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THE

NEW TIMES

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Vol. 5. No. 23.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 1939.

Every Friday, 3d

PATRIOT OR TRAITOR?

Australia Wants To Know

"The sooner we get back to Parliamentary control of all finances, so that the will of the people, as expressed through Parliament, will be supreme, the better it will be for the State," says Mr. Dunstan, the Premier of Victoria; and, of course, Granny "Argus" takes it upon herself to assert in a leading article (June 5) how dire would be the effects if Government were to enter the sacred precincts of finance control. For the enlightenment of Granny, and also for the enlightenment of her lord and master, Money Bags, let it be known that the people of Australia are near revolt against government by finance.

Professor Copland recently said (not reported in the daily press) at a meeting of the Economic Society of Australia and New Zealand, that political-control Governments were taking the place of financial-control Governments. Australia is near to changing from financial control to political, or people, control, and if Granny knew her "ecca" she would plump for political-control government; for, when the people become united on an issue, opposition is but chaff before the wind, and Granny's skirts are likely to balloon and bear her away with the chaff to oblivion.

The Australian people have been slow to awaken to the financial swindle, but there is sufficient evidence to show that they are now awakening and are ready to demand that the criminal nonsense, known as "Sound Finance," shall stop. Enlightenment is rapidly extending. The pioneer work of the *New Times* has been taken up, in part, by several other weeklies of far-reaching circulation. Some provincial papers, besides occasional broadcasts, are exposing the swindle and are spreading the message of Pressure Politics. Australians are rapidly learning that the Commonwealth Constitution provides for control over money and banking; that the Commonwealth Bank is endowed with power to make money available to Governments, and others, free of charge. Soon, a majority will demand that the Bank be used to free them from the shackles of economic thralldom.

LOAN SWINDLE MUST STOP

Mr. Menzies, if he is the intelligent man we are led to believe, knows that Government borrowing for National Works is a swindle. What are we to think of him, in view of his ACTIONS? What hanky-panky mischief is he playing at with the Bank Act Amending Bill, the Supply Department Bill, and the National Register? Is he betraying the Australian people into the maw of the Financial Oligarchy? The *New Times* is more than suspicious. We ask Mr. Menzies to give some immediate indication that he represents the Australian people and not the fiendish Money Power. The *New Times* has consistently advocated the principle of the democratic Pressure Politics form of Government, and it is being propagated now from many quarters. Australian electors must take no chances, but instruct their respective members as to what they want Parliament to do, as this "leader" of our Federal Government, like so many before him, may prove to be a traitor. It is useless to rely on

"leaders"—the people must take the initiative and tell Parliament to use the Commonwealth Bank to supply finance for national works and for the purpose of keeping the economic machinery of the nation running smoothly; thus removing the necessity for increasing taxation.

NEW ZEALAND DISAPPOINTING

Minister of Finance an Obstacle

BUT MAY NOT REIGN MUCH LONGER

Labour Member J. Lee and Big Following Demand that Election Pledges be Fulfilled

By a SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT in N.Z.

Waimate, May 26.

The present political situation in New Zealand cannot be said to be 100% satisfactory to the monetary reformers of the Dominion; indeed, it may almost be said to be 100% unsatisfactory.

Thousands of monetary reformers have slid over into the ranks of Labour during the past few years, firmly believing that the Government would do something to deliver the country from the stranglehold of High Finance, but today they are for the most part a disillusioned company.

It does not appear that this Government will do anything of much consequence in that direction unless, by some means or other, the present Minister of Finance (Mr. Nash) is "tipped out" and someone with more modern views on finance put in his place. Right up to now, we have sustained our hopes by the thought that the Government must be given time to effect those changes in the monetary system which it said it would make; also, though chafing at the delayed action, we have striven to be patient. Now, however, the position is apparent. The Government declares that it knows nothing about "debt-free" money, and, driven, it says, by the exigencies of the situation, is floating an internal loan of four millions at 4%, and is sending Mr. Nash overseas to arrange for another one to convert the £17 mil-

ECONOMISTS BECOMING HUMAN?

More Suppressed News

A diligent search through the columns of the daily press failed to reveal any report of the meeting of the Victorian Branch of the Economic Society of Australia and New Zealand, held in the Chamber of Manufactures, Flinders Street, on Friday evening, May 26.

Surely this is a serious oversight, as the sage utterances of the apostles of Sound Finance invariably receive notice in the Sound Finance press. However, as the press has neglected, on this occasion, to recognise the weight of these gentlemen's opinions, the "New Times" will accommodate with an account "of the meeting, drawn from the memory of a representative of the "New Times" who was present.

LECTURE ON NEW ZEALAND.

The "paper" for the evening was "Recent Economic Policy in New Zealand." The speaker was Mr. W. Prest, Senior Lecturer in Economics at the University of Melbourne.

Mr. Prest is not a fluent lecturer, but, summed up, his paper gave an unbiased picture of the economic policy of New Zealand,

as viewed through somewhat orthodox spectacles. The most interesting portion of the speaker's address was that in reference to industrialisation:

"One of the most powerful motives impelling the Government towards economic nationalism," he said, "has been the desire to advance social conditions in New Zealand independently of those in other countries. New Zealand is probably the only country in the world with an effective 40-hour week. This is the most spectacular achievement of the Government in the sphere of labour policy, but it by no means stands alone. Weekly wage rates have been raised by as much as 52 per cent in agriculture, and to a lesser, though considerable, extent in other industries. Similarly, working conditions have been improved and the Social Security Act has co-ordinated and extended the Government social services. Such a vigorous social policy encounters obvious difficulties in a country where at least 25 per cent, of the population is directly engaged in production for export. On the other hand, it would appear that the development of local secondary industries will lower the real income of the community, unless the new industries can produce goods at least as cheaply as they can be imported. The efficiency of industry is, however, related to its scale of production, and that depends on the size of the market. With a population of only 1,600,000 it is difficult to see how secondary industry can develop on the scale necessary to prevent a diminution in the real income of the community.

"In the long run, this is the fundamental dilemma with which New Zealand is faced. It is conceivable, however, that this dilemma might be solved by a vigorous immigration policy, designed to raise the population of the country.

PROFESSOR COPLAND AND OTHERS

Following the speaker's address, liberal discussion took place. The expenditure on unproductive works, (Continued on page 8.)

MR. NASH AND MR. LEE.

Many feel, and there is much to justify the feeling, that so long as Mr. Nash holds the portfolio of Minister of Finance no reforms (Continued on page 8.)

AUSTRALIA IN THE COMING CRISIS

"Get Control of Parliament—and Preserve Our Liberties"

ERIC BUTLER'S IMPRESSIONS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION

At the request of a number of people, and feeling that my observations on the relationship of Electoral Campaign strategy to the present political trends in Australia may prove of interest to readers, I pen the following views. Although these views are similar to those held by a number of well-informed people, not only in this country, but also in Great Britain, Canada and New Zealand, it is to be clearly understood that they are my own personal contribution to the matters which appear to be exercising the minds of Electoral Campaigners throughout Australia at the present time.

CRITICAL TIMES.

There is little necessity to stress the point that the present times are critical—much more so than even most campaigners realise—and I believe that in the immediate future the whole subject of democratic government will be centred around the question of preserving individual liberty. Once we lost our liberty our task would be well nigh hopeless.

The matter published in last week's *New Times* in connection with the European situation is, in my opinion, one of the most important pronouncements ever made in this country. The factual subject matter was issued by the Electoral Campaigners in Great Britain under the title, "Warning Europe," and caused a sensational impression in influential circles. Copies were circulated throughout influential quarters in Europe—including a copy to Hitler! Rushed out from England by airmail, its presentation in the Senate by Senator Darcey has had an electrical effect in many conservative quarters. There has been a great demand for last week's issue of the *New Times*, containing the report of Senator Darcey's speech.

