

"EXEMEX"

Clears up Obstinate Skin Troubles.

Obtainable only from

RICHARD E. BROTCHE,
45 Brunswick St.,
Eastern Hill, N.6.

'Phone: J 1873.

THE

NEW TIMES

"CATARRH"

Clears Up Catarrh,

A. Nasal.
B. Pulmonary.
C. Stomachic.

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Vol. 5. No. 21.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1939.

Every Friday, 3d

UNIFICATION OF RAILWAY GAUGES

MELBOURNE "ARGUS" "OFF THE RAILS"

A National Problem—And Its Solution

The question of unifying the railway gauges throughout Australia is again receiving considerable attention. At various times during the past this matter has been raised and many ideas put forward. Apart from talk nothing has been done. However, now that the subject of defence is agitating the minds of our Governments, the necessity for this national undertaking is being given some publicity again by our daily press. It seems strange that it is only the threat of war, which makes these schemes urgently desirable. Which only shows what a "sane" world we live in.

The Melbourne "Argus" of May 19 devotes its leading article to the above matter, and reverts to form with a column of jargon and distortions which equals any past efforts made on behalf of the financial oligarchy which rules Australia—and the "Argus,"

As mentioned, the question of unifying the railway gauges throughout Australia has been raised before. In fact, prior to the 1934 Federal elections, the U.A.P. made this issue one of their main "promises" to the electors of Australia. The electors were told that if Mr. Lyons and his Government were returned to office they would immediately take steps to see that the unification of the railways took place. The U.A.P. was returned to office. But the promise did not materialise. Why? The answer was supplied by the Federal Treasurer, Mr. Casey, when he publicly stated some few months after the elections, that "the Government is very sorry to say that it cannot start the proposed scheme because it is short of funds." Ye Gods! One would think that railway lines were made with money. The *Argus* seems to adhere to this stupid delusion when it says, "One of the most important of those assets is a railway system as mobile as ingenuity and money can make it." (Our emphasis.)

Railway lines are made from raw materials, and there was no shortage when the U.A.P. repudiated its promise. Neither was there a shortage of men. Only a shortage of money—which is easily produced, if those private institutions, which create the bulk of it at the present time, are so disposed.

WHAT IS THIS "COST?"

Continuing its article, the *Argus* says: "The unification of the gauges of at least the main lines between capitals is a reform the desirability of which has long been generally recognised. *Cost has been the stumbling block*, and, so long as a unified gauge was considered merely as a convenience for a civilian population, the question of cost was allowed to remain a sufficient excuse for indefinite inaction." (Our emphasis)

So the stumbling block is cost? We might therefore, with great advantage, briefly determine what it will cost to carry out this scheme. What constitutes "cost"? The *Argus*, as a protagonist of those allegedly beneficent institu-

tions, the private banks, will inform us that it will cost so many millions of pounds. However, most intelligent people now realise that money is practically a costless creation, and that when we talk about the cost of such a project as the one under discussion we can only deal with *real* or *physical* costs. In a scientific community the cost of unifying the railway gauges throughout Australia would be determined by the amount of physical energy expended in transforming certain raw materials into a railway line. The physical energy—as well as mental energy—would be the result of the consumption of food-stuffs, etc. Therefore the real cost of the railway line would be the amount of raw materials, food-stuffs and so forth, used. The function of a true money system is to only account for these facts—we neither eat money nor build railway lines with it.

"CAN WE AFFORD IT?"

Now, having a real conception of what "cost" implies, we can proceed

(Continued on page 6.)

"SAVE THE PEOPLE'S BANK" CAMPAIGN**The following is the Latest Report from the Citizens' Committee Conducting the Victorian Section of This All-Important Campaign**

"Since the Commonwealth Bank Act Amendment Bill is likely to be brought before the House this week, we will probably have an opportunity in our next report to express our opinion upon the attitude of Members individually, their relation to their electors, and their prospects in the next general elections.

MUST NOT "LET UP."

"One of the greatest authorities on our Commonwealth Bank, in an urgent communication to hand yesterday, says: 'I trust that you will NOT divert your activities . . . If the Bank goes, in my opinion our last hope of a peaceable revolution of society goes with it.' From the Sydney committee, the Brisbane committee, committees in Tas-

ADELAIDE DOCTOR'S DISCLOSURES

Tuberculosis and Tragedy

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Most of those who heard Dr. D. R. Cowan speak at the women's luncheon at the United Democrats' rooms, Adelaide, on Wednesday, May 17, about the plight of many unfortunate tubercular people in South Australia will be inclined to say, like the hero in John Bunyan's allegory, when the hill Difficulty came in his pathway:

**"The Hill though high I covet to ascend,
The Difficulty will not me offend."**

It would seem that for a long time Dr. Cowan has been doing more than one man's share in seeking to trace the facts about the incidence of tuberculosis, and to stir the authorities to do something adequate in making reasonable provisions for coping with the situation disclosed.

For instance, a special survey has been carried through by examining about 4000 girls, amongst whom about one in a hundred were found to be needing treatment.

Dr. Cowan was quite definite in his statement that if these patients are given the opportunity for taking the proper rest, relaxation and nourishment under medical supervision for several months continuously, then nearly all the cases of incipient disease could be cured.

Even single girls, however, are often so conditioned by economic circumstances, that they are unable to leave their jobs, and so they struggle on with a good chance of breaking down completely later on.

When a husband or wife is affected, the case is generally even more tragic. In one instance cited, a young man was given a pension, but this was cut off (as prescribed in the Act) as soon as the authorities found that his wife had found employment by means of which she earned about £2 a week.

"SHEER MADNESS."

Dr. Cowan said that it is sheer madness to condone this lack of

proper and continuous succour in such cases until a cure has been effected. Tuberculosis, he said, is a community disease in that not only do those affected suffer unnecessarily, because of lack of proper support from the community, but they are necessarily a danger to the community through the likelihood of the spread of the disease.

Another anomaly is that if a patient is being treated at a State Institution, then 14/- out of the £ 1 Federal pension is deducted by the institution. Many people, therefore, are forced to stay in their homes, for economic reasons, rather than go away for proper treatment.

Such disclosures make it patent that strenuous effort is needed to have the Federal Pensions Act amended, so that money can be made available to patients as a preventative measure when medical certification indicates the need. Even on mere money-economy grounds this is sensible. Also the State authorities must be badgered until they allow free sanatorium treatment to all who need it.

In a working democracy each person must learn to be alert and assiduous in his own particular sphere. Medical men as typified by Dr. Cowan are doing their part if they are making the facts widely known.

A JOB FOR ALL

The task of bringing adequate pressure to bear upon the parliamentarians so that the wrongs are righted is the duty of all electors as such.

It is to be hoped that every reader of this paper will use his or her energy and ingenuity in devising ways and means of spreading a knowledge of the facts, and of pressing the individual Members of Parliament to arrange for adequate reform.

The fact that the money aspect of the problem presents no great difficulty is also gradually becoming widely known; but the process of education in this matter must also be speeded up, until we are never prevented from doing, as a community, anything we wish to do, so long as it is physically possible

mania, West Australia and South Australia (all of whom are in constant touch with numerous sub-committees) appeals have come to 'keep going.' A letter from the Hon. Director of the W.A. campaign estimates the dispatch of approximately 10,000 letters as representative of at least 25,000 electors in that State to date. Communications (Continued on page 6.)

Fourth Birthday of the "New Times"!

