Government, which had a large majority in both Houses of the Federal Parliament, and, consequently, was in the position to give legislative effect to any policy resulting from this earnest, unprejudiced, and courageous consideration. This position has continued through the subsequent years, but not one of the questions has been dealt with. They are not likely to be dealt with either, because we are still hearing the same things talked about in a different way. Now they are called "a fair deal for everybody," or "industrial security," or "social security," or the "unexpurgated truth," or "dare to be wise," and so on. But never a word about the only thing, which converts all these admirable, desires into a "problem"—viz., finance. That subject appears either to stick in his throat or to be taboo so far as he is concerned.

NO PRACTICAL CO-OPERATION

But if we do give earnest consideration to the subjects he enumerated what do we find? Of the four points mentioned, the question of Women in Industry is easily the most important, for the reason that the preservation of the race transcends any question of economics or industry. Women should have full freedom to choose the sphere into which they will enter—i.e., Industry or Marriage, but the acceptance of the latter must not be at an economic disadvantage. On the contrary, the acceptance of married life with its national responsibilities should carry economic ADVANTAGES. The Duke of Gloucester sent a message to the children of Australia some little while ago, in which he told them "Our Empire is a great partnership of peoples, and partnership means doing things together." The Duke was right, and what we lack is understanding and co-operation. To those Australians who consider themselves men I would say this: "If we as men, working collectively as partners in this great country, cannot provide the full economic necessities and full economic security for our women and their children without any necessity on their part to do industrial work, then we are NOT men."

THE SOLUTION

Everyone knows that so far as producing the physical things needed for our women and children is concerned, there is no difficulty, but our women and children cannot get these things without MONEY. Why do we allow conditions, which keep them short of money? We must insist that they are entitled to a regular payment of money as a right, so that they may share in the plentiful production without having to "work" in a factory or in some other type of occupation to "earn" it. Let machinery and solar energy "earn" it for them. Under such an arrangement all women would be guaranteed economic freedom, and they could then go into Industry if they so wished or retire from Industry at any time if they choose to follow their natural instincts and get married. The introduction of the arrangement presents no difficulty to those who have studied the matter. In addition to this, it is the function, and should be the pleasure, of men to make every home as comfortable, and the work associated with its upkeep as light, as the provision of modern equipment and labour-saving devices can do. Men and machines can immediately provide the atmosphere for the natural happiness of women.

MORE BOYS THAN MONEY

It is only stating the obvious to say that under the existing conditions, which limit payment of wages by Industry to those whose "work" is actually required in Industry, thousands of desirable men simply cannot afford to get married. Girls will know that they can get plenty of boy friends, but relatively few are "financial." This means that women are thus forced either to delay marriage or to forego it altogether, and to seek some industrial occupation in order to get a share of the all-too-little pool of money given out by Industry. Finance is the crux of the problem, and not even the alleged brilliance or the professed ideals of Mr. Menzies can alter that fact. If finance is not made to serve mankind, instead of debasing it, then the problem of "women in industry" is insoluble, and may lead to civic strife.

A FACTOR IN INSANITY

This method of handling a "delicate" subject may be somewhat unusual, but I am assured by those who should know something of the subject that this physical and psychic frustration of womanhood is one big factor in the increasing mental defectiveness and insanity of our time. Many social abuses are merely sublimations of the natural instincts interfered with by our economic methods. We have seen it written that the root cause of contraception amongst normal women is lack of money and security, and the facts round about us proclaim how the financial dictators and Aggressors ORDER contraception in the case of nature's products—wheat, cattle, sheep, fruit, fish, milk, etc. If we were MEN we would be thoroughly ashamed to allow the continuance of conditions so contrary to nature and so much against the well being of women. It is definitely within the power of the Federal Parliament to put an end to this unnatural and improper state of affairs, and the fact that Mr. Menzies has failed to take any action in this direction, but still goes on talking of "justice," stamps him as a political humbug.

ASK THE WOMEN

Any doubts regarding the reasons for women pressing their claims to a place in Industry could quickly be solved by each member of the Federal Parliament addressing a few questions to 25 different women engaged in what is called "gainful occupations." The questions might take this form:

1. Why are you working in Industry?
2. Do you want to work in Industry? If not, why?
3. Would you be prepared to

marry and settle down if economic security were nationally guaranteed?