Now, what has this to do with our liberties and activities here in Australia? I will come to that presently.

EUROPEAN BACKGROUND.

Accepting the European background as presented by Senator Darcey, many moves taking place at the present time become very significant. Before proceeding we might with benefit supplement this background with further matter, which every well-informed person should know.

During the world financial crisis of 1907 Paul Warburg, the American banker, propounded a scheme which, fortunately for the world, was not then accepted by the financial dictators of the U.S.A. However, in 1913 that scheme was resurrected and implemented by the financial magnates of that country, and its adoption resulted in the establishment of the Federal Reserve Board. In regard to that body I cannot do better than quote the opinion of Sir Josiah Stamp, a Director of the Bank of England, and one of the "leading" economists of the world, who, in

an interview published in the *National Bank Monthly* for February, 1926, said: "Never in the history of the world has so much power been vested in a small body of men as in the Federal Reserve Board. *These men have the welfare of the world in their hands*, and they could upset the rest of us either deliberately or by some unconscious action. Mind you, I am not criticising them, but it is precarious to have such concentrated power vested in such a body."

HIT BRITAIN HARDEST OF ALL.

In his book, *America Conquers Britain*, published in 1930, Mr. Ludwell Denny wrote: "Many nations may laugh at our State Department, but all must tremble before our Federal Reserve Board . . . High money rates in the United States of America early in 1929, for instance, forced an increase in the official discount rates at once in England, ten European countries, in two Latin-American countries, and two in the Far East; and in almost every case that action restricted business and brought suffering to millions of foreign workers. *That blow hit Britain hardest of all.*"

These statements clearly indicate a situation in which, by legislative enactment, this body is enabled to hold in its palm the welfare not only of the United States of America, but also (while monetary conditions are dictated from outside a country's borders) of the whole world. This fact has been realised by so able a banking authority as Denny.

Should we feel that even these extracts are not conclusive, we might recall what Mr. Walter Hines Page, the American Ambassador to England at the time of the outbreak of the Great War, said. In a cable to President Wilson he said: "*The British Empire is delivered into our hands.*"

Further, after the war the financial group with headquarters in New York imposed six times as much financial hardship on Great Britain as compared to the Central Powers, which were supposed to have been beaten. Montagu Norman became Wall Street's agent in Britain, while it is significant that the visit of Stanley Baldwin and Montagu Norman to America just after the war resulted in the rapid rise of Mr. Baldwin to the Prime Ministership. And when Montagu Norman first took up his Governorship of the Bank of England he was assisted by Dr. Oliver Sprague of the American Federal Reserve Board. Comment is unnecessary.

WHO ARE WE TO FIGHT FOR?

The thesis that a balance of power is being maintained by this international financial group seems more than probable. As one of the young generation who will be asked to die for "democracy" pitted against the Fascists, it rather

makes my blood boil to know that France supplies Germany with over 7000 tons of iron ore from the Briey Basin every year, that Canada supplies her with 75 per cent, of her nickel, and that Russia obliges with a big proportion of her oil requirements. It is still less reassuring to know that the United States Government openly allowed the export of aeroplane engines for Germany's rearmament programme. Undoubtedly, the only people who will win the next war are those who won the last war—the Wall Street financiers.

DECLINE OF LIBERTY

Over the past twelve months the whole world has been kept in a state of "the jitters" by those who control the press—and never forget who *does* control all the international news. Every crisis has numbed the public mind to such an extent that cherished liberties are being taken away in a manner which years ago we would not have thought possible. When the idea of the Electoral Campaign was first put forward in concrete form a few years ago, those in a position to know said that we must inevitably win, *unless the rules were altered*. Well, the rules *are being altered*, if we cannot at least maintain the present rules then defeat faces us. Take, for example, the Canadian Electoral Law, which I wrote about in the *New Times* a few weeks ago. But more particularly, look at the way in which conscription was brought in, in Britain. I desire to make this point particularly clear—because the same danger now faces Australia.

There, a national register has been taken also, and it was taken by a Conservative Government that has been notoriously reactionary in its attitude towards social problems. That this register was so swiftly followed by conscription came as a terrible shock to the British Trade Union Movement, which had been induced to give a measure of co-operation by a solid promise that there would be no conscription in peace-time. *Today they are forced to admit that they were tricked*. And the same promises are now being made in Australia! However, keeping in mind the European background, as presented last week, the most damning thing of all was to see the British Communist Party, in an official statement, give its wholehearted support to the Conscription Act in England. If the present interpretation of the international position is correct, this was only to be expected. In her endeavour to make a pact with Russia, Britain was forced to first yield to the demand for conscription. It is perhaps very significant that Litvinov, who was not very strong on this point, was suddenly withdrawn from the diplomacy taking place. Britain capitulated. Which brings me to the present position in Australia.

CAN THE NATIONAL REGISTER BE STOPPED?

What is our next step? Quite a few suggestions have been put forward, and in his very able analysis last week, Mr. Maltby raised some interesting points, which I would like to touch upon briefly. However, before dealing with them, the point I am trying to make is this: If the National Register (followed by industrial and physical conscription) is introduced—and Mr. Menzies says that the Government will *impose* the Register, which can only be interpreted as using the armed forces if necessary for this purpose—it will then be rather late to talk about positive action, negative action, or anything else. **THE IMMEDIATE JOB IS TO GET CONTROL OF PARLIAMENT**

-AND PRESERVE OUR LIBERTIES.

Now, to deal with a point raised by Mr. Maltby, I quite agree that a majority of the people may be in favour of some form of national service, BUT they are NOT in favour of COMPULSORY service—more particularly so when they are briefly informed what the implications of the National Register are. I must admit that I was not fully aware of the frightful dangers of this Bill until recently. As a matter of fact, competent legal opinion doubts the constitutional validity of the proposed Act. And yet Mr. Menzies suggests that he will force it upon us. Are the rules to be changed in Australia? It would appear so. However, from all the evidence, which I have there is very little doubt that a clear-cut demand for the stopping of this Bill *can* be aroused. And when I say clear-cut, I mean clear-cut, coupled with nothing else. Then those who desire military defence, etc., can have it. But it must be voluntary. We, the people, must immediately give members of Parliament to understand that they are there to do what WE want. If we get control of Parliament we then have control of the armed forces, which Parliament in turn controls. But, if we don't get control of Parliament, before very long we may find those armed forces being used *against* us.

Although the Trade Unions may be opposing the Register, as yet they are not doing so in the most effective way. However, it may be that we will also see ourselves tricked as the Unions were in Britain. In the *Sydney Morning Herald* of June 3 Mr. Curtin is reported as saying: "It is the firm conviction of the Opposition that the purpose of the Register is to facilitate the call-up of men being compulsory. *We believe in the compulsory system.*" So Mr. Curtin, leader of the Opposition, is apparently not a democrat. Democracy does not mean compulsion. Mr. Ogilvie, Labor Premier of Tasmania, goes even further towards complete conscription. And we can rest assured that if Australia is to follow Britain in the present line-up, the Communists will favour conscription here if it means an alliance with Russia. I say that we must keep out, preserve our liberties and make democracy a reality in Australia. That opens up other moves.

