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THE

NEW TIMES

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Vol. 5. No. 24.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 1939.

Every Friday, 3d

Huge Taxation Swindle!

HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS INVOLVED BUTTER INDUSTRY FACES CHAOS

Federal Government Implicated

CITIZENS NEEDLESSLY BLED

Startling Developments may be expected as a result of disclosures in the Report of the Royal Commission on Banking. Although the Report has been available for nearly two years, the full significance of a vital part of it is only now being widely realised

Since Federation the Federal Government has, under the Constitution, had the power (which it has today) to control finance and banking; but the Royal Commission's findings reveal that, since the establishment of the Commonwealth Bank in 1912, the Federal Government has had all the facilities necessary to provide its own finance at the mere cost of bookkeeping and administration, instead of bleeding citizens white through colossal taxation to provide interest payments on money which it need never have borrowed.

Although no action is likely against previous Governments, the present Government will have difficulty in explaining why it has borrowed money from private trading banks when it has the powers and facilities referred to in Paragraph 504 of the Banking Commission's Report. Sensational developments may be expected because, if the Government pleads ignorance of such powers, it admits incompetence; while, on the other hand, if it did know of these powers, it seems that a charge of corruption is inescapable.

Taking £25,000,000 per year as the average of this unnecessary taxation since 1912, the amount involved reaches a staggering total of more than £650,000,000 — which means that the general public has had well over £100 per HEAD in that period wrongfully taken out of its hard-earned incomes.

WHAT ROYAL COMMISSION SAID

Speaking of the Commonwealth Bank, the Banking Commission's Report says: "It can even make money available to Governments and others free of any charge." The Federal Government has failed to make use of that power. To say the least of it, a grave injustice has been done to the people of Australia by compelling them to pay huge sums of interest to private financial interests, while, to make matters worse, the principal is still owing.

EXPERT OPINION

The fact that the Royal Commission consisted of leading financial and legal advisers, including Professor Mills, Hon. H. A. Pitt, Judge Napier, and others, leaves no room for doubt as to the significance of the indictment. In view of this, it is suggested that the failure of the Federal Government to use the power referred to is part of a sinister plot by the controllers of finance; also, that the Commonwealth Bank Bill, now before Parliament, is just another part of this plot, because this proposed Act provides that the Commonwealth is to borrow up to a further £24 million—

when it has the power to provide its own finance.

BANK-BILL PLOT

The view is held in many responsible quarters that this Bill is being promoted by powerful financial interests, in order that they may obtain more easy money by way of interest. The suggestion that it is to aid the primary producers is easily seen to be a smoke screen, because, if the present powers of the Commonwealth Bank are used, farmers can be fully assisted, free of interest. It is no wonder that thousands of citizens are sending letters of protest (Continued on page 8.)

CHANGE INEVITABLE

Do Economists See It Coming?

Taking into account the somewhat radical utterances emanating from professional economists during recent months, there is some foundation for a belief that they realise that the days of orthodox "sound finance" are numbered.

Last week we reported Professor Copland as saying that financial-control Governments were being replaced by political-control Governments. In the April issue of the *Economic Record*, journal of the Economic Society of Australia and New Zealand, Dr. Roland Walker, Professor of Economics at the Sydney University, in a paper entitled "Sound Finance," makes this surprising statement: ". . . If once the right to create money be exercisable at the discretion of the Government of the day, the Government of the day is thereby rendered independent of the 'monied interests.'"

IMPORTANCE OF THE DAIRYING INDUSTRY

The importance of the butter and dairying industry to Australia cannot be denied. It is the third largest industry. Capital invested in farms, stock, and equipment totals between £200,000,000 and £300,000,000. Butter factories, their buildings and equipment, represent another £6,000,000. In all, 600,000 people obtain their living, or rather—in view of other things which I shall mention—their existence, directly from the dairying

industry. A considerable number in secondary industries and trade are also dependent upon the dairy farmer. Butter factories pay out approximately £1,500,000 in wages.

Butter production is valued at £26,000,000, but it must be pointed out that Australian butter consumers are taxed in order to send £12,000,000 worth overseas. This takes place while the bulk of the Australian people go short because they lack sufficient of that mysterious thing called *money*—which is something that the primary producers do not produce.

CAUSE NOT DEALT WITH.

In order to make himself conversant with the subject under review, the present writer has spent many hours going through reports of meetings and conventions appearing in papers and magazines from all over Australia. The welter of discussion, which has taken place on this subject, is almost beyond belief. And yet most of the matter brought forward entirely misses the fundamental cause of the problem. However, there is one very outstanding exception. I refer to *The Queensland Producer*, which, in its issue of April 26 of this year reprinted an article from the *New Times* dealing with the matter, together with the following editorial note:

"It will doubtless be remembered that similar arguments have been advanced by the *Q.P.* during recent years, and the position, as set out in the *New Times* is (Continued on page 6.)

It is said, "Democracy thinks on its stomach." Unfortunately, this is true. Or perhaps fortunately, as the dairying industry throughout Australia has been galvanised into action by what is called "the margarine menace."

Unfortunately, the majority of those discussing the subject deal with "the margarine menace" as if it were a cause. Those who understand the money swindle realise that it is only an effect.

The most outstanding feature of the agitation, which according to press reports has aroused the dairy farmers in six States as never before, has been the decision of the Central Rivers District Council at Kempsey, N.S.W., in the heart of Sir Earle Page's electorate of Cowper, to utilise the electoral campaign or "pressure politics" tactics. Widespread publicity has been given to this move in the New South Wales press. The "Sydney Sun" reports that never before have the dairymen organised in such a fashion.