MARKED BY RAPID RISE IN CIRCULATION

An Important Landmark

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

On the last Friday in May 1935, the first issue of the "New Times" was published. Last week's issue completed four years of continuous publication, and this issue, being that for the last Friday in May, 1939, marks our fourth birthday. During the past four years the "New Times" has unflinchingly adhered to its purpose of placing THE TRUTH before its readers—regardless of the hostility of those who have a vested interest in keeping certain facts from the people, and in the face of a wall of blind prejudice, apathy, and ignorance.

In spite of these adverse factors and financial difficulties, this paper has kept going, multiplied its initial circulation (both numerically and geographically), and has just received, during the past few weeks, more than half of its fourth-birthday present—it has gained more than half the further increase in circulation that was still needed to place it firmly and finally on its feet. This seems to be an altogether appropriate occasion for a brief summary of our past efforts, a stocktaking of our present position, and a survey of future possibilities.

THE PAST

A little more than four years ago the late T. J. Moore found that his efforts to expose the private-bank-controlled policy of scarcity-finance, as being the cause of poverty amidst plenty, were suddenly frustrated by pressure from a private bank on the journal he was editing. He, therefore, decided to start a paper which would carry on (or fail) without recourse to bank overdraft or reactionary investors, and without enslavement to a political party or to advertisers: a paper which would be REALLY INDEPENDENT and, therefore, in a position to challenge the enemies of the people.

This was a courageous step; a quixotic step, said some. But undaunted, Tom Moore forsook security with an established journal and ventured. A few of those who had enthusiastically welcomed his previous articles, which brought down the wrath of the Money Monopoly, had made themselves known to him and were eager to see the new paper started. Some of them, including a well-to-do Melbourne manufacturer, had expressed their willingness to assist in financing such a venture. So a private company (New Times Pty. Ltd.) was formed and registered—and with high ideals, high determination and high hopes, but low funds, the *New Times* started on its crusade. The ideals, determination and hopes have never waned, but the funds quickly did so. However, as the paper was making headway, the small, but (fortunately) expanding, group of enthusiasts injected further quantities of money into its "veins" as required by taking further shares in the company.

Then a sudden devastating illness overtook the Melbourne manufacturer previously referred to. As he had been by far the largest contributor to the funds of the paper, this was a serious blow, as well as a personal sorrow to his fellow-enthusiasts. It was, therefore, decided to widen (among known supporters) the sphere from which capital was being drawn. Smaller sums, perhaps, but more of them. This quickly brought about the necessity of converting New Times Pty. Ltd. into New Times Ltd., making it permissible to have a large number of shareholders. Thus the *New Times* started to become a "people's paper" as regards its ownership, as well as its ideals.

Meantime the paper continued to grow in circulation and influence, and the trading loss was correspondingly reduced. Many readers became self-appointed circulation representatives and obtained further readers. This growth, although very sound, very gratifying, and very creditable to both the paper and its voluntary ambassadors, was not as fast as it might have been, because the volunteers' spare-time efforts could not be supplemented and capitalised. Sufficient share capital was never forthcoming at one time to allow the management, after making provision for the trading loss, to take any worthwhile direct action in regard to expanding circulation.

Then, at the beginning of December, 1937, tragedy took the stage: Tom Moore was incapacitated by an illness that was to prove fatal, and, in February of last year, the *New Times* lost its courageous founder and able first editor.

But he had inspired others with his ideals and determination; he had laid a splendid foundation, from which they might build higher, and had set a high standard by which they could assess their work.

During last year, and since, exceptional efforts have been made to reduce operating costs without impairing efficiency. For example, a new and more economical channel of distribution to newsagents has been found, tried, and proved to be satisfactory; a new and more economical set-up of the paper (also more attractive, readers tell us) has been evolved, and the size of the paid staff has been pared down to the irreducible minimum consistent with reasonable efficiency.

Reviewing the financial position slightly more than nine weeks ago, it was apparent to the board of directors that, although such measures had brought about a very drastic further reduction in the weekly trading loss, operating expenses were still appreciably higher than revenue. With barely a "skeleton" staff, it was obviously impossible (if desirable) to continuously obtain the requisite subsidy by personal approach to known supporters in Victoria—as had been done before. Consequently, the following statement appeared in the *New Times* of March 24 and in all subsequent issues to date:

"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/- (£1 or more, if you can) TODAY, liven 3000 shillings will mean £150. THE DECISION IS IN YOUR HANDS."

Before we proceed to report the response, so far, to the foregoing statement, and to take stock in a general way of our present position, let us ask and briefly answer, this one question: *And what has the "New Times" achieved in the past?*

Well, for four years it has maintained an untainted channel for fact and opinion about things that really matter; it has played a unique part in the growth of the idea of real democracy in the minds of Australians, and in the beginning of that idea's translation into reality in Australia. The *New Times* has never ceased to expose the subjection of the people and Governments of Australia by the Money Monopoly, the foolish utterances of those who are the conscious, or unconscious, puppets of that master-monopoly, and the futility of party-politics. In short, the *New Times* has been the unflinching champion of all sections of THE PEOPLE in their common fight for justice, security, and freedom. Such specific deeds as the exposure of the infamous "Trade Diversion Policy" of May 1936; the exposure of the National Insurance scheme, the support given to the successful electors' campaign against it; the initiation of the "Save the People's Bank" campaign, and the very recent exposure of Roosevelt's "Peace Offer" (all matters which the daily press presented incompletely and in an entirely false light) are but some highlights—readers will recall others—of a continuous work; reminders of a champion that never sleeps and never shirks.

THE PRESENT

Today—Friday, May 26, 1939 is a milestone in our crusade: it marks our fourth birthday. Today is a vantage-point, from which we have just looked back on our past struggles and achievements,

and from which we try to look over the brow of the hill, so near at hand, into the future. Today is a day on which we pause a moment to render thanks to all those who have assisted, financially or otherwise, to carry on our crusade to the present point—not forgetting the gallant memory of Tom Moore, whose courage, genius and foresight we have to thank for the establishment of the *New Times*. Today is a red-letter day with us—we wish that Tom Moore were here to share it with us—for the weekly circulation has grown approximately SIX HUNDRED copies larger over the past NINE WEEKS. Today we receive the first appreciable instalment (other than payment for new direct-subscriptions) of the financial benefit of the increased circulation. Today there are several hundred citizens, representative of every section of the community, who have thought highly enough of the *New Times* to become shareholders in it, although no dividends were offering. Today our influence, direct and indirect, is greater than ever before. (Our indirect influence is considerable, because, for example, several journals in different parts of Australia see fit to reprint matter from our columns, which thus reaches a wider audience.) Today we are, as the editor observed in last week's issue, something of a "power in the land."

THE FUTURE

One thing is certain; there was never greater need in Australia for a paper such as the *New Times* than in the critical times ahead. Unquestionably, the *New Times* could play an important part, indeed a decisive part.

Another thing is certain. Whether the *New Times* fulfils its mission depends on the completion of the job in hand at the moment—a further 400 copies must be sold every week. This will have to be achieved quickly, and some financial support will be urgently required until it is achieved, and the time lag between circulation-increase and revenue-increase has run its course.

If that is done, and we feel sure that it will be, the road to our objectives—YOUR objectives—should be relatively fast and If YOU haven't "done your bit" during the past few weeks, will YOU "lend us a hand"—NOW?



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THIS "BUY BRITISH" BUSINESS

This week we have been subjected to a barrage of cant and hypocrisy. Patriotism and the finer qualities of human nature are being commercialised, as is the custom on such occasions as Mothers' Day. "Buy British" is the slogan for the week. The high and mighty of the land is contending for first place in the art of rhetoric and splash. Even the Queen is pictured on the pages of leading daily newspapers, with a description of her British-made wearing apparel.