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ACTION

In the first place, I cannot agree with Mr. Maltby that the majority of the people believe that taxation is a necessary evil. As a matter of fact, all my evidence is to the contrary. All campaigners I have mentioned this matter to, and others who have written to me are unanimous that very few people indeed want higher taxation. The campaign against higher rates in Great Britain was a wonderful success, because it harnessed the indignation of the people against further taxation. They also demanded no reduction in social services. It was pointed out to the people that the bulk of their taxes went to pay interest on money *created* and loaned to them by the banks. This education helped considerably to generate more energy behind the campaign. My experience leads me to believe without reservation, that it can be achieved here. In fact, as Bruce Brown says, the people *must be made aware of this robbery*. On the positive side I agree to a large extent with the ideas governing this demand for a living-standard equivalent to £10 per week. In fact I have discussed (Continued on page 6.)

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"THE PUSHING PURITAN"

The present crisis (our third within a year), writes B. M. Palmer in an English contemporary on April 1, could not be allowed to pass without an outcry from U.S.A. To anyone who realises the part played by American financiers in European affairs since 1918, these gentlemen, with their cries of "wanton lawlessness," "gangsterdom" and "democracy," are, whether they know it or not, in the position of waiting for the cockfight to begin, having first carefully fitted the spurs.

President Roosevelt said: —

"The Government of the United States has, on frequent occasions, stated its conviction that only through international support of a programme of order, based upon law, can world peace be assured."

This sounds like hypocrisy when we remember that Washington and Wall Street forced upon us a policy, which is the direct cause of the rise of the dictators.

The "ordinary citizen" in America, however, knows nothing of this, nor would he like to be told of it. His "Whig-Puritan" morality makes him a fervent worshipper of Internationalism, and he is never too busy to point out the defects in Europeans.

However, we ourselves cannot cast the first stone, for we supplied America with her Puritans.

MONEY BEFORE MEN

I sometimes wonder which came first, the worship of the money system or Puritanism. Was one the outcome of the other? I think that in the seventeenth century, when men began to prefer the Old Testament to the New, they began to prefer abstractions to reality, so that the symbol of money became of more importance than the work it could do in providing us with the good things of this life.

George Moore said that no great art could live under Puritanism. Perhaps that is the reason why literature has shown a steady decline since the golden days of Elizabeth. Shakespeare saw the Puritan in the offing where he strutted cross-gartered, masking his familiar smile with an austere regard of control. Never believe for one moment that Shakespeare had the slightest sympathy for Malvolio. His very name is enough to tell you that.

WHAT J. B. PRIESTLEY WROTE.

While I was thinking of this, I came upon these words in J. B. Priestley's book, *The English Comic Characters*: —

"Shakespeare clearly detested all hard, unsympathetic, intolerant persons, the over-ambitious and over-weaning, the climbers and careerists, the 'get-on or get-outs' of this world. When the will and the intellect in all their pride were divorced from tolerance, charity, and a love of the good things of this world, they formed the stuff out of which the Shakespeare villains were made. But the Bastard and Iago and Richard the Third are the very characters that some of our modern dramatists would select to adorn these acts of hero-worship. So, too, to come down the scale, our friend, Malvolio the pushing Puritan, is under various disguises, the hero of almost one-half of all the American novels that were ever written."

Thus Shakespeare's villains are rapidly becoming our heroes. There could be no apter comment upon the age of unreality which began when the first fraudulent goldsmith discovered that he could issue more parchment promises than he possessed gold-plate.

SELF-MADE MERCHANT.

I have just finished reading the "Letters from a Self-made Merchant to His Son," by G. H. Lorimer, and dedicated to "Cyrus Curtis, a self-made man," which are preferable to Samuel Smiles in

that they are absolutely free from sentimental hypocrisy; but as a cold-blooded exposure of the "business" man's outlook they would be hard to beat, I should not have thought the book of so much importance if I had not known that it has been through thirty-four editions since it was first published in 1903. My copy was printed in 1936 by Methuen, at 2/6. The dust cover has these words: "This book describes, in a delightful, racy and picturesque style, the secrets of success in business and in life."

In my opinion, "Old Gorgon Graham," the writer of the letters, is still typical of the average successful businessman everywhere, which explains why the latter becomes so pliant a tool for the manipulation of International Finance.

You can't help liking the old man. His nature is so fundamentally honest and affectionate. He is what you would call a good sort. But he worships at one shrine, the shrine of business. It is a religion to him; the whole of his nature is bound back to this relentless and rapacious god. The reward he gets for his life of unremitting service is a few million dollars in the bank. He accepts the toil, the ill health, the sacrifice and the reward as a law of nature.

"IT PAYS."

He sends his son to Harvard because he is convinced that it pays. Anything that teaches a boy to get the answer before the other fellow gets through biting the pencil pays. But no post-graduate course, because his son is going to be a pork-packer, not a poet or professor, "and we don't use much poetry in the packing business, except in street car advertisements, and about the only time our products are given Latin names is when the State Board of Health condemns them."

There must be no trips to Europe in the vacations. "You are bound to try this European foolishness sooner or later, but if you will wait a few years, you will approach it in an entirely different spirit—and you will come back with a good deal of respect for the people who have enough sense to stay at home."

FREEDOM AND WOMEN

There is no such thing as freedom, according to Old Gorgon Graham. However high you may climb there will always be something for you to obey; if it isn't a man, it'll be the machine. There isn't any such thing as being your own boss in this world, unless you're a tramp, and then there's the constable.

Women? Well, they're not cut out for business, but they're useful in the home. A married man is worth more salary than a single one because his wife makes him worth more. "He goes a little steadier and works a little harder

THIS WEALTHY WORLD

"Science and World Resources," by Richard Palmer*

Reviewed by W. L. BAIN.

One cannot describe as "monumental" a work that is cramped within the limits of a sixpenny-pamphlet, yet Mr. Palmer succeeds in telling a story that completely staggers the imagination.

His chief aim is to show how science is minimising regional deficiencies in power and material resources by providing either local alternatives or universal substitutes. Water-power, harnessed to the electric-generator, compensates Norway for her lack of coal; calcium carbide united with the air's nitrogen results in a fertiliser that frees the entire world from dependence upon Chilean nitrate deposits. As the author says: with twenty million tons of air covering every square mile of the earth's surface, it would be hard to imagine a more striking transition from local dominance to universal availability.

The chemist has reached a point where it has become physically possible so to manipulate the molecular-structure of the elements with which he deals as to create not only synthetic imitations of "natural" products but useful substances not to be found in Nature's laboratory at all. Rubber is a case in point. The natural product consists of molecules of *isoprene*—a simple compound of carbon and hydrogen—but a more suitable basis may be synthesised from various allied hydrocarbons. Thus Germany builds up from *butadiene*, which differs from isoprene in that one hydrogen atom is substituted for a carbon and three hydrogens. Butadiene may be made from alcohol, which, in turn, is extracted from potatoes, wood, or any decaying vegetable matter—and the synthetic rubber gives 50 per cent, longer wear than the natural one.

AMAZING, BUT TRUE.

One might continue a long time quoting from this amazing story: how plastics to replace wood—and even metals—are being fashioned out of carbolic-acid molecules linked with those of formaldehyde (both of which are derived from coal-tar): how the cellulose of sawdust may be split with hydrochloric and converted into sugar: how the mineral deposit of sea-water may be melted so as to yield magnesium—a metal which may be allied to aluminium so as to form a compound having the tensile strength of steel; but the list is already formidable.

There are one or two eulogies

than the fellow who's got to amuse a different girl every night."

PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE.

All this can only be changed when there are people who can show by their own example another way of life, just as practical as the old pork-packer's, based on the principles that every rates-campaigner is now learning. Then the overthrow of Abstractionism will be in sight.

The "pushing puritan" is a very practical man (although he worships an abstraction), and he can only be influenced by practical means. Theories are as meaningless to him as clouds. But he will have respect for someone who knows how to run a Lower Rates Demand Association on principles of association, which really work, and produce real results.