4. If married, do you wish to have children? If so, why not? If not, is it because of lack of desire or lack of money?

The replies would show overwhelmingly that the lack of money is at the bottom of the trouble. Our late Prime Minister repeatedly expressed his concern at the falling birthrate and the rising mortality, rate amongst mothers. Here again, we find that people are dying because they cannot obtain the physical things they need to live, and because they are too poor to obtain the benefits of the best developments in surgery and medicine. In this, as in all other things, FINANCE is the criminal, and the time is rapidly approaching when even our K.C. Prime Minister will no longer be able to shut his eyes to it either.

WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS ALSO FAIL

Women's organisations are also failing in their responsibilities to Australian women. If these bodies, instead of concentrating their efforts on finding "work" for women and girls, were to use the same energy in securing liberation from financial worry for them, they would be doing something worthwhile. Any nation that can make it necessary and compulsory for any woman either to find a man to keep her, or otherwise to



"work" to keep herself, is a SLAVE nation, no matter who may argue to the contrary.

"STAND BY YOUR GIRLS"

The Young Women's Christian Association once issued a placard saying: "AUSTRALIA, STAND BY YOUR GIRLS!" There is only one way in which this can be effectively done. A girl with money in her purse has a far better chance than a girl with an empty purse. Most of the prostitution arises from economic necessity—i.e., from the woman's need to get money—and this is precisely the reason why the number of females in factories and other business institutions is constantly increasing. The cure for these things is to be found in the regular issue of money to our women-folk, giving them independent access to food, clothes, shelter, and other necessities. There would then be no occasion whatever for them to be in industry at all, and the problem of "Women in Industry," of which such a wordy feature was made by Mr. Menzies in his "brilliant" maiden speech in the Federal Parliament in 1934, would automatically vanish. However, and despite his brilliance, the problem not only still remains, but is more acute than ever. Perhaps we have not been praying hard enough!

HOURS OF LABOUR

Regarding the other three "problems" which our Napoleon unearthed in 1934, and which he has helped so carefully to nurture in the intervening years, the training of skilled artisans IS desirable. It should be carefully borne in mind, though, that any existing dearth was, and is, due absolutely to financial causes—i.e., to the inability of the people, through diminished purchasing power, to support Industry or provide properly for the lads during their school days and the period of their training. In the matter of Hours of Labour, the same thing applies. Employers fight against reduced hours because it would increase their costs without increasing the money supply. It is all a question of the distribution of sufficient money to enable the people to purchase the products of industry. Wages and salaries are not enough. There must be a supplementary distribution in the form of the WAGES OF THE MACHINES, which produce, but cannot consume what they produce. This supplementary distribution will enable us to solve the unemployment question not so much by shorter hours per day as by FEWER YEARS PER WORKING LIFE. The retiring age should be scientifically reduced immediately; those retired being assured of a regular and adequate income of money.

ANOTHER FALSEHOOD

It is quite incorrect to say, as Mr. Menzies did, that the economic safety of Australia rests upon the success of our exporting industries. This is a misery-producing fallacy, deliberately fostered by bankers and professional economists in order to maintain the present fraudulent system of finance. Indeed, it is a swindle. No other word suitably describes it. And to appreciate the swindle fully it is essential to realise that all we need is MONEY; that all money required in Australia IS MADE IN AUSTRALIA; that practically the whole of our Australian money consists of nothing more than entries in ledgers at private banks; and that, as an actual fact, MONEY COSTS NOTHING TO MAKE. Those who control the financial system are seeking to make our production fit into an insufficiency of figures, whereas the solution is for Parliament to insist that the figures shall fit the production. So far, Parliament has taken no action in this direction, and Mr. Menzies has shown that he does not intend that it should take such action. He holds the carrot well in front of the donkey, and suggests that prayers should be said for the donkey.

ACTIONS BELIE HIS WORDS

Any man who professes to desire a happy and contented life for the people, and who, when in a position to do something to make his desires come to reality, refuses to tackle the only thing that keeps the people unhappy and discontented, is a humbug, a pretender of the worst kind. And that is precisely the category in which we must place Mr. Menzies while his public actions are so contrary to his noble words. —Yours faithfully, BRUCE H. BROWN.

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(Continued on page 7.)