The *New Times* must not be misunderstood in its attitude to "buy British." We have every respect for the natural British sentiment, as we have for that of any other national to his country; but we abhor the commercialising of it for military and high-financial reasons. We begin to sense a little inconsistency on remembering that High Commissioner Stanley Bruce informed us that Britain would be cutting down her imports from Australia; that the Anglo-American Trade Agreement has left us out in the cold, and a further barter agreement between the two countries has added to *Britain's* gesture towards "buy British." There have been huge purchases of wheat from Roumania, and the *Argus* of May 18 informs us "the feature of the overseas wheat market on Tuesday was the purchase by Great Britain of 33,000 tons of River Plate wheat . . ."—This when Australian wheat farmers are in a precarious position. There is pertinent advice in the words of Sir Herbert Gepp, who said, when addressing the Rotary Club, Bendigo, on May 18: "Without an essential reconstruction our present 'civilisation is doomed to turn the world into a human abattoirs."

The "buy British" propaganda stresses what is tantamount to a boycott on the world, other than the Empire, but taking in the United States of America to add strength to the economic weapon. And what is this foolhardy procedure in aid of? To bolster up a "system" which warrants the Melbourne *Herald*, of May 20, printing in large type this heading: "WINE INDUSTRY SAVED BY BAD HARVEST"; also "Wheatgrowers faced with a bountiful season."

Is it any wonder that youth is stirring? Mr. Kennedy, United States Ambassador to Britain, in a speech to the Liverpool [England] University Association, admitted, "the younger generation was very outspoken about the way its seniors were doing things. I have two boys and three girls, who think they know what's wrong with the world, he said. "The danger is that youth may decide to dispense with the painfully-evolved experience of centuries because it believes it fails to meet the needs of the moment," he added.

The "old heads" are reluctant to allow youth to take a hand. The "evolved experience of centuries" has lamentably failed—or is it the crooked practice of finance, which has arrived at its inevitable nemesis? But the "old heads" are too timid to desert the beaten track, so YOUTH *must* take at hand, lest there be no "buy British," or buy anything else.

THE WAY TO BEAT HITLER

The following is a copy of a letter sent to the "Daily Mirror," London, in response to an invitation for readers of that newspaper to reply to an article written by Miss U, Mitford.

Sir, —Miss Mitford did everybody a good turn by drawing attention to Hitler's Naval Treaty with this country. Very little publicity has been given to this fact in the press.

I notice the circumstances which enabled Hitler to rise to power remain still unaltered. Why?

I read the U.S. Acting Secretary of States Welles' announcement of March 18, condemning "interfering with other nations' internal affairs," but no mention was made of, say, that Government's activities in the looting of Nicaragua, and practically occupying that country with armed forces. Why?

What is our Government doing in Palestine?

The report, which says tuberculosis is rampant in Wales, amidst housing conditions "worse than the slums of Shanghai," has been ignored in preference for a fury of hate generated against Hitler, who certainly is not responsible for the misery and oppression in the distressed areas of Britain.

There may be notes in Hitler's hut have we not got beams in our own?

I note that most of what has been spent out of the £10,000,000 loaned to Czechoslovakia went to aid refugees. Nobody has suggested the remainder should be used as a gift to provide a refuge of healthy conditions for the poverty-condemned tubercular in Wales. Why?

Does Hitler perpetuate slums and tuberculosis in Germany?

We have two million unemployed, who starve in the midst of plenty. Is Hitler responsible for the sufferings of these? Certainly I'm in favour of friendship and peace with Hitler and the Germans if he has broken his word; well our Government is always doing it. One of our Prime Ministers promised the returned troops of this nation that he would make this a country fit for heroes to live in! If we want to beat Hitler, we should start making our liberties and standards of living far better than the Germans, not start a bloody war.

IRRIGATION FARMERS ON WARPATH

Pressure Politics in Northern Victoria

Irrigation farmers in Northern Victoria are not taking things lying down. They are employing pressure politics to obtain a little justice. The worm has turned. The Tongala (Vic.) branch of the Irrigators' Defence League is to be commended for having started the ball rolling. A four-page folder is being widely circulated, and the front page of it reads thus:

URGENT.

Your M.P. is your servant. Tell him what you want him to attend to.

* * *

It is essential that irrigators take immediate steps to demand of their M.P. that the contents embodied in the accompanying letter be given effect to,

* * *

Remember. —Your Member of Parliament is your Parliamentary representative, your political servant, paid by you.

* * *

Should you fail to tell him what you want; you become responsible,

* * *

Sign, detach and send the following demand-letter, and get your friends to do likewise—today.

—Authorised by the Tongala Branch of the Irrigators' Defence League.

* * *

The second page of the folder sets out the basis of their case thus.

DRAINAGE RATE.

The present Water Act of 1928, Sub. Div. 3, Sec. 78 (1) reads: (1) Such rate may be made for one year, and shall be such amount in the pound of the rateable value of such lands as may be necessary to provide (as the case may require) the sums required for (a) maintenance and management of the works for the drainage of such lands, and (b) interest on the cost of such works, a redemption fund and a depreciation fund (if any) of the same amounts respectively as would be required to be raised, etc."

Why should money be raised by loan?

Remember, money is a costless production.

When, during an interview in 1921, Sir Denison Miller was asked if he, through the Commonwealth Bank, had financed Australia during the war for £350,000,000, he replied: "Such was the case, and I could have financed the country for a further like sum had the war continued." Again asked if that amount was available for productive purposes in time of peace, he answered, "Yes."

If war should break out tomorrow, money would again flow like water. How, then, does such money come into existence?

At present it is created by privately owned institutions, and issued to the nation as an interest-bearing debt.

Section 51 (a) of the Constitution Act of Australia gives the Commonwealth Government the sovereign power to create and control its own money supply.

Furthermore, Paragraph 504 of the Banking Commission Report states that the Commonwealth Bank can make money available

to the Government or other bodies debt free and interest free.

Don't be sidetracked by a plea of no funds available for compensation or necessary work.

Money can, and will, be found if you demand it.

Be sure and sign letter. Detach and send to your representative.

* * *

The third page consists of a demand-letter, to be signed and sent to the State member. (The fourth page is blank.) The demand-letter is worded as follows:

Dear Sir, —

1. —I wish to draw your attention to the fact that I consider the present drainage rate ruling in this district is excessive.

2. —A more equitable system of striking this rate should be adopted, and hereby demand that the Water Act of 1928, Sub. Div. 3, Sec. 78 (4), be amended, so that only land effectively drained be charged for.

3. —The Water Commission should bear the bulk of maintenance costs, as it has priority of use on the drainage system.

4. —That, where drainage has been done through a defective drainage scheme, money be made available to adequately compensate settlers for losses incurred.

5. —That a more sympathetic interpretation of the Water Act of 1937 regarding arrears of water, be given by the Commission.

I desire you to press vigorously for the fulfilment of these demands. In the event of you not doing so, I shall feel compelled to vote and work to replace you at the next election.

Yours faithfully,

Signed.....

Date.....

Address.....

ABOLISH POVERTY DEMAND FORMS

South Australia holds 50,000 signed Abolish Poverty demand forms, and suggests that a continuous stream—some every day or so—be started flowing in from every State to members of Parliament. As a preliminary to starting Victoria's portion of the stream flowing, the United Electors of Australia would like to receive any signed forms held by groups or individuals. Address: 5th Moor, McEwan House, Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

Banking Commission's

Report

Mr. L. G. DeGaris (266 Latrobe Terrace, Geelong, Vic.) is asking for subscribers in favour of following up paragraph 487 of the Banking Report, with subscriptions from 1/- to 10/- for crusading and publishing.