For the first time in history something realistically practical yet founded on fundamental truth instead of on a lie, has been placed before the businessman. For the moment he doesn't quite know what to make of it. It is so long since he left off believing in anything but the "law" of money.

But wait till he sees it working!

for Soviet achievement, a suggestion being left that such achievement is impossible without State-control; and the hypersensitive ear will detect an occasional undertone of disparagement of the "profit-motive."

SOCIALISTS' AUNT SALLY

This tilt at the Socialists' Aunt Sally identifies Mr. Palmer's political leanings, and one is tempted to say that this much-decried motive is frequently no more than the very natural search-for-a-living that inspires effort everywhere. To educate mankind out of such a low habit so that all activity shall have a philanthropic aim is far beyond any human competence as yet.

The urge to get the maximum living from a system so abundantly resourceful as Mr. Palmer shows it to be is not the evil that political partisanship would have us believe. The real fault operating against our availing ourselves of technical advances has been very succinctly explained by at least one of the world's leading industrialists. Henry Ford, with typical penetration, puts it in this way: "The present system has got us twisted into producing things to buy dollars with, when what we need is a money-system that will produce dollars to buy goods with." That seems to locate the trouble; for only when money comes to be produced in a manner which will ensure the consumption of all possible output; only when an economic order is established in which "human welfare is the sole test of policy," will science and industry be enabled to bend their whole effort to the production of a *physical* rather than a *financial* result, when that day arrives, the Key of Plenty, so painfully striven for will release mankind into its Golden Age of Culture.

*"Fact" booklet No. 21; English price, 6d.

Eric Butler Addresses Sydney Electoral Campaigners

At the invitation of the Electoral Campaign in Sydney, Eric addressed a meeting of supporters at their Headquarters on Thursday, June 1. Those present were very impressed with the inspiring, talk he gave—particularly his survey of the present political trends. It is hoped to make more extensive use of Eric's services on his way South from Queensland, later in the year.

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Published every Friday by New Times Ltd., McEwan House, Elizabeth and Little Collins Streets, Melbourne, C.I. Postal Address: Box 1226 G.P.O., Melbourne. Telephone: MU 2834.

Vol. 5.

FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 1939.

No. 23.

IN WHOSE INTERESTS?

Mr. Menzies and the Wheatgrowers

When Mr. R. G. Menzies made his maiden speech as Prime Minister of Australia, those who had acclaimed him as a "strong man" said, "I told you so." Some of those who, believing him to be strong were, nevertheless, of the opinion that such strength would not necessarily be used on behalf of the people of Australia as a whole, began to entertain hopes that perhaps the new Prime Minister was the man for whom Australia had been waiting. His references to the building up of a healthy nation, in which the problems connected with unemployment and primary production and the industrial conditions that have produced so much misery and suffering among the people of Australia during the past decade were to be made the first consideration of the Government, suggested that perhaps, after all, Mr. Menzies' definition of a happy and prosperous nation was a nation in which the WHOLE OF THE PEOPLE could be certain of a measure of comfort and individual security.

Mr. Alex Wilson, M.H.R., who, during his comparatively short career as a Federal member, has made a name for himself as a sincere champion of the wheatgrowers' cause, expressed the newly-awakened hope of many of his constituents when he, said:

"I desire to pay tribute to the Prime Minister for stating that the wheat industry was one of those matters which his Government proposed to look into very carefully, with a view to putting it on a proper basis. That promise has been much appreciated by the growers, and we look forward now to the translation of those words into action. If the Prime Minister will do that, then I shall admit that he is greater than any that have gone before him."

There were some who might have felt that the doubts of Mr. Menzies' willingness to translate words into action, as expressed in Mr. Wilson's last two sentences, showed a lack of that unqualified approval which Mr. Menzies' generous WORDS called for, had it not been for the fact that within a few short weeks Mr. Menzies ACTIONS gave ample excuse for them.

The next move in the "strong man's" political game came when, in answer to a request by Mr. F. H. Cullen, president of the Victorian Wheat and Woolgrowers' Association, that the Prime Minister give immediate consideration to the necessity for convening a conference to determine the measures necessary to re-establish the industry on a profitable basis, he replied: "... your letter 15th May, the forthcoming conference will be confined to experts appointed by State and Federal Governments. . . ."

According to a recent report in the Melbourne "Argus," the experts appointed comprise about EIGHT representatives with large city interests, mostly wheat buyers and exporters, and TWO farmers. Mr. Menzies adds, however, "It would be valuable if, at Ministerial Conference [a conference that is to follow the round-table discussion with the alleged experts], Ministers could also have before them the views of the growers."

Actually, Mr. Menzies' attitude suggests that in conference with those large buyers and exporters of wheat, who neither know nor care anything about the financial difficulties associated with the producing of the commodity on which they and the banks draw the lion's share of the profits, it will be possible to arrive at some formula by which a sufficiency of farmers shall be kept on the land to ensure a satisfactory export of primary produce for the benefit of Australia's sacred oversea trade balance. As the exporter is essential to our export trade without being sufficiently subservient to the Government to be coerced into functioning without being assured of a reasonable return for his trouble, he is to have the "say" in the conference. The farmer, on the other hand, though far more essential than the exporter to the production of wheat, is in such a position that only a minimum of consideration is necessary to force him to function as required. Despite the remarkable condescension of Mr. Menzies' afterthought to the effect that "It would be valuable if Ministers could ALSO have before them views of the growers," an afterthought that enabled the Prime Minister to truthfully say in answer to the protests of primary producers that the growers would be allowed to express their opinions, it looks very much as though Mr. Menzies' concern for the wheat industry is motivated, not by a desire to see that the wheatgrower is given decent conditions, but by the "necessity" for discovering the cheapest method by which he can be kept on the land for the benefit of the minority which Mr. Menzies represents. Like those who have gone before

him Mr. Menzies' reference to Australia does not include the people of Australia as a whole. From his point of view Australia would be in a splendid position if all the wheatgrowers were living on boiled wheat, as long as there was a "favourable" balance of trade and the interests, which he represents, maintained their power and showed high dividends.

One day it may happen that Australia will be governed by a body of representatives whose idea of "good government" will be administration which will bring satisfactory conditions to the WHOLE of the people of the country; who will not, as is done at present, base administration on the supposed necessity to subordinate the interests of the majority to the interests of the few.

That day will speedily arrive when a majority of ELECTORS (be they wheatgrowers, "workers" or what not) UNITE in DEMANDING those RESULTS which THEY desire IN COMMON. The target for their demands is Parliament, the channels are their respective parliamentary representatives, and the sanctions behind their demands are their votes.

Wheatgrowers, although they may have little else at present, still have votes. They should frequently remind themselves—and their parliamentary representatives—of that fact.

Swedish Impressions

By BORGE JENSEN.

Sweden is a rich country "because they have no unemployment." The enormous length of the country partly explains how the "cure" has been effected: there is always the eternal road-building ready to absorb the "surplus" labour. Even so, the foreign motoring-tourist, while admiring the jolly, half-naked and beautifully sunburnt road-builders, are astounded that Sweden has not yet managed to rule out all the "dark spots" on the main high-road between Copenhagen and Stockholm.

There is not much road-building in winter, however, and in the streets of Stockholm in mid-January I was constantly offered things for sale by unemployed, and on the door of my hostess there was a constant knocking by unemployed, who, apparently, had not been sufficiently "economical" with their summer earnings.

* * *

There is one thing, however, that anyone can admire about Stockholm trams; they all have little yellow letter-boxes fastened outside, where people in the suburbs can drop letters. These letterboxes are emptied on arrival of the car at the G.P.O., near the Central Railway Station.