Short Rations

By MacDOUGALL

It's Friday afternoon in a big factory. The whistle sounds for "knocking-off" and 600 tired men hurry to collect their pay. One after the other, they walk past the notice board, glance casually, then stop dead, with a dismayed expression on their faces. Pinned up is a curt note: "THE PLANT WILL NOT BE OPERATING ON MONDAY NEXT."

SHORT ENOUGH ALREADY

To men who must watch every penny closely, because of their low wage, this drastic and sudden cut of 20 per cent, in their Week's pay is a deadly serious matter—"What will the wife say? How am I going to buy young Johnny that new pair of boots? What about the instalment on the sewing machine? I suppose the grocer will have to wait again?"

These and a thousand other problems immediately crowd in on the Australian workingman, the backbone of our nation, when the dreaded short week commences.

NATURE KNOWS BETTER THAN MAN!

It's Monday morning, and a beautiful day: the sky a deep blue, the grass green, birds are singing and foraging around the factory. All nature is rejoicing—but inside the factory is the silence of a cathedral. There is plenty of unfinished work on the floors and benches, plenty of raw materials and tools in the stores, but not a single hammer clangs or a single motor whirrs. The management is just as anxious to keep going as the men, but what can they do? There are *no orders*. And, in six hundred homes throughout Melbourne, six hundred idle men wonder what they can do to fill in time, with no money to spend. Most of them can't even do a bit of gardening—for obvious reasons.

THIS IS NO STORY, TOLD TO EMPHASISE A POINT. IT IS SOLID, HARD, COLD FACT; WHAT HAPPENS YEAR IN AND YEAR OUT IN AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY!

WHERE'S THAT AUSTRALIAN GUMPTION?

You Australians who are reading this article; you, whose fathers, brothers, and sons amazed the world with their courage, independence and determination during 1914-1918; you descended from men who poured down to Sydney wharf, brandishing any weapon they could lay hands on, shouting themselves hoarse and threatening to wreck the whole town if the authorities dared to land convicts from the ships; what are you going to DO about the state of affairs we find ourselves in today? Has the sturdy spirit for which Australians have been famed really departed from our midst? Every phase of our nation's life today calls out for intelligent action, yet still our people "plod their weary way" and make no effort to use their democratic power and turn this country into "the land fit for heroes" for which our "diggers" fought.

THE SOLUTION

The time for words and argument has passed. In the name of our country's future, I urge that the citizens of Australia, young and old, determinedly bestir themselves and demand that the root cause of all this unnatural economic trouble, whatever it may be, is routed out into the open and eliminated by the men who are paid for that purpose, regardless of party label, THE AUSTRALIAN POLITICIANS.

RIVERINA TOUR CONCLUDES

Campaigners Show That Results Can Be Obtained

Norman Rolls and Eric Butler arrived back in Melbourne last Friday after their flying trip through the Riverina. Splendid results were achieved at most centres and many new contacts were made.

ARDLETHAN MEETING

Our report last week finished with the Barellan meeting, which took place on Sunday, May 7. The following day the two campaigners travelled to Ardlethan and addressed a small, but attentive, meeting that night. Copies of the *New Times* and of other literature were distributed. As this centre was virgin territory a further meeting, at some future date, should produce a big audience. The wheat farmers are not finding the prosperity so "unbelievable" these days.

BIG OPEN-AIR MEETING AT WAGGA

The following day saw the arrival of the actionists in Wagga. Owing to the lack of time and contacts, they decided to try and get an open-air meeting that night. Although a very cold night, Norman Rolls, with the aid of his megaphone, gathered nearly 100 people to hear Eric give a splendid address. Many copies of the *New Times* were sold, and some permanent readers were signed-up the next morning, before leaving for Tumut.

TUMUT MEETING

Although not as well attended as the local enthusiasts expected,

a good audience listened with interest to the two speakers. In spite of the heavy strain of constant speaking, Eric Butler was able to deliver a typical fighting address, which aroused considerable enthusiasm among those present. Signatures against the Bank Bill were obtained, and copies of the *New Times* were sold. After making several contacts the following morning the campaigners left for Melbourne. Several calls were made *en route*.

A SUMMARY

Both Norman Rolls and Eric Butler were pleased with the response, which they got—especially the fine co-operation from many of the country supporters. Eight meetings were held, at which Eric Butler excelled himself. Apart from the many dozens of copies of the *New Times* sold at meetings, many more were distributed for hundreds of miles along the trail. This tour showed what results can be obtained if supporters will only co-operate sufficiently. As mentioned last week, the whole of this trip was donated by one supporter who drove his own car at his own expense over 1000 miles. An example to be emulated.