Subscribers receive literature to the amount subscribed and accept no responsibility for the viewpoint expressed. —[Advvt]

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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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THE COMMONWEALTH BANK PLOT

It is satisfactory to note that the campaign to prevent the Commonwealth Bank from passing completely from the people of Australia into the hands of private financial interests is attracting widespread attention, and gaining increased support, throughout the Commonwealth.

As the Bill embodying this scandalous proposal is included in the list which the Prime Minister stated was to be gone through before the session ends, it behoves all those opposed to it to do all they can to prevent its enactment. By means of their recently published articles condemning the measure, such papers as "Truth," "Smith's Weekly," and the "West Australian Wheat-grower," have rendered splendid service to Australian democracy. As was to be expected, the exposure of the plot has brought forth a series of disavowals and misrepresentations from the plotters. An unconvincing plea of necessity was put forward by the putative author of the Bill, the Right Hon. R. G. Casey, P.C., ex-Treasurer. He stated that an issue of Commonwealth Bank Inscribed Stock and Debentures is necessary to provide funds required for advances from the proposed new Mortgage Bank Department.

As Mr. Casey was a member of the Government which appointed the Banking Commission, surely no one should know better than he that no issue of inscribed stock and debentures is necessary for such a purpose.

Clause 504 of the Banking Commission's report clearly states: "Because of this power . . . the Commonwealth Bank . . . can even make money available to Governments and to others free of any charge."

The reason why this power to create the money required is not being availed of is that we have a Government that believes that subservience to the interests of financial institutions is a better policy than subserving the interests of the people—a complex which it will be one of the tasks of electors to eradicate. If this measure becomes law, £10,000,000 of inscribed stock and debentures in the Commonwealth Bank (Central Reserve and Trading Section), and £24,000,000 in the proposed new Mortgage Bank Department, can be taken up under provisions of this Bill. If this is done, the debenture and inscribed stock holders will have a preponderance of holdings in the proportion of 5 to 2, and yet we are glibly asked to believe that these holders will neither ask nor have any voice or power of control over the Bank's policy.

These holders of inscribed stock and debentures are not likely to be members of Deaf and Dumb Institutes (although there will be "dummies" a-plenty), and it is contrary to all experience and commonsense to say that they will not demand that the Bank shall be controlled, as they desire. And who are "they" likely to be? To large overseas financial corporations such a parcel of inscribed stock and debentures in our central bank would be as irresistible as an open garbage tin to a swarm of flies. With some show of reason, Mr. Menzies is believed to have a special tenderness for big financial and business corporations, which have their own peculiar and effective methods of attaining their objects. A notable instance of his special regard for such was shown by the suppression of the Petrol Inquiry Commission's report by the Lyons-Menzies Government, despite frequent requests in Parliament for its publication.

There are some other matters in connection with this proposal to which the electors should give their serious attention. The Bill provides that the security for this inscribed stock and debenture issue is to be the general assets of the Commonwealth Bank, which, in all conscience, should be sufficient security for anyone.

However, Banks always insist on being safeguarded in every possible way, and apparently the general assets of the Commonwealth Bank were not held to be sufficient, so a further proviso was added that the Commonwealth Government shall guarantee payment of principal and interest.

Then Mr. Casey apparently had an "inspiration" (not necessarily an inward one), and provisions were included that the interest be free of Federal and State Income Tax, and even of Stamp Duty!

The statement that overseas holders of the stock in London, New York, and elsewhere, are to be supplied with cases of Australian champagne as required, free of cost and duty, is probably a canard, but it must be admitted that the ex-Treasurer knows how to do things handsomely—at the expense of the taxpayers! The people of Australia in general, not having the money to buy debentures or inscribed stock, are free of neither Federal or State Income Taxes, nor of Stamp Duty, and though now well provided with insecurity, stand to have, their insecurity and taxes increased

by the passing of this Bill. Is this one of "The Essential Ends of Government" about which Mr. Menzies recently broadcasted?

It is more than high time that this "Free of expense" racket for the wealthy banksters was put an end to. Instead, they might well be asked to provide the financial "cost" of "Defence," which, insofar as it may involve any defending, is largely a question of defending what is virtually their slave plantation—Australia. The same applies to the "cost" of government, which is mostly of us for them. They would not find this as irksome as do ordinary citizens, who, not being in a position to manufacture "fountain-pen" money, find it very much so.

Fields for safe investment for financial bandits are not too plentiful nowadays; so, if the Menzies Government succeeds in creating such a remarkably lucrative and safe field for investment—practically in perpetuity—for the benefit of big financial interests, overseas and elsewhere, there should be no lack of rewards in the way of P.C.'s and other distinctions when the Birthday Honours Lists are published. In this connection, however, posterity will probably draw an apt analogy between these rewards and the thirty pieces of silver received by one Judas.

GENTLEMEN! THE PRESS!

"You cannot hope
to bribe or twist,
Thank God! the
British journalist."

"But, seeing what
the man will do
Unbribed, there's
no occasion to."

—Humbert Wolfe.

A DISTINCTION

Had Humbert Wolfe aimed his shaft at the British newspaper industry he would have been nearer the mark. Taking him by and large, the average journalist is rather a decent fellow, and, in so far as matters of principle are concerned, it goes very much against the grain for him to write against his beliefs. In fact, it is doubtful whether there is any other profession, the Church included, that shows so high a percentage of resignations from secure positions on grounds of principle. But the fact remains that though Wolfe's satire may be somewhat unfair in so far as the individual journalist is concerned, it is only too true as regards the Press as an industry. Though there is little official Government interference with the publication of news and views in the British Empire, our Press is subject to an even more damaging form of censorship by the big business and advertising interests, more damaging by reason of the fact that while it is just possible that a Government censorship may be motivated by an honest belief in the rightness of its imposition for the common good, the censorship imposed by business interests is almost entirely motivated by monetary considerations.

NEWSPAPER PROPRIETORS

Wickham Steed, a former editor of *The London Times*, in his book, *The Press*, says, "Many a foreign Government would be prepared to pay large sums for the support it gets gratis from incorruptible British journalists. But any man who has worked 'on the Press' will be chary of echoing Mr. Wolfe's stricture on 'the British journalist' . . . most journalists in this country [England] would gladly take the higher rather than the lower path. Can this be said with the same confidence of the majority of newspaper proprietors? Does not their record in the past thirty or forty years lend some point to the shaft which another of Mr. Humbert Wolfe's characters aims at them:—

" 'And then consider, John, if we determine
to take this line, at the end
of our careers
We might assume hereditary ermine
and hide our heads among a
crowd of peers,
saying:—

" 'The House of Lords
are waiting for the
newspaper proprietor.

" 'Soap! Attention!
Listen! Beer!

'Glory to the new-made
peer.'

.....Hark! the Heralds'
College sings
As it fakes his
quarterings."

DOCTORED NEWS

The fact of the matter is that the days when the newspaper was firstly an organ for the dissemination of the honest opinions of its proprietor or proprietors have gone forever. Million-net-sales circulations, huge combines controlled by soul-less, unprincipled money barons, have bound the Press of the British Empire in such a way that it is now little more than a vast organisation for the dissemination of "doctored" news and views dished up in black headlines for the easy assimilation of a vast public of headline readers, the majority of whom accept anything they read in a newspaper as "Gospel." And Gospel it is, the gospel of Money, Greed, and Financial Despotism.

At the present moment, when the Press of the so-called democracies is shrieking to its readers to re-arm to defend "Democracy" and seeking, for money's sake, to frighten the people into sanctioning an armament and defence expenditure that may well lead to another war, it might serve a useful purpose to remind some of our readers of the methods of the mighty (Sup) press.