* * *

The nearest approach to a really democratic action that I have heard of in Sweden was when the old former sea-captain, Georg Tornkvist, toured the country last spring in order to create a public opinion against the fact that the State had, for 60 years, swindled (he used the word in articles) their old seamen of millions of their pension-money. He lectured, he wrote, he interviewed all M.P.'s, and in May 1938, a motion was unanimously carried that a certain sum (formerly spent on futile administration) should be paid in pensions to retired seamen (400 in number).

The national self-satisfaction has received a severe blow recently. In the late autumn there appeared a book with the startling title, "Muck Sweden." Since Ludvig Nordstrom, its author, was a well-known free-lance journalist, everybody read the book, and Sweden was immediately divided into two hotly opposed camps: those who agreed and those who didn't.

The author set out to visit 43 Swedish provincial doctors and 27 clergymen, to find out (on behalf of the Swedish Board of Medicine) the housing conditions in rural Sweden, and the connection, if any, of the housing conditions and the spiritual state of the population.

In his horror of all the dirt and disease and discrepancy he discovered all over his prosperous country, Nordstrom forgot all about the more academic object of his visit and turned his book into one long accusation of the authorities.

* * *

Everybody who returns from the really delightful and graciously modern capital of this rugged country will immediately tell you of its superb and gorgeously situated town hall. No one, however, seems to be much struck by the fact that in a vast baroque structure, built on a tiny island in the rushing waters of the Malaren, there are housed in closest intimacy the Swedish House of Parliament together with the Swedish National Bank.

COMMONSENSE

O, if I were Queen of France,
Or, still better, Pope of Rome,
I'd have no fighting men abroad
Or weeping maids at home.
All the world should live at peace,
Or if kings must show their
might,

Let those who make the quarrels
Be the only ones to fight.

—Old Ballad.

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Have YOU "Done Your Bit" Yet?

MORE "SACRIFICES"!

But Who Will Get the Proceeds?

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir, —When we predicted twelve months and more ago that there would be further calls for sacrifice, and even talk of another Premiers' Plan, some folk were inclined to laugh. They had the idea that we were enjoying "almost unbelievable prosperity," and that in such circumstances it was nonsense to speak about another depression. But it's here. While prayers are being offered up for wise leaders (as they were offered in the years gone by!), bank directors are again lauding the beauty of sacrifice (for others) and calling for all-round pruning. They say this is necessary because "costs" have gone up, but they say nothing about the fact that their own actions have brought the supply of money DOWN. Their "liquid" position is not as good as it was—i.e., their liabilities to the public are greater than they can meet—and consequently the people, must do with less money so that the liquidity can be improved. The banks are to lose nothing. All the "sacrifice" must come from the common people who are already accustomed to sacrifice. One of the ministers in the Victorian Cabinet has actually mooted another Premiers' Plan already, and perhaps that is not altogether surprising when we remember that Professor Copland is one of the Cabinet's official "advisers." This professor was chairman of the committee, which drew up the scheme for the Premiers' Plan of 1931, a plan so satisfactory to the money monopoly that his wisdom is the sort of wisdom they wish to retain in their service.

COMES IN "CYCLES"

Apparently this earnest search for wise leaders comes in cycles, like the "trade cycle." Mr. Stevens, the Premier of New South Wales, and Mr. Menzies, his co-worker in the Federal Parliament, have both been pleading for wisdom, tolerance, courage, thoughtfulness, and the like, while in other years it was left for Mr. T. W. White to play on these strings. This trio, who parade their honesty and spirituality, as well as all the others of the same type, have the "sacrifice" complex, and it is, perhaps, fitting that their platitudinous patter should synchronise with the "advice" of bank directors and newspaper proprietors now being so freely offered for more economy in Government expenditure and more sacrifice on the part of the people. It was the "honest" people who permitted the bankers to impose their dishonest plans in 1931.

WORDS IN A CEMETERY

At the Brighton Cemetery in November 1934, Mr. White, then Minister for Customs, said this:

"The world and our native land need wise leadership and heroes now as much as ever before. We can best guard this heritage of ours if we draw inspiration from the tradition of sacrifice of the A.I.F." Perhaps it was fitting that this was said in a cemetery, and the conditions round about us today indicate that we did not get the wise leadership he pleaded for. His appeal should have been made to the living. The pleadings of today will be equally futile, for the simple reason that it is not so much a question of wise leadership as one of common-sense and honesty. One thing only is necessary to make the people of Australia comfortable, healthy, and happy, and that one thing is a regular income of sufficient MONEY to enable them to buy the material things they need. These men, as well as many of the clergymen leading the prayers, have so far not been honest in their attitude towards the financial system, and so long as they support or condone financial arrangements which are fraudulent it is useless appealing for "wisdom" or praying to God for guidance.

UNADULTERATED HUMBUG

To talk of guarding our heritage on the inspiration of sacrifice is unadulterated humbug. There has been far too much needless sacrifice by the people already. The only adequate guardianship of our heritage is to cut out these farcical "sacrifices" by adopting better accounting methods to circulate more money. What foolish people we

are to go on allowing these impositions without asking the questions: "Sacrifices of WHAT?" and "Sacrifices for WHOM?" There has been no diminution in our national assets, but our Governments have allowed the manufacturers of money to so manipulate the financial figures that the people have been deprived of their incomes and made to suffer shortage of necessities when they could have plenty. The Premiers' Plan of 1931 was a crime for which those responsible deserve impeachment, and when the community does grasp the truth of the situation it will not be slow to voice its resentment.

LACK OF BUYERS

The depression of 1931 was due to lack of buyers, and the lack of buyers was due to the premature calling in and cancellation of money by the banking system. This is precisely what is now going on again. The banks are calling in and cancelling money before the costs incurred by the use of the money have been liquidated. Instead of exposing this, the men who have the ear of the press talk of the need for wise leaders and more prayers. Would a wise leader plead with people "to provide some jobs for the workless" on the assumption that we have plenty of spare money if only we could be cajoled into using it? The fact of the matter is, as most of us know only too well, that the people at large have NOT got money to spare. Indeed, they have not sufficient for their immediate needs. The few who do happen to have a little saved up are scared to part with it. They recognise that their savings represent their only economic security against the worldwide shortage of money deliberately imposed on all people by the money manufacturers.

WHERE THEY FAIL

The question persistently ignored by our wise leaders is the question of the origin and extent of purchasing power. I am well aware that two of the learned judges of the Federal Arbitration Court went to some pains in 1933 to prove that, although the purchasing power may have been diverted from the worker to the employer, it was still purchasing power. They could not have been aware of the procedure under which deflation is effected, and how, when purchasing power is diverted to the banking system through restriction of credit, it goes out of existence altogether. But, even if it were only transferred to the employers, these selfsame judges did not explain how power can be of any use unless it IS used, or why, if employers had MORE

purchasing power, there was such an increase in the number of bankruptcies. The judges said nothing about the calling in and cancellation of overdrafts, and the union representatives said nothing about it either. Nothing was said regarding the reasons for the enforced reductions in all Government payments by which purchasing power was withdrawn and destroyed. Here again the union representatives were as silent as the grave. It was not surprising, therefore, that the judges not only imposed on the workers, but seriously misled the community at large into accepting conditions for which there was not the slightest actual warrant. Conditions of a like nature are again developing, and it will be interesting to see whether the workers get better representatives this time.

THE "WORK" COMPLEX

All these so-called "leaders," falling in behind the ventriloquist press, concentrate their attention on "Work"—that is to say, on increasing production which is already far in excess of the money supply. No attention is paid at all to the BUYING end of industry. If the money supply is not to expand with production, then it is obvious that any increase in the latter will be valueless, as the producer will be compelled to hand over more and more goods to certain financial agents for less and less money. Cannot you primary producers see that?