ERIC BUTLER'S QUEENSLAND TOUR

The Kennedy (Queensland) Advisory Board of the Electoral Campaign reports that their arrangements are well in hand for the tour of Mr. Eric Butler, and that a splendid welcome awaits this popular campaigner on his arrival in North Queensland some time in June. Eric will continue his tour southwards, and his success will depend largely upon the response from other parts of the State. North Queensland supporters will accommodate and transport Eric during his stay in their districts, and a sub-committee has been formed, with Mr. Mal. Burns as hon. secretary, for the purpose of giving the matter due publicity, and thus ensuring a good attendance at each meeting.

They have found from previous experience in the North that in order to obtain reasonable results a good deal of advertising is required, and they have started a fund with that end in view. A novel method of dropping literature will be employed, as a plane is being made available for that purpose.

Kennedy thus leads the way in this statewide tour. Will all

SWING INTO ACTION

The movement which offers everyone the opportunity of taking a dynamic part in their country's affairs is the "United Electors of Australia," 5th Floor, McEwan House, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne; MU 2834. The Youth Section headquarters are at 5th Floor, Chartres' House, Collins Street, Melbourne.

Any man anxious to do more than just think is requested to contact one or other of these centres.

other divisions who wish to avail themselves of Eric's services please get busy and communicate with H.Q.? This will permit the saving of both time and expense in travelling—it is desirable to map out an itinerary for Eric that will obviate doubling back on his journey south.

Eric will speak on such vital subjects as, "Save the People's Bank Campaign." To quote Eric's own words: "The public at the present time are in a very receptive mood for our message. Compared with even six months ago, the improvement is tremendous. At long last, we are starting to get the results of the hard ground work."

Everyone, whose allegiance is given to a democracy, should support such a tour as this promises to be. To make it a tour yielding big results, H.Q. wants offers of accommodation, transport, and/or finance.

The Queensland Appeal Fund in trust for a tour by Mr. R. J. C. Butler is making available £60 6/6. It is not sufficient, but it will start Eric on his way. All donations will be published in the *New Times*, either anonymously or with signature, and cheques or money orders should be made payable to Mrs. I. Bonner Smith, 142 Adelaide Street, Brisbane.

Meantime, the Campaign is progressing very well. Thousands of signatures have been sent in, and both the members of Parliament and the people are learning, and learning fast, what democracy in action really means. 142 Adelaide Street would like to see the office *inundated* with requests for Eric's services and offers of further work for the Electoral Campaign.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

NEW ZEALAND

A New Zealander's Views

Sir, —Permit me to compliment you one the all-round excellence of your journal, and to state that the work you are doing through its pages is most valuable.

I have before me the April copy, Vol. 5, No. 17, and while every article is good, the most interesting and useful to me at the moment are, first, "The Financing of Our Public Hospitals," and, secondly, Norman F. Rolls' letter, "The End of the Price System."

Both of these are of the type that can be used to educate the people, and I thank you for giving me the opportunity through your paper of reading them.

I have taken the paper regularly for some time, and I feel that most of the contributors are old friends, and I wish them the very best in their work.

If wishes would help to finance them and you, then you have them by the ton. I know, to my sorrow, that money talks in all languages, and without it our urge to educate the masses is hampered.

We in this country are now being treated to a dose of Socialist-Communist legislation, which, being based on orthodoxy is certain to fail, and with it the hopes of the disillusioned people.

We are headed for the greatest financial and political crisis in our time, and being a Socialist depression, there is nothing left to the mass mind but bewildered conceptions of the cause.

Our progress is slow, because much of our support was mopped up by the Labor Party, through the use of terms and slogans by greatest salesman, M. J. Savage, now Premier.

It seems to me that there is now no alternative for the Labor Government but to accept the terms of their masters, that we will have a National Government in the saddle before very long, and as the terms will embrace a lowering of costs, I can leave to your knowledge of affairs, the result of that.

At present the Movement here is organising a complete educational campaign throughout the country, but as funds are scarce and workers scarcer, the work will be slow and results proportional.