SINISTER POWER

Remember how England was bluffed out of returning a Labour Government to power by the *Daily Mail's* publication of a letter, which was supposed to have been sent by Zinovev to Ramsay MacDonald, suggesting that if returned MacDonald would be under the domination of Moscow. The publication of that deliberate falsehood on the eve of an election had the effect of bringing defeat to a party, which would otherwise have been returned to power. On another occasion a British newspaper magnate boasted at a Press dinner that he could make the then popular Prince Edward of Wales unpopular in twenty-four hours. (Continued on page 6.)

A SMOOTH-TONGUED THIEF

Talks of Happiness, But Steals Our Claims to Food

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H. BROWN.

Sir,—Mr. Menzies continues to speak cooingly, but shows himself to be less and less politically trustworthy. He declares that he wants co-operation, in order that we may have "good government." This declaration was made at Sydney on May 15, and he went on to say that the test of good government "is the happiness and well-being of the ordinary individual." Apparently, when he said that he had overlooked the fact that only the previous evening he had also said this: "It seems inevitable that there will be increased taxation." This means that we are to be allowed to have less money to spend on the necessities and amenities of life. How this can be reconciled with his professions about happiness and well-being has yet to be explained, and all who read the newspapers from day to day must have been struck by the significance of the recent propaganda preparing us for heavy increases in both direct and indirect taxation. Events are developing exactly as we forecasted four years ago.

A FALSE BELIEF

Taxation is not popular. For that reason it can no longer *be* imposed in cold blood. Consequently, there must be an atmosphere in which the taxation becomes secondary to something else. That is why in recent years the question of defence has been carefully pushed into the primary position, with the result that we are psychologically ready to submit to a scheme of highway robbery, in the belief that it is necessary for our personal security. Such a belief is entirely false, and those who foster it are prevaricators. If Mr. Menzies does not know that taxation is unnecessary, then he is not finacio-educationally fit for the job of Prime Minister. If he does know, then for him to agree to taxation is the clearest evidence that he is no good for the people, and that his carefully-chosen phrases are only on much eyewash. His readiness to impose taxation stamps him as yet another decoy for the financial groups, because taxation is part of the financial swindle.

END OF OUR TETHER

Your own reference to this subject last week, Mr. Editor, caused me to look over some of my press cuttings, and these emphasised the truth of the statement that "taxation is the premium the individual has to pay for rendering service to his fellows." The more one looks into this the more reprehensible it becomes. At the U.A.P. Conference in Melbourne in October, 1934, the Deputy Premier said: "We are almost at the end of our tether, unless we tax, and tax, and tax; and the people will not put up with that." Neither they would have done then, but they have now become frightened of Herr Hitler and the Japanese.

A SCANDALOUS GRAB

Another example of the general feeling in 1934 was given by the Melbourne *Argus* on 15/11/34, when, in the space usually reserved for bank propaganda, it reported that a Mr. John Fuller, of Sydney, had suggested that the Taxpayers' Association should form a strong committee to conduct a vigorous campaign against high taxation. Mr. Fuller had stated that 64 per cent, of his company's net surplus goes in Government and municipal taxation, and that "when the breadwinner is alive he is taxed to the hilt, and when he dies a scandalous grab is made on his estate." But that also was in 1934! Since then they have been hearing all about foreign dictators, aggression, world-lust, threats to liberty, dangers to democracy, and all that sort of thing. This has made the business community just as frightened as the other sections, and they have given no thought at

all to the depredations of the dictators sneaking about in the dark in their own country. For that foolishness they are now to be stung through higher taxation at the hands of the Australian dictators, and it will serve them right.

"SEEMS TO BE"

It is amusing to observe the reactions of the various taxpayers' organisations to the developments. They actually agree that higher taxation "seems" to be inescapable, and even Mr. Menzies used the words "seems inevitable." In both cases they are right. It only "seems" inescapable and inevitable. It is not really necessary at all, but, as the Government is representative of the bankers who control the fraudulent financial system, more taxation WILL be imposed. We must admit that this has been a bit of a problem for the lenders of these taxation bodies. Most of their officials take a leading part in singing sacred hymns at public functions, but apparently spend no time on the study of the question of the production and control of money. I know this from the correspondence I have had with some of them. Their only idea of relief is through reduced wages in the Government services, smaller pensions for the aged and the infirm, and the general curtailment of public facilities. In their opinion everything must be related to money. It has never occurred to them that it would be far more sensible to relate money to things. Things are wealth, whereas money is only a claim to wealth. So, when a Government taxes, it does so to collect claims to wealth, without any regard at all to the production of the claims or the number in existence. When the wealth is greater than the claims then the wealth must be reduced to agree with the claims. It would never do to increase the claims to agree with the wealth!

AN OVERRIDING OWNERSHIP

Before endeavouring to discuss the subject calmly, two important facts should be emphasised, as follows:

1. The nation has an overriding ownership over every thing, as we shall find when conscription is introduced;
2. Money itself actually costs nothing to make.

In regard to 1, the Commonwealth Parliament has an overriding ownership over every citizen, every product of the land, and everybody's life, living, and service; in fact, over everything EXCEPT MONEY AND FINANCE—the property in which has been outrageously surrendered to private interests. The Commonwealth Parliament can take our lives and levy our possessions, but when it comes to a question of money—

the vital thing in the welfare of the people—it goes, with bowed head and cap-in-hand, to the Bank Board as a suppliant for finance and the Board's kind permission to use it. Even when it gets the Board's permission, the finance can be used only in the avenues approved by the Board! And this Board, mark you, consists of representatives of the private financial institutions who dictate the nation's financial policy. Mr. Menzies is not the real dictator. He is the dictators' tool, posing as a strong man for the people, but proving mere putty in the hands of the financiers.

LLOYD GEORGE'S EXPERIENCE

Lloyd George, as Prime Minister of England during the war period, was warned by the *Financial Times* (a paper still quoted authoritatively in orthodox circles) that if he did not cense interfering with credit policy his finance would be stopped. Lloyd George promptly told the Bank of England that if the money he wanted, in the name of the people, for national purposes, was not available in three hours there would be a new bank board the following day. Needless to say, the money WAS available within the three hours. How ridiculous it would have been if England could not have continued the war—not because of any lack of the physical things needed for war, but because she had run out of paper claims to those physical things! Is it not equally ridiculous that we cannot have a uniform railway system—not because we have run out of rails, sleepers, ballast, and the like, but because we seem to have run out of the paper claims to them.

NEITHER LIFE NOR VALUE

In regard to the production of money, it is important to remember that money itself has neither life nor value. If money is not exercised as a claim on goods or services it is useless as food, clothes, shelter, or even as ornament. It is only serviceable when being exchanged for things. From its very nature it is obvious that a shortage of money in any country is not due to the cost of producing the stuff; it is clue wholly to the policy of those who control the arrangements for the manufacture of money. This has been publicly admitted by the Chairman of the Midland Bank Ltd., as follows: "The Bank of England, and no other power in heaven above or earth beneath, is the ultimate arbiter of what our supply of money shall be." All of which makes it abundantly clear that we are addressing our prayers to the wrong deity, particularly when we know that the Australian hanks frill into line with the policy of the Bank of England.

ACTUAL NATURE OF MONEY

Shortage of money in the hands of the Australian people, and the high taxation we are called upon to pay have both been forced upon us by "unseen, but powerful" private interests. This is all the more amazing when we realise the actual nature of money. It is not only bank notes and coin. The great bulk consists of permits to write cheques, and these permits are issued not by the sovereign Government but by private individuals. When, therefore, we speak of the banks manufacturing money we mean the issue of these permits.