MR. NOCK OF THE COUNTRY PARTY

Mr. Nock, the Whip of the Country Party, has just issued a statement about the Bill to amend the Commonwealth Bank Act, and has again displayed his lack of

PROCRASTINATION IS THE THIEF OF TIME

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

knowledge of the subject. In 1933 I conversed with him at Canberra and felt at the time that he was a conscientious man. Unfortunately, he appeared to have become so obsessed in a little booklet issued by the Commonwealth Statistician showing how the "financial" values of primary production had fallen that he had not even thought to inquire WHY they had fallen. He seemed utterly incapable at that time of distinguishing between "financial" values and "utility" values. The value of butter as a food is the same whether it is marked 1/10 a lb or only 6d a lb. It is only the financial value that fluctuates. He admitted that the primary producer had not been a "slacker," and that he had in fact produced more than ever, but kept on pointing to the reduction in "value." He apparently could not see that the values had fallen because there had been a serious interference with the money supply, and, notwithstanding the admission by the Monetary and Banking Commission that prices fall in consequence of action taken by the banks, Mr. Nock has not taken the trouble to find out the facts in this direction. Values of production are always stated in terms of finance and finance is an international fraud.

AN ABSURD POSITION

It is an utterly absurd position. So much WORK has actually been done by every one of the nations that none of them can consume what their "work" has produced, but this does not deter our

wise leaders from supposing still that the problem is unemployment—i.e., lack of work. They act as though consumers are born, not made; and that goods will sell themselves whether people have money or not. The fact that no business can succeed without customers laughs at them, and they seem entirely unable to realise that customers are simply people made into effective consumers by the possession of money to spend. Whether the holders of university degrees will admit it or not the fact remains that there can be no business prosperity unless the people HAVE got money to spend. This vital aspect of the question continues to be neglected because the "official" advisers on economics, the hiring press, and the majority of the members of Parliament cling to the childish belief that goods automatically produce and distribute the money to buy them. The fact is that the source of all money is different from the source of all goods, and there is a serious discrepancy between the two. Yet all the methods so far advanced by these professional economists and most of the politicians only serve to increase the discrepancy.

CLOSE THE GAP BY EXTENDING IT!

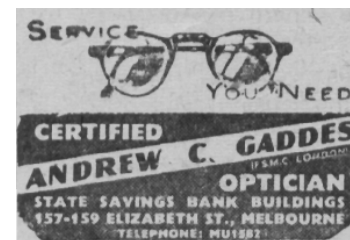
Have you ever paused to consider how really absurd these professional economists have shown themselves to be? They have put forward two methods for the improvement of trade, as under:

1. Raise prices;
2. Reduce costs.

That one is mutually antagonistic to the other does not matter to them. The present position is that people cannot buy, which means that prices are greater than incomes. Clearly, therefore, if we follow the advice of these particular experts we will make prices higher and incomes still lower, the words "reduction of costs" being merely economic jargon for effecting the slashing of wages and salaries. In other words, they say we should close the gap by making it greater! We cannot escape the fact that the production of the modern power-machines will never be sold at solvent prices until every citizen is put in the position to receive money from a source OUTSIDE industry. Through want of thought this idea is regarded by some as a dangerous heresy. They conveniently overlook that the privileged section of society who now bask in the favour of the money monopolists get huge dividends—i.e., free money, representing other people's work—and they profess to see something sinister in the suggestion that other members of the community should also get dividends—i.e., free money, representing the work of the machines. WHY NOT?

This question is so important, Mr. Editor, that I hope to say more about it next week. —Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H BROWN



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(Continued on page 7.)

"SAVE THE PEOPLE'S BANK" CAMPAIGN

This Week's Report from the Melbourne Citizens' Committee Conducting the Victorian Section of This All-Important Campaign, is as Follows:

"Most favourable reports, indicative of a great Commonwealth-wide effort to awaken the public to the dangers of the Commonwealth Bank Bill, are to hand from every State.

New South Wales

"Commonwealth Bank Restoration League" speakers recently addressed The United Associations, The Feminist Club, The Wollongong Rotary, and many other meetings, resulting in an increasing demand for literature and letterforms.

Queensland.

"Committees have been formed throughout the State for the dispatch of literature, and scores of meetings are being arranged from north to south. Mr. Eric Butler, whose brilliant efforts in the cause of Democracy are well known to your readers, is expected to convince many more thousands of people in this State that the Bank Bill, now before Parliament, constitutes the final attempt by vested interests to deprive us of the greatest public institution Australians have ever possessed. We feel confident that the spirit of Queenslanders will rise to the occasion when this dynamic youth, whose challenge to Mr. Casey in his own electorate stirred so many Democrats into action, passes their way.

Tasmania.

"There is a marked increase in general activities.

West Australia.

The campaign in this State is growing with remarkable rapidity, and with the timely co-operation of Unions and other organisations, together with the disclosures made by the "West Australian Wheatgrower" and other papers, a general awakening is assured.

South Australia.

"Actionists in S.A. are to be highly commended upon their splendid work. We take the liberty of publicising the following extract from a letter received this week from the president of the 'Save the Commonwealth Bank' Campaign, which should serve as an inspiration to persons who have left the job to the 'other fellow': 'We have just secured another bunch of signatures (1340), by erecting a table in one of the principal arcades in Adelaide and manning (womaning chiefly) it in relays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. In addition, the work we have done with the Unions is now bearing fruit a hundred-fold, and big batches of demands are coming in daily. Tomorrow another table goes up in the Botanic Park, and next Friday still another one in Unley. We are no longer making any charge for demand forms; donations from Unions and other organisations, not to mention individuals, have rendered it unnecessary.' (Will Melbourne and suburbs moral supporters please do their best to emulate the spirit of these great workers in S.A.)

Victoria.

"Although we were first in the field with demands, and have

now completed fourteen weeks of campaign work, we feel that much more remains to be done. Some country centres have obtained a unanimous demand for the repeal of the Bill, but there are many districts whose residents have not yet been given an opportunity of knowing what the passage of the proposals would mean to them in increasing taxation, etc. In view of the attitude of certain Country Party Members, and with regard also to the dictatorial policy outlined by their party junta, we urge country people to do their utmost to enlighten others and bring all possible pressure to bear. 'The Countryman' of March 3, in an editorial exposing the Bank Bill and referring to 'vested interests backed by the daily press,' says: 'It will be seen from the summary of proposals, and of the fears which actuated the founder of the Bank, and also from its waning influence since the appointment of a directorate, there is need for rural electors to consider very carefully the suggested plans. The proposal to issue debentures involves the vital principle of central control. Its danger was evident 28 years ago, and it is not too much to assume that such a course is even more hazardous today. The Bill appears to be an attempt to still further whittle away the powers of the Bank . . . ' (That is the advice given by the official organ of the United Country Party of Victoria.)

Last Sunday's "Labour Hour" broadcast from 3KZ dealt comprehensively with the Bill, and it was gratifying to note that the speaker emphasised the necessity for electors to write to their Member, demanding that the measure be opposed.

Widespread gratification has been expressed toward 'The Catholic Worker' for its outstanding article on the Bill in its issue of Saturday, June 3, under the captions: 'Casey Pawns Australia,' 'Ruin of People's Bank to be Completed,' 'Last Chance to Fight Money-Changers.' The article concludes with the following: "WRITE TO YOUR MEMBER AND DEMAND THAT HE VOTE AGAINST THE BETRAYAL."

"If that advice is not acted' upon by a vast majority of electors, it is possible that the degradation and suffering experienced by the people of Newfoundland at the hands of Government by Regulation, would be repeated in Australia.

Melbourne.