However, we are going on, and with the knowledge that a return of our saddened members to the

NIGHT SCENE IN MELBOURNE

Above the clamour of Friday night traffic, there rises A Voice. Steadily, it approaches, until the jostling shoppers on the pavements pause to listen and stare. "Public meeting, corner of Dash Street and Blank Road in five minutes" proclaims the Voice. "Be there! Save the people's Bank!" The Voice passes on, carrying its challenge along the busy street. Let's slip up to the corner of Blank Road and Dash Street . . .

The corner seems bare; a deserted hurricane lamp sits on the asphalt, hinting at mystery. Perhaps Diogenes has, at last, found an honest man and, returning tubwards to celebrate, has left his lamp to mark the spot? Alas, the whimsical illusion is shattered; a group of cheerful individuals appears, and, with a good deal of clattering, a wooden box and a number of large signboards are unceremoniously dumped on the ground.

One sign is treated more carefully than the others. A novel creation of glass and steel, it bears the cryptic legend: "Hands Off the People's Bank, Mr. Casey!" Placed before the speaker's rostrum (soap-box, to you) it gives the text for the evening. Proceedings are enlivened by the arrival of The Voice—two young men and a megaphone in a car—it makes the welkin ring with enthusiastic exhortations.

Spitting on his palms, in mock-heroic determination, the first speaker advances to the fray. As he mounts the box, The Voice dies away; in the sudden hush is heard another quieter voice, urging the speaker to "give 'em de woiks, buddy!"

The speaker begins. And now there is no more jesting; beneath the friendly banter lay a resolute purpose and that purpose is now uppermost. Confidently, sincerely, he tells the few who are gathered to listen, why he is there. To warn them that the Commonwealth Bank is menaced and why it must be saved. Imperceptibly the crowd grows; soon there are scores of eager listeners. Pausing, many of them, to scoff, they remain to listen with avid attention.

fold is certain, we hope to do great things again.—Yours, etc., F. ALLEN.

Auckland, N.Z.

Another speaker replaces the first, and another; as each retires, spontaneous applause from the audience shows appreciation. Lucidly describing the potential value of the Commonwealth Bank, the criminal absurdity of enforced destitution amidst abundance, the technique of pressure politics; and similar subjects, the speakers gain a good hearing from the people, many of whom hear for the first time an authentic account of the activities of the United Electors of Australia.

Meanwhile, supporters move amongst the crowd, supplying the *New Times*, dealing with the enquiries of interested bystanders, and noting the names of those who wish to help.

Time passes, the crowd dwindles; even the new enthusiasts depart. Then, foregathering in the nearest milk bar, the campaigners re-live the meeting and hatch plans for new ones. And so home, and to bed. . . .

Undoubtedly, open-air meetings are splendid propaganda — and splendid fun. Every Friday evening members of the U.E.A. Youth Section descend in force on some unsuspecting suburb and provide audible and visible proof that the U.E.A. means business. If you would like to take advantage of this form of propaganda in your own suburb, drop a line to the Youth Section, suggesting the best location and a date; or, ring MU 2834. And if you wish to share the spirit of camaraderie which animates these energetic "shock troops" get into touch with the Youth Section at their rooms, 5th floor, Chartres House, Collins Street (next to "Metro"); or attend the next suitable open-air meeting, announced in the Youth Section notes. For intending speakers, there is a class every Tuesday evening in the Y.S. rooms. All are welcome. How about it?

THE THIN END OF THE WEDGE

(Continued from page 1.) suffer unless they obey the almighty decree of Dictator Menzies and his satellites.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S FASCIST LEANINGS

One might be less distrustful of the seemingly harmless National Register had it been brought before the House by a Government whose members had a more creditable history than is the case; but as practically all the senior members of the present Cabinet have, by word and deed, proved that they are fundamentally opposed to true democracy for others, while demanding absolute freedom for themselves, we not only fear, but feel reasonably certain, that the proposed National Register is but the thin end of a wedge for an autocratic control of the individual to the ends of our Bank-controlled, one might almost say Bank-owned, minority-elected Government. If we would keep the liberties that have been so hard won for us by our forebears, liberties that are too few for us to risk the loss of any of them, it behoves us to resist this Bill to the limit of our power and thus prove to would-be-dictator Menzies that, whether he likes it or not, he is our servant and not our master.

The first thing to do is to write to your Federal member of Parliament about it. The second thing is to get as many fellow-electors as possible to do likewise.