NATIONAL DEBT FICTITIOUS

With this as a background, we are now in the position to say that taxation is entirely unnecessary. If it were not for

the national debt, all income tax, land tax, estate tax, sales tax, unemployment tax, motor tax, and entertainments tax could be discontinued immediately. More than all the revenue collected from those taxes goes out in the payment of interest on the debt. AND THE DEBT IS FICTITIOUS! It consists entirely of bank-created credit money, all of which was brought into existence by the simple process of writing figures in a book. When the figures were put / in the book they were called debt, and that is what we pay the interest on! One example will illustrate this: Towards the end of the war the banks were willing to lend to any depositor 80 per cent, of the money with which to buy any amount of war loan, the war loan itself being accepted as the security. Every penny of this money was created by writing figures in a book, and the members of the public have been paying interest and sinking fund on it ever since. That was bad enough, but in the two or three years following the war the loan dropped to 80. The banks then called in the loans, and by this little dodge they came into possession of the bulk of the war loan without even having to pay the 20 per cent. subscribed by the public.

WORLD IN PAWN

The truth is that every country in the world is in pawn to the financial system, and "the world has allowed itself to have the progress rendered possible by its scientists, engineers, organisers, inventors, and pioneers of every description nullified by a system of bookkeeping which handed over the control of every one of these things to institutions which understood none of them." Taxation concentrates the power of the issue of money in the hands of a few persons, with no responsibility whatever to the people. This power of the issue of money is the strongest power in the world today—it constitutes a complete dictatorship, growing daily stronger as the financial stringency increases. The amazing thing about it is that it has neither material force nor popularity behind it, and could be dethroned by the will of the people and a stroke of the pen. . . .moil is part of the financial system; the financial system is fraudulent; and every agent or tool of the system is a party to the theft of what belongs to the community. Mr. Menzies admits that he is such an agent, for he declares that, because the Government expects to be short of money (claims to things) he and the members of his Cabinet will steal our claims. The people responsible for the shortage of the claims will not even be called upon to explain their actions!

Although terribly tragic, taxation is actually a huge hoax, and, with your permission, Mr. Editor, we will continue from this point next week.—Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H. BROWN

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(Continued on page 7.)

"SAVE THE PEOPLE'S BANK" CAMPAIGN

(Continued from page 1.)

from Senators, M.H.R.'s, unions, organisations and hundreds of individuals congratulating us upon our work, urge us to greater efforts; and we must repeat that what we have been able to do has been made possible ONLY by the assistance given and the positive action taken by those electors who have acknowledged the very first principles of Democracy and accepted individual responsibility in the matter THEMSELVES..

FIGHT NOT OVER.

"In twelve weeks of constant endeavour we have accomplished much, but a great deal remains to be done and done PROMPTLY. With the Bill before the House we are shortly to learn which of our elected representatives are sincere enough to oppose the measure, and which are to offer themselves as tools of vested interests. Bearing in mind, therefore, that the fight is not over yet, and that possibly the most decisive steps have yet to be taken, not only by Parliamentarians, but by the People THEMSELVES, we hereby appeal to ALL to join us in a concerted effort to prevent the passage of the Bill—BEFORE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT HAS PASSED.

MORE VOLUNTEERS WANTED

"In reply to all those who have made recent appeals to this committee we can but assure them that the promise we made three months ago will be kept. We are determined to continue to direct the whole of our energies towards bringing about a successful conclusion of the campaign, but we must repeat that without 'the necessary CO-OPERATION of sufficient volunteers, the task we have been set may prove too great and the efforts and the hopes of those who so promptly and materially assisted us in the earlier stages may be temporarily lost in a struggle against overwhelming odds. The job we are all doing is NOT technically difficult; it is NOT of a passive or static or uncertain character. It is SIMPLE, DYNAMIC, and POSITIVE, and IT IS PRODUCING RESULTS. Even should the Bill become law, public opinion against those responsible for its adoption will continue to grow, so that no effort made at the present time will be lost.

"This committee has, to date, put out approximately 45,000 items of literature, apart from books and pamphlets running into several hundreds, and upwards of one thousand circulars. The incidental expenses account amounts to £12/11/10 to date, and, at a little more than £1 per week, indicates what can be done by people working in association.

ACTION!

"The highlight of the actionists side of the campaign in Melbourne last week was certainly that provided by Mrs. E. C. Allsop and Mrs. W. R. Kerr, when they secured 150 signatures and collected over 10/- in a brief period at a table in the street in Camberwell. That is the spirit that wins! Will all those anxious to assist in a similar capacity immediately get in touch by phone or in person, so that arrangements for the coming week may be made without delay. Ring MU2834 NOW!

"Splendid results have been achieved by lone workers who have written to newspapers, es-

UNIFICATION OF RAILWAY GAUGES

(Continued from page 1.)

to the next gem of that leading article, which states: "The question is no longer, Can Australia afford it? but, can Australia afford to take the risk of being without it?"

If we were short of foodstuffs, men and raw materials, this question would be appropriate. But in a nation where the primary producers are on the verge of revolt (as witnessed by several recent meetings in the wheat areas), because they have difficulty in selling their produce at a remunerative price; where tens of thousands of men are out of work; and where we have an abundance of raw materials, this question is an affront to our intelligence.

Of course we can afford it. We can afford any national or individual requirement, which a majority of the people want—providing it is physically possible. And, if it is physically possible, we should demand that it be also made financially possible.

MORE REAL ASSETS—MORE DEBTS

Unfortunately, although all national works are immediately paid for in the physical sense, and should be an *asset* to the nation, they are written up as financial *debt* against the people by the private banks—by the mere entry of figures in books. We then pay interest upon the debt, with the result that the more we develop Australia the more debt and taxation we have.

This is exactly what will happen with the unification of the railways—unless we take control of the money system and see that the project is financed without further financial debt.

A continuation of the present policy can only mean complete serfdom to financial interests. To take one tragic example, in N.S.W. the capital debt on the "People's Railways" is over £150,000,000, and the people have already paid more than that amount *in interest alone!* And the principal has not been reduced by one penny. When those railway lines deteriorate and are replaced the people will continue to pay interest upon something no longer existent. Like the British taxpayers, who are still paying an interest bill on the Battle of Waterloo! What a system!

pecially in the country. If your local paper has not included particulars relating to the Bank Bill, write to the editor and ask WHY.

BANK BILL BROADSHEETS BARGANISED

"We have a large quantity of excellent broad sheets, dealing completely with the matter and including a detachable letter-form. As there are some accounts, which have to be met immediately, the price has been reduced by half, and we would welcome orders for small or large quantities at 6d. per dozen (8d. per dozen posted). Every helper should carry a few for resale to contacts at one penny per copy, and the profit may be sent in to headquarters, or retained for local campaign funds. Help us to help you! Letterforms for electors' signatures are now available at 1/- per 100 postage 2d. extra. Send for some today and see that your Member of Parliament gets orders from his electors to Block the Bank Bill! Send P.N. or stamps to the Hon. Sec., 'Save the People's Bank' Campaign, Box 1226 G.P.O., Melbourne."

LET US DEMAND RESULTS.

Deplorable as the present financial swindle is, it is so much wasted effort discussing it, unless we do something about it. Yes, we. Not they. The first job of the electors is to get control of members of Parliament. Failure to do this is the responsibility of all individual electors. They comprise democracy -- and democracy in action means an aroused and enlightened public opinion demanding the results which everyone wants. And no one wants more debt or taxation to pay interest bills. We want railways and other national works to come into existence as an asset. What about it, reader? Are you teaching your fellow-electors how to control members of Parliament? If not, you are neglecting humanity's greatest cause.