"On Monday night last Mr. N. Rolls addressed a large meeting of the Peace Mission Movement at the Savoy Theatre. Unanimous approval of our action was expressed, nearly 100 forms were signed immediately, and hundreds more were supplied to enthusiasts.

"At Glenferrie last Friday afternoon and evening, Mrs. Kerr made another successful drive for signatures and much literature was sold. The 'Hands Off the People's Bank' signs and other publicity at her table gave prominence to the campaign in that district, *but it is essential that others came forward to assist Mrs. Kerr*, so that results may be multiplied, as in S.A. Please get in touch by

ringing MU 2834 immediately. This Friday (June 9) the drive will be made at *Prahran*.

"All recent editions of 'The Story of the Commonwealth Bank' have been sold out, but the earlier edition (D. J. Amos) is now available at the reduced price of 5d per copy, posted. This is regarded as the best pamphlet on the subject obtainable.

"The special broadsheet is available at 8d per dozen, posted, and is intended for resale at 1d per copy. No actionist should be without a few of these!

"Letter-forms are obtainable at 1/2 per hundred, posted, or 50 for 7d. All enquiries, and orders with stamps or P.N.'s, to: 'Save the People's Bank' Campaign, Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne"

AUSTRALIA IN THE COMING CRISIS

(Continued from page 2.)

it at length at various times with Mr. Maltby. I think that any such demand must include negative action against taxation.

Negative action against taxation, in conjunction with some positive demand, which will *restore Initiative* to the people. The Campaign for Social Justice informs me that the tentative proposal of Mr. R. J. C. Sutler, which they have put forward, has been taken up in most States—particularly strongly in South Australia, where the Christian Social Order is very active. It may not be good strategy to have two or more issues, although I feel that any campaign, which seeks to make Members of Parliament get the results, which a majority of the people want is to be commended. I have no axe to grind in the matter except that the trend toward complete dictatorship in this country makes me very perturbed. I would therefore say to those who don't want this trend towards compulsion: *Tell your Member*: and bring the facts before your friends. And I would, at the same time, point out to them that it is their prerogative to initiate a demand for any result which a majority of the electors presumably want. There is plenty for all of us to do—but the important thing to remember is that we have a *limited time in which to do it*.

I would be pleased to receive any suggestions or views that readers may care to put before me by writing to me, c/o The Electoral Campaign, 142 Adelaide Street, Brisbane.

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.; 5d posted. Obtainable from "Save the People's Bank" Campaign, Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PRESSURE POLITICS

Positive or Negative Action?

MR. F. C. PAIGE'S VIEWS

Sir, —In reply to Mr. G. H. Maltby's criticism of Negative Action and his proposed "Positive Action," might I be permitted to suggest that the first essential to the success of any Demand is unanimity of action, not of organisations, but of individuals? To endeavour to obtain this by drawing up a plan, no matter what merits it may possess and no matter how desirable it is, is only beating the air, unless the majority of individuals are already demanding that which is the subject of the plan. A case in point is the fight against National Insurance.

This action was successful only because the majority of individuals was already voicing their opposition to the Act, but did not know how to give effect to their opposition. We did not draw up plans; we merely showed the individual electors how to obtain the result they were already clamouring for.

This was Negative Action, but it obtained a Positive result, in that the people got what they demanded. Negative Action has the following to commend it:

1. It shows Parliament that the people will not accept bad legislation.
2. It shows the individual M.H.R. that if he supports bad legislation he will lose his position.
3. It brings together, on common ground, individuals of all schools of reform thought.
4. As bad legislation will not be tolerated, if the present M.H.R.'s persist in trying to impose their will upon the people, there would soon be

an influx of new members of Parliament, willing to implement good legislation.

Mr. Maltby appears to be unmoved by the threat of conscription contained in the National Register, but if he moved among the workers in industry and the unemployed he would find that there is a widespread opposition to this measure. Instead of leaving it to the Trades Unions, I would suggest that, as with National Insurance, when we find out what result the people are seeking, we should help them to get it, "one trench at a time." The time may come when it will be possible to help the people with a positive demand, but that time is definitely not yet.

Proof of this is supplied by Mr. Maltby himself. Mr. R. J. C. Butler puts up a perfectly sound positive demand, but, although Mr. Maltby desires exactly the same result as Mr. Butler, he immediately disagrees with the method of getting the result.

Others will disagree with Mr. Maltby's positive plan and so on *ad infinitum*: and, whilst we are trying "to build an edifice that stands against all objections," all manner of iniquitous legislation is being imposed upon the people, rapidly approaching the stage when even the power of the VOTE is taken from us.

The "Save the People's Bank" campaign is another instance of Negative Action, inasmuch as it is to prevent bad legislation from being enacted.

My criticism of Mr. Maltby's positive plan is that all parties in Parliament can readily reply that they agree with the terms of the letter to be sent, and say that they are doing their utmost to bring this desirable result about.

Labor will say that the only way in which this can be brought about is by Socialism, which, in turn, can

only be achieved by getting a Labor majority in both Houses of Parliament.

Mr. Menzies' party will contend that he has already said he is striving for the happiness of the ordinary man and woman, but that this can only be achieved by "giving him a chance" and co-operating with him *via* National Insurance, National Register, etc., etc.

Finally, it is my opinion that Negative Action will get a Positive result, whilst so-called Positive Action will get a Negative result. — Yours, etc.,

F. C. PAICE.
28 Belgrave Street,
East Coburg, Vic.

A TRIBUTE TO A WEST AUSTRALIAN CRUSADER

Sir, —Having read accounts of the very excellent work performed by Mr. Eric Butler in "The Commonwealth Bank Campaign" in your recent issues, I feel it incumbent upon me to beg a little space in recognition of the very good work done in Western Australia for the same cause by Mr. C. O. Barker, M.L.A., You Eastern Staters may well term Mr. Barker the Eric Butler of the West, but we, his ardent followers, prefer to call Mr. Butler the C. O. Barker of the East. (No reflection on Mr. Butler.) Throughout the length and breadth of the Commonwealth no campaigner could have worked more devotedly and wholeheartedly for the cause than our "C. O." I venture to say that no man in Australia has a larger following, which he has justly earned in the past three years by his eloquence, integrity, and high moral courage. Every Sunday morning he addresses thousands of listeners on this subject over the radio, and, believe me, when "C. O." is on the air, housewives forsake the stove and husbands the garden fork, to listen to, and absorb, what he says. Also, on many occasions his voice is heard from the speaker's platform. These are occasions when the hall is filled to capacity. His eloquence and earnest endeavours have been responsible for a formidable pile of demand-letters being sent to the Federal representatives of Parliament for this State.

Every follower of his will, I know, unite with me in the prayer that this gallant patriot will long be spared to unceasingly lighten the gloom of our ignorance with the torch of truth, which he so fearlessly flashes here, there, and everywhere.

Bravo, "Barking" Barker! And may your bark be heard, with good results, on your Canberra mission. The heart and good wishes of every supporter travels with you and wishes you God-speed. —Yours. Etc.,

"WEST AUSTRALIAN" SUPPORTER."
Wongan Hills, W.A.

ANTHONY EDEN

U.S. Bankers' Cat's-paw?

In the United States, Mr. Eden has been looked on for some time as the coming power in England, and it would be interesting to trace the trend of his views before and after his recent visit to America.

Before his Parliamentary career, Mr. Eden was a City of London stockbroker, and during his visit to the United States he talked with prominent men in banking circles there.

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)
(Continued from page 6.)

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ECONOMISTS BECOMING HUMAN?