New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 6.)

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UNITED ELECTORS OF AUSTRALIA

Youth Section's New Rooms

With the windows cleaned, the partitions moved—a fascinating business to all but the movers, who developed headaches when it came to putting the bits together again—and the first meeting over, the Youth Section now feels officially installed at Fifth Floor, Chartres House, Collins Street (next Metro Theatre). And, just by the way, there's a glorious view from the rooftop. Undoubtedly, budding speakers will find inspiration for great orations—AND when the Youth Section throws a party . . .!

At first glance, the meeting of twenty-odd members presented a refugee-like picture, with canvas camp chairs dotted over the floor, and the secretary and president seated in dubious state on the two largest camp chairs at a small card-table. Despite the fact that, one by one, the camp-chair-squatters' backs broke, and they had perforce to gravitate to the nearest wall, thereon to lean until their backs unbroke, the meeting went with a "zip." (A latecomer, standing by the lift on the ground floor, wondered: "Now, is this Chartres' House?" Then he heard the sound of many voices. Through the quiet building ebbed and flowed this sound of many voices: "Ah," cried the late-comer, "this IS Chartres' House!")

The Youth Section adds a post-script to its furniture appeal: "Even if it's got borers in it, we don't mind!"

YOUTH SECTION NOTES

Here's Action

The Youth Section held open-air meetings at Dandenong and Oakleigh last Friday. Tonight (19th) they speak again at Oakleigh, and next Friday at Elsterwick.

* * *

The three Youth Section speakers for Wallan reported a well attended and satisfactorily remunerative meeting. Afterwards they enjoyed a delicious supper before a roaring log fire. These country people are stout fellas.

* * *

Mr. W. P. Iggulden addressed the Youth Forum (in place of his brother, who is ill) on Sunday, and was very warmly received. The members of the Forum are most enthusiastic about the U.E.A., and the Youth Section will shortly entertain them at the new rooms.

* * *

Urgent

Names of those intending to "house warm" MUST be forwarded to the Secretary (Miss Grace Iggulden), 1 Gillard Street, Brighton, S.6; telephone (between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.), X 2137; before WEDNESDAY, May 24, otherwise their supper will be imperilled.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NOTES

Members and friends, please note that the second of the monthly bridge evenings will be held this Saturday, May 20. Supper prizes. Contribution, 1/3.

CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ORDER

The annual meeting of members of the society was held on Wednesday evening, May 10, in the Pirie Street Methodist Church Hall.

The retiring president, Rev. Norman Crawford, gave a short account of the year's activities.

After a lengthy discussion, amendments were made to the constitution. When the time came for the election of officers, Mr. Crawford announced that he did not wish to be nominated for any executive position.

Mr. Bruce H. Brown was nominated as president, and, when asked by the chairman if he were prepared to accept nomination, he said that it depended upon whether the members of the society were prepared to become active in an attempt to awaken the masses to the truth of things as they are, or just to go on "talking." If the intention was to "do things," then he would, indeed, be happy to assist in every way possible. The chairman asked the members to show whether they were prepared for "action," and every hand went up.

Mr. Crawford congratulated the meeting upon obtaining the services of a man such as Mr. Bruce H. Brown.

Upon Mr. Brown taking the chair, Rev. A. C. L. Sanders moved a motion of appreciation of the wonderful selfless service rendered the society by Mr. Crawford during the year.

In discussing future activities, Mr. Brown said that the society would endeavour to build up an army of voluntary workers to take our message into the homes of the people.

The following officers were elected: Vice-presidents, Rev. A. C. L. Sanders, Dr. E. F. W. Swan and Dr. S. R. Hecker; hon. secretary, Mr. M. E. Dodd; hon. treasurer, Mr. A. Munyard; hon. organiser, Mr. R. H. Curnow.

The society is indeed fortunate in securing Mr. Bruce Brown as president. He has been in Adelaide only a matter of months, but during that time has made a great impression upon the minds of thousands of people who have been privileged to listen to his public addresses—always dealing with the truth about the money swindle.

How an Influential Man Introduces the "New Times" to Friends:

"Jim! Here is a paper I want you to read. Remember, it is my property and I do not want it destroyed. I want it returned after you have read it—unless you would like to hand it on to someone, with the strict understanding that it must not be destroyed."