—Eric D. Butler.

GENTLEMEN! THE PRESS!

(Continued from page 4.)

That speech was never reported, and the power-drunk newspaper man was reprimanded, but the fact remains that but a few years afterwards the British Press was able to influence public opinion to a point at which it acquiesced in the deposition of King Edward VIII and his virtual exile as Duke of Windsor. In that regard a universally published news item was to the effect that on the announcement that George VI had been made King of England, some fifteen thousand people gathered at the gates of Buckingham Palace and called for the King. An Australian journalist who was present on that occasion wrote to the A.J.A., the official organ of the Australian Journalists' Association, stating that the crowd was actually shouting. "We want King Edward."

DOG BITES SELF!

Those are only two of thousands of similar instances of suppression of truth, the result of many of which had the effect of influencing the people of our "democracies" to ACT IN A MANNER INIMICAL TO THEIR OWN INTERESTS. Today the papers, which place, undue stress on comparatively innocuous utterances of foreign statesmen, are calculated to work us up to a frenzy of patriotism which will benefit banks and armament factories, and, perhaps lead the world into another Armageddon. When we read such effusions we should take a lesson from past experience, and with the realisation that the press is controlled by the same interests that control armament firms and finance, withhold judgment, for as Kipling wrote:

"The Pope may launch his Interdict,
The Union its decree
But the bubble is blown and the bubble is pricked
By Us and such as We.
Remember the battle and stand aside
While Thrones and Powers confess
That King over all the children of pride
Is the Press -the Press—the Press."

A bad King it is at present, and as such must be dethroned from its authoritative position in the minds of the great newspaper reading public.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"ABOLISH POVERTY AND RETAIN LIBERTY"
—TOM MOORE.

Sir, —Through the striking letter to ME contained in your last issue of the *New Times*, I realise that it is now four years since the paper was launched, and that, despite crushing burdens, its circulation has increased steadily. "The Voice in the wilderness" was that of our late much-beloved editor, Tom Moore, the founder of this excellent paper. He gave up a lucrative, assured post to establish a weekly paper at moderate price, pledged purely to reform, and indicated its future policy in the pertinent front-page heading quoted by you, Mr. Editor. It sounded a strange slogan at the time—"Don't Blame Your M.P.—Tell Him." It did not convey much four years ago to some readers. But it was prophetic. It was a striking instance of his prescience. To quote from this, the first of a series of articles "of which the theme is that the people themselves are the chief stumbling block to national recovery." "Policy should come from the people. The correct order in a properly organised community is this: Policy in its broad lines—and this is most important—originates with the people." He with his alert brain was quick to grasp the fact that a platform broad enough to accommodate all reformers should be substituted for any *one* formula of economic reform. He knew that *theories* divide, but *principles* unite. This was the beginning of the drive to which he gave his great talents and eventually—tragically and out of due season—his life.

His satirical sense that was of very high order is evidenced also in this first issue, in the paragraph, "Why allow the bankers or the professors to frame and declare a national policy and impose it on us through our members of Parliament? It is the job of the people to frame the policy. Then, if you wish, call in your money dealers and your professors of scarcity—though practical men of business and engineers would seem the more logical choice, JUST AS ONE USES A TRAINER RATHER THAN A TIPSTER OR A BOOK-MAKER FOR PREPARING A RACEHORSE." (My emphasis.)

In the estimation of women readers, the feminine counterpart

of Mr. Moore is the talented writer, Leonora Polkinghorne, whose high mentality he estimated of such high order that, less than a year after the inception of the paper he requested her to write weekly articles. Why do we not now see these much-appreciated writings? Men also remark that for two months we have not had one of her articles in the *New Times*. If you could persuade her to resume them, we should accord you our hearty thanks, Mr. Editor.

In conclusion, I recommend all our readers to fight to fulfill the objective of "The National Slogan," given us four years ago, as expressed in the five words: "Abolish Poverty and Retain Liberty."—Yours, etc.,

(Miss) M. C. HAYES.
Melbourne.

HOW TO INCREASE "NEW TIMES" CIRCULATION

Sir, —In response to your appeal to readers of the *New Times* to buy an extra copy each week in order to increase the circulation, I thought, well, an extra copy is not much, so I ordered two dozen copies, and went into the market and shopping area of one Friday night to see what I could do. To my amazement, I sold out in half an hour. I then bought all available copies from local agents and ordered more for Saturday. With fresh supplies I broached the football crowds, sold out again; total sales for weekend, 41 copies. Next weekend I did the same, but sales increased to 58; last weekend sales, 66; making a total of 165 copies for three weekends. I am no salesman, and no spruiker; what one can do others can do, and there is scope for scores to do the same. What about it, you stalwarts? We must not let the *New Times* down.—Yours, etc.,

"100% FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE."
Albert Park, Vic.

A GROUCH ABOUT THE "GROUCH HOUR"

Sir, —Being a regular listener to the "Grouch Hour" session over Station 3UZ, I was very much enlightened as to the dangers of the proposed Commonwealth Bank Act Amending Bill, made known by

speakers during that session. It was one of the most popular sessions on the air, allowing, as it did, people of all opinions to voice their grouches; and also, being a means by which the people can be awakened from their lethargy in political and economic matters.

Without some such opportunity we only get matters vitally affecting the community served up to us by the Press from their own angle.

It is refreshing and sometimes alarming to get the opposite view.

Apparently, too many facts were reaching the public, as the session is to be discontinued, at least for some time, perhaps until the Bill is passed; the black hand of vested interests is discernible.

Talks on "Sound" Finance are put over now at about the same time.

I am not a stickler for any particular brand of reform, but if the present financial system is "Sound," then for - - sake give us a trial of "Unsound" Finance; for surely it would not allow human beings to live, or I should say exist, under conditions not fit for animals; nor allow production to be destroyed and restricted while people of our own flesh and blood are starving and innocent mites of children are denied the chance the Creator has made available. Where is Christianity that it does not demand a complete overhaul of such a sinful and criminal state of affairs?

It is just plain madness for anyone to endeavour to justify the present system as these "Sound" Finance people do; they are either mentally or criminally "Unsound."

I am sure the "Grouch Hour" speakers have awakened thousands of people, so let us hope that some other station will re-introduce this popular session.

What about approaching 3KZ, the Labor station? —Yours, etc.,
C.W.S.

North Melbourne.

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"I note with gratification not unmixed with derisive laughter, that a new Liberal Book Club stands for freedom for everybody to speak, think, and act.

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C. FORD

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 6.)

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MELBOURNE YOUTH SECTION

Extracts From Their Diary

Thursday, 18: When the Youth Section and the Parent Body get together and run a party the result is extra-special, superfine. Take, for example, last Thursday (18th), when they gathered at the Youth Section Rooms to say cheerio and good-luck to Eric Butler. To look at the boys and girls—young and old—romping through the rooms, playing hilariously mad games, one would never have dreamt that the safeguarding of democracy lay in their hands. The Bank Act and the ghost of National Insurance huddled, forgotten, at the bottom of the lift-well. Great quantities of cream cakes and sandwiches (generously provided by the Women's Section) were consumed at supertime. We wish, though, that we had just been saying "good luck" without the cheerio. We're looking forward now to the time when we're having a party to say, "welcome home" to Eric. A word to the electors in the sunny North: "Look out, Queensland, here comes Butler!"