(Continued from page 1.)

referred to as "wasteful" expenditure, received lengthy attention. It was at this stage that Professor Copland arose in what appeared to be a defiant mood. Evidently the professor had given mature thought to what he intended to say, as he prefaced his remarks by saying: "This is for anyone to hear, press included," then continued: "Is not New Zealand better off under the present Government, which is providing employment and social services, and endeavouring to establish industries, than under the previous Governments, which did nothing to relieve unemployment or improve the condition of the country generally. Government works, classed as 'wasteful' expenditure, may have no financial value, but there is such a thing as human value."

The Victorian president of the society, Mr. Laird, who occupied the chair, said that criticism of the New Zealand Government should not be unfair. Unquestionably, vested interests and financial power were fighting the policy of the New Zealand Government.

Mr. Simpson, immediate past president, a banker, and erstwhile an intolerant orthodox man, fired a shot at Sound Finance's

DON'T SPEND A PENNY—
without consulting the
"New Times" Shopping
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pet bird. The "flight of capital" received a few deadly pellets. "The dire effects of a flight of capital is very much exaggerated," he said.

Answering a question whether conditions in New Zealand were not similar to those prior to the bursting of the boom in Australia, and was not New Zealand due shortly for a serious depression, Professor Copland said, "No, not necessarily. New Zealand was a political-control Government and not a financial-control Government, but should the Government pass to financial control there probably would be a depression."

Mr. Packer attempted to keep up the traditions of economists by a few "clever" jibes at unorthodox theories, but they did not meet with the customary appreciation.

New Zealand seemed to have the personal, if not professional, sympathy of most of the members present at this unreported-in-the-press meeting. Some unkind persons might suggest that the rats are deserting the ship.

MELBOURNE YOUTH SECTION

The Y.S. rooms were house-warmed with gusto on Saturday, May 27. Also with music, dancing, games, and supper; while the disposal of a *New Times* birthday cake (donated, complete with four candles, by a supporter) added to both fun and funds. Similar evenings are planned for the near future. The exultation felt by the whole Y.S. in this new step forward—"rooms of our own"—is settling to a steady surge of action. We feel that our notes of late have reflected our exultation. May they also reflect action! In-

THIS WEEK'S GEM

Letting the Cat Out of the Bag

How it ever sneaked into the columns of a big daily paper we do not know, but, under the headings, "Banks Own Farms" and "S.A. Woman's Allegations," the Melbourne "Herald" of Tuesday night last contained a report from London, dated Monday last, which read as follows:

"Addressing the Associated Countrywomen's Conference today, Mrs. Crowley, a South Australian, said that only about a dozen people in her part of South Australia owned farms, which mostly belonged to the banks.

"Some farmers even had to show the bank managers their week's grocery list, to ask if they could buy the things marked on it. The managers would sometimes say: 'No, you've listed jelly; that's a luxury. Knock it off.' (Cries of 'Shame!')"

terior decoration is still in progress, with pleasing results. The rooms are open to all on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at present. Drop in while you're in town. Address: Youth Section, United Electors of Australia, 5th Floor, Chartres' House, Collins Street, C.I (next Metro Theatre).

ACTION!

These meetings are getting exciting. The last two open-air meetings (Fridays, May 27 and June 2) were held in Hawthorn electorate, to take advantage of the interest in the forthcoming by-election. The suburb chosen was Glenferrie. Realising that the corners would be at a premium, advance parties of the Y.S. "occupied" Glenferrie's most strategically important corner on

both occasions—a precaution amply repaid. On the 27th a vocal skirmish was fought between Y.S. speakers and interlopers from the U.A.P., who set up rival boxes and banner a few scant feet away. After a short engagement, they struck their banner and departed, leaving the field—and the crowd—again to the U.E.A.

On June 2 the Y.S. were once more first on the job. This time, however, they were invaded a number of times. A religious group and the local Labor candidate's supporters established themselves nearby, and from then on ensued a regular war of words, with the Y.S. leading by some decibels. Hecklers and anti-hecklers—"Give him a go!"—added to the din. Free fights broke out here and there, forcibly terminated by bystanders. The various speakers were moved back by police, as the crowd was interfering with traffic. Rising to new "heights," the Y.S. speakers address the crowd from the bonnet of a car, on the hood of which they placed their placards. Another little faction fight broke out. The Y.S. speaker of the moment described it, in ringing tones, as an example of the "essential filth of party politics." At the pitch of excitement, Mr. L. Hollins (Ind.) arrived in a van, fitted with a public address system. This was obviously too much of a good thing. In a few minutes arrangements were amicably concluded for a common-sense road out of chaos. Using the amplifier—by courtesy of Mr. Hollins—a Y.S. speaker addressed the crowd of three or four hundred for ten minutes. Mr. Cremean, M.L.A., then spoke for the Labor party for ten minutes, followed by Mr. Hollins, for a similar period. Replies of five minutes were then given by each speaker.

As far as the Y.S. was concerned the meeting produced unusual results, including a black eye for one of the speakers, who received it, he explained, "through a misunderstanding!"

Tonight's meeting, to be held again in Glenferrie Road, near Glenferrie Station, is eagerly awaited by the Y.S. open-air team.

MEETING IN ROOMS

Mr. G. Maltby will give an address on a new and practical application of pressure politics next Wednesday, June 14, at 8 p.m. All welcome.

This meeting should be of absorbing interest.

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

Owing to pressure on our limited space, several important reports of inter-State Electoral Campaign activities and plans have been held over until next week.

REINFORCEMENTS WANTED

Sir, —After having sold 3½ dozen of the current issue of the *New Times*, a lone worker called at headquarters at 2 o'clock last Saturday afternoon for a further supply to sell to the South Melbourne football crowds.

Twice he returned for more, after having bought the remaining stock of five newsagents along the way.

I last saw him at 11.40 p.m.,

and listened to his challenging publicity to thousands of home-goers, opposite Flinders Street Railway Station, as he held above the heads of the masses the last few copies of his *seventh dozen*.

A few more supporters as sincere as he, and the *New Times* would be well on the way to its victory over the *daily sup-press*.

This gentleman appeals for a companion to join him each weekend. I, therefore, request that you publish this letter, Mr. Editor, in the hope that somebody will call at headquarters and offer to assist him in his great effort. —Yours, etc.,

."CARRYING ON."

U.E.A. Headquarters,
Melbourne.

NEW ZEALAND DISAPPOINTING

(Continued from page 1.)

in the monetary system may be expected.

But here a very interesting and intriguing question arises: Will Mr. Nash continue "to hold that office? 'Tis true at the present moment he is in the saddle, but it is equally true his position there is far from being either safe or comfortable. It is no secret that the ranks of Labour are divided on that question, for the Hon. J. Lee, of Auckland, has publicly denounced the Government's financial policy and demonstrated, in a report which was circulated amongst the Labour Members of Parliament, that under Mr. Nash's leadership pre-election pledges as to financial reform have been shamelessly broken, and the party's reputation for good faith seriously shaken. Mr. Lee got an official "wiggling" at the Labour Convention at Easter, and Mr. Nash secured a vote of thanks and confidence, but it is well known that scores of delegates declined to vote on the motion, and many voted for the Minister to avoid disrupting the party. But will these abstentions and party loyalties avail for long? Many monetary reformers think not, and are confident that the time is not far distant when, through pressure from the Lee group, stimulated by the unpopularity of the Government's doings, Mr. Nash will be replaced by another Minister of Finance. It is certainly true that Mr. Lee has a big following, and, as Mr. Nash gets further and further into the bog, so, it is thought, the following of Mr. Lee will increase. But this is a speculation, and one can only "wait and see." In the meantime, there are two things one is impressed by: First, the public is very annoyed at the submission of the Government to the pressure of High Finance; and, secondly, Mr. Lee has been elected to the Executive Council of the Labour Party. His appointment to that Executive Council is eloquent and significant. Perhaps a third point should be added—Mr. Lee is a great fighter! .

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