Says a N.S.W. Newsagent:

"I am engaging a man to canvass the town for *New Times* subscribers. Would be pleased to receive a bundle of back numbers to

PICTURE NIGHT

Just by Way of Relaxation

There's a picture night at the CAPITOL THEATRE on Wednesday, May 24, which the Youth Section of the United Electors has arranged. The programme sounds promising: Elizabeth Bergner in "Stolen Life" and Charles Ruggles in "Sudden Money." (More credit creation?) Tickets are available at the U.E.A. Rooms, McEwan House, or from any member of the Youth Section.

Said a "New Times" Subscriber:

"Here is renewal of my subscription. I am 84 years old. When my renewal fails to arrive you will know I am dead."

SPREADIN' RHYTHM AROUND!

Youth Section To Go Hot?

From Our Special Correspondent

Now the proud possessors of a silver cornet, donated by an enthusiast in response to the furniture appeal (WHICH, BY THE WAY, IS STILL IN FULL "SWING"), the United Electors' Youth Section of Melbourne is in a quandary. It has not yet been decided whether to hang the cornet on the wall, raffle it, sell it by auction, sell it outright, or turn the Youth Section into a swing band. Crisis may be precipitated by the action of the street-speakers' team, which is casting covetous eyes on the cornet as a potential means of getting a crowd in a hurry.

TRADE BOYCOTT

Goods From Germany

TEST OF ECONOMIC SYSTEM

Need of Cheaper Food

LONDON, May 3.

The Federation of British Industries, in a trade forecast, remarks that the world-wide boycott of German goods, caused by hostility to the German policy, is likely to put the German economic system to the severest test ever known. *Germany does not require more population or additional capacity, but cheaper food and raw materials.*

A report from Berlin states that, in order to assist exports, the Reichsbank is extending the period for foreign bill mortgages from six months to a year, enabling exporters to grant foreign buyers correspondingly extended credit.

It is officially admitted that the step involves the Reichsbank in considerable risk.

Mr. Frank Tiarks, director of the Bank of England, is presiding at a conference of the British, French, United States and Swiss Bankers' Committee, which is discussing a renewal of Germany's credit agreements for a further year.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Times*, says a supplementary decree establishes *tax certificates as a form of currency*, and provides that contractors receiving payment by certificate must repay creditors 40 per cent, in certificates, which must be accepted as legal tender for private debts.

THE DILEMMA OF A PACIFIST

The Rev. W. Bottomley's Reply to Professor Walter Murdoch, an outline of which was given in the "New Times" of March 31, has been printed in full as a booklet. It is obtainable through the "New Times" Office at 3d. per copy, 4d. posted.

HITLER HELPS FARMERS

After drawing a harrowing picture, in which agriculture is likened to a mangy dog, with city merchants in the form of fleas, encouraged by a flea-dominated Government, sucking the animal's life-blood, Perth *Wheatgrower* sets up Germany as an example of a country where the farmer is rightly treated. "Grants and loans are being offered German farmers, in an effort to arrest the flight from the land. Marriage loans are turned into rewards for people who remain on the land for ten years. Interest-free loans are to be made available for livestock and general farm equipment. Should the recipients remain long enough on their holdings, these loans need not be repaid. Land and forest owners are entitled to write off, for taxation purposes, the whole cost of workers' cottages built during the next four years," the journal records.

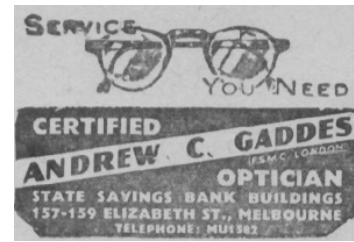
WHAT ARE MACHINES FOR?

The *Daily Herald*, London, recently pointed out in a leader that: "The 2,000,000 [English] workers who are producing nothing and earning nothing represent about one-seventh of our total labour resources."

All sorts of schemes and plans for putting these men back to work are advocated here, there, and everywhere, all the time.

The old idea that culture and civilisation must rest on a "slave" basis still persists, although the real meaning of the new factor in economics—the machine—has now made that ancient idea a very dangerous one to hold and work to in these days.

The coming of the machine has accelerated, enlarged, and exposed the weakness of a money-system that ignores, not only the "wages of the machine," but the vital function of the machine, which is to produce for use and consumption more and more wealth with less and less human labour.



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