Friday, 19: Y.S. open-air merchants invaded Oakleigh, and received an apathetic reception—small, apathetic crowd. Nothing daunted, the Y.S. changed their tactics—with amazing results. In less than one minute the crowd became large and the very reverse of apathetic. (The secret? Well, learn it at the speakers' class next Tuesday! It's too good to give away!) From then on things went with a swing—43 *New Times* were sold, a number of new supporters gave their names, and the remainder of the crowd was visibly impressed.

Saturday, 20 (Dash it all,
Sunday, 21 we've got to have a rest sometime.)

Monday, 22: Have you looked over the Tom Moore Memorial Library yet? There's an excellent selection of books for loan at 3d per fortnight. We issue a cordial invitation to everyone to join up. When you are in town on Monday evening, why not drop in to the rooms between 7.40 and 9 o'clock? Even if you don't want a book, there are some comfortable chairs and friendly people at 5th Floor, Chartres' House, Collins Street, next to the "Metro."

Tuesday, 23: The Speakers' Class reported great progress. A number of promising speakers made their debut. Youth Section members are reminded that the library is open on Tuesday evening, too.

Wednesday, 24: This was our picture night, of course, and everyone seemed to enjoy the programme at the Capitol. (No, we weren't paid for that ad! By jove, that's an idea, though!) We'll be arranging another night soon. We were greatly encouraged by the number of tickets sold.

THANK YOU . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, Caulfield, for the lounge chairs and cane suite, and the unknown friend who had a table and chairs delivered to our rooms. Thank you, Mrs. Moore, for the library books, and thank you, kind friend, who, with your own hands, made the beautiful bookcase for the Tom Moore Memorial Library. Thank you, those whose donations and encouragement are helping us to make our rooms look cheery and comfortable. The knowledge that we have behind us the unfailing support, and encouragement of the Parent Body goes a long way towards giving us the courage to take these new steps, with the sure belief that it is strengthening our position in the firing line.

FUTURE PLANS

Friday, 26: Street speaking will be carried out, not at Elsternwick, as announced, but at Glenferrie Road, near Glenferrie Station.

Saturday, 27: HOUSEWARMING, Youth Section Rooms (5th Floor Chartres' House, Collins Street). Dancing and supper. Subscription, 2/-. Be there! Everyone welcome.

GET THE FACTS!

Read "MONEY," by S. F. Allen, F.C.A. (Aust.), 1/1 posted, and "Story of the Commonwealth Bank," by D. J. Amos, F.A.I.S.; 7d. posted. Obtainable from "Save the People's Bank" Campaign, Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne.

Monday, 29: Book night—that is, library night.

Tuesday, 30: Speakers' Class. The talkies don't talk as we talk, and talkers are in great demand for street speaking and meetings.

Wednesday, 31: Open house! Two members of the Y.S. undertake to entertain, argue, gossip, play games—anything you like; and bring anyone you like.

Friday, 2: Street speaking at — (?)

June 20: Speakers Class, be prepared! A team, with new speakers, will take the platform at Oakleigh on Tuesday, June 20; at 8 p.m. Watch for the name of the hall in next week's *New Times*.

ADELAIDE UNITED
DEMOCRATS
Women's Division
Meeting

The next afternoon meeting of the Women's Division of the United Democrats will take place at headquarters, 17 Waymouth Street, Adelaide, on Wednesday, May 31, at 3 p.m.

WEST AUSTRALIAN NOTES

Actionists in Action

The ranks of actionists have been augmented over the past week by the members of the Subiaco branch, under the leadership of Mr. C. R. Willcocks, who have made a street attack on the Commonwealth Bank Bill. They set up a table, by kind permission of the Subiaco Municipal Council, near to the Subiaco Markets, and scored hundreds of signatures at their first attempt. Interest in the Commonwealth Bank Act has thus been created, and the vested interests, who so desire the control of the Commonwealth Bank, will shortly discover that there is far more opposition to their attempted betrayal of the Commonwealth Bank than they, at first, fondly imagined.

Tables and suitable advertising media are being provided at all suburban markets. The first attack went over on April 28, at a most conservative centre, hundreds of signed letters being received, and there was brisk enquiry throughout. Mt. Lawley, the place in question is in Mr. Nairn, M.H.R.'s electorate. This gentleman's passive resistance to the Campaign will be somewhat upset when he realises that his pet district is awake to the plotting of his party to sell the Commonwealth Bank and further restrict its beneficial operations on behalf of the people.

The Australian Natives' Association has promised full support for the Campaign. The Wheatgrowers' Union is giving full publicity, through its excellent journal. It is not strange to relate that the many Producer Association has so far, refused to take part in the Campaign. Sir Earle Page's influence is evidently too great, as yet, for this old-line party to awake, and realise that, unless it aligns itself with reformers, it will be shortly consigned to oblivion.

The public at large is beginning to perceive the action they must take if they wish to gain that political democracy which will give them control over their servants in Parliament. The replies so far received by the West Australian headquarters of this campaign from the people's servants in Parliament are far from satisfactory. Apparently Labor Senators of that State have only just become aware of the meaning of the plot that Mr. R. G. Casey is trying to pull off for his masters—the Private Trading Banks. They have, so far, assented to giving it a setback in the Senate. The U.A.P. and Country Party politicians, as usual, give non-committal replies; Messrs. Collett's and Gregory's being very unsatisfactory. Senator MacDonald has refused to answer at all. Electors, please make a note of this refusal by one of your political servants to answer legitimate letters. Mr. Nairn also cannot see the danger in the Amendment. He will see the danger when a sufficient number of his electors see fit to ask him for an immediate account of his steward-

ship in Parliament, especially in relation to the Bank Bill. Senator Johnston has also failed to reply. This so-called champion of the wheatgrowers will also have to be made to toe the line by his constituents immediately.

Sentimental words that you use, Mr. Johnston, are not enough in relation to the Bank Bill. Your electors require definite action. That is their policy, and their policy must be supreme! Mr. H. Gregory assumes too much. A full reply has appeared in the *Wheat-grower* to Mr. Gregory; a reply, which, we hope, Mr. Gregory will reply to—that is, if he can muster any further argument to bolster up his case. The reply to him appeared under the name of "Avon."

Electoral Campaign headquarters (31 Bon Marche Chambers, Barrack Street, Perth) would like reports from Pemberton, Manjimup, Mundijong, Kellerberrin, Merri- den, Wongan Hills, Kondut, Geraldton, Albany, Denmark, Bunbury, Holiyoak, Bruce Rock and Lake Grace. Mr. V. J. Dury is to address the Women's Service Guilds at an early date on the Commonwealth Bank Amendment. Mr. R. Rushton and Mrs. I. Greenwood addressed a meeting in the Subiaco Scout Hall on May 22.

Mt. Helena enthusiasts are asked to watch these notes for the announcement of their initial meeting.

Late advice received from the Acting Director of Campaign in Forrest electorate indicates a widespread demand for demand-forms and leaflets re the Commonwealth Bank Bill Amendment.

One supply from Eastern States is completely exhausted, and a further 400 demand-letters are urgently required, immediately.

All interested in the Forrest electorate are urged to make contact with Mr. Quicke, of Balingup as soon as possible. The need is urgent. The will of the people must be mobilised to block the Bank Bill.

Swan electors are asked to contact Mr. F. A. Law immediately and offer their service for the Campaign. It means action; action means results. RESULTS ARE WHAT WE WANT. The time for resolutions, pious or otherwise, is passed. Prayers without deeds are dead; deeds are prayers in action.

IT WORKS!

One hundred and fifty signed letter-forms protesting against the "Commonwealth Bank Plot" and ten shillings and four pence in contributions were obtained in one hour and a half by two members of the United Electors', Women's Section, one day last week, when they set up a table at the entrance to the market in Camberwell, Melbourne.

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