Although this campaign is not aimed direct at the fundamental cause of all the trouble, its success would bring Sir Earle Page under the control of his electors and provide a valuable demonstration of pressure politics. Writing this "on the spot," I can assure "New Times" readers that things are certainly going to happen in this electorate.

But Some in N.S.W. Start Action Along Correct Lines

"HURRY UP" FOR SIR EARLE PAGE?

By ERIC D BUTLER

DEMOCRACY AND THE STATE

Translated from an article in German, published in "Freies Deutschland," the organ of the German Opposition

Among the strange phenomena of a pretty crazy world can be counted the undoubted fact that, in all countries without exception, the politicians, the great daily newspapers, and the other organs of public instruction always present democracy in a false light. The agreement in this respect is so remarkable, and the methods are so cunning, and so alike, that one can hardly object when people believe that they are dealing with a conspiracy, a conscious misrepresentation.

Further, one can take it for granted that we are today witnesses of an undermining of the capacity of the people for resistance to a major attack upon their liberty—that is, upon the limited measure of freedom which had been achieved in many countries. Obviously, if a people hold a totally wrong opinion about the basic principles of democracy, it is not so difficult to force upon it the contrary principles.

A CONSPIRACY

The possibility that a conspiracy against the rights and liberties of the peoples is in existence must be seriously considered, for its symptoms appear, not only in the totalitarian States, but even in those States which still pass as democratic. It is, therefore, a duty for all who have at heart man's freedom and the cultural and material progress, which is so closely bound up with it, to combat every misrepresentation.

TWO VIEWPOINTS

According to the totalitarian view of life, man serves the State. In a democracy the State serves man. This latter rests upon a Greek, European, New Testament, Christian conception; the first upon an ancient-Egyptian, Asiatic, Old Testament, ancient-Jewish one. In Germany even the scapegoat of the Old Testament has appeared again. That Judah itself has become the scapegoat cannot, however, be represented as justification of a 3000-year-old piece of brutality.

In order to be better able to pass judgment upon these two views of life it is necessary to be clear about the purpose of all institutions and associations such, for example, as the State. In a country, which is developing in a natural manner, there are athletic clubs, music societies, tennis clubs, etc., in which certain people associate in order to exercise, to sing, or to play tennis. They associate in order to do this better, and perhaps more cheaply. By means of voluntary submission to a few rules they receive individual advantages, which make possible or easier for each one exercise, music, or tennis. The association exists only to serve the members.

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

As soon as a member no longer wishes to associate he has perfect freedom to withdraw. A tennis club, which, by compulsion, consisted of footballers, would be abominable.

Now the State is just such an association, if on a somewhat larger scale than the associations, which have been mentioned. It is quite natural for there to be many small associations, which are concerned with questions of tastes and aims, which exist in only a few people. The greater the field of interest the greater the association.

In this present world of specialised work in every sphere there are in all countries three conditions necessary for the existence of the State: politico-military security, the possibility of a market for its own production, and the possibility of sharing according to desire, in the enjoyment of the products of others.

STATE MUST SERVE

The State must therefore offer to the individual protection against attack from a neighbouring State, and must be so organised, economically, that every citizen can give of his best to every other one, and receive from him food and luxuries. The State in itself is a pure abstraction; it is a question of an association of a great number of human beings who endeavour, by this means, to achieve the necessary military and economic security.

Individual has joined with individual, people have formed States, because only by this means could co-operation be achieved. The State is a "means" which was invented, or simply developed, in order to serve its members. St. Francis Assisi said, "Means elevated to an end is a sin"; and he was right. The State is only a means.

MEN AND INSTITUTIONS

The fundamental misconceptions of today have their roots in that struggle between man and institutions, which is being waged before our wondering eyes. On the one side are men with their just aims; on the other are institutions, means, abstractions. The individual who has once grasped this knows at once on which side he must stand—and act. Unfortunately these people, mentioned above, who have conspired against humanity, prevent the majority of their victims from obtaining a clear picture of the true conditions.

We cannot possibly know the real goal of mankind; but whatever it may be, it is to be achieved most rapidly and most effectively through the free development of the character of every individual human being. Such development is only possible within a democratic State.

MEANS AND ENDS—A VITAL DISTINCTION

In the true democracy, as in every other association, the aims and objects of the State are subject to the supervision and authority of the citizens. This State must be served by a functioning aristocracy; the masses have no right to meddle with means, much less to prescribe means. The body politic lays down what is to be achieved, and the aristocracy of officials, industrialists, etc., must know how the goal can best be reached.

This aristocracy, however, has absolutely no right to impose upon the body politic a goal, which has not been confirmed in democratic fashion. The goal is to be determined, even dictated, by the citizens. To attain the goal is the duty of the aristocracy. Ends and means must remain separated; the

"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:

"Though the probability of the Commonwealth Bank Act Amendment Bill being placed in "cold storage" until next Parliamentary session suggests ample time to effectively oppose it, campaigners are urged not to let up on their present activities.

"In view of the possibility of other important, though less vital issues clouding the vision of the public at the present time, it is essential that we continue to educate the people; firstly, as to the true character and function of the Commonwealth Bank; secondly, to the danger of the proposals embodied in the Bill now before Parliament; and thirdly, to the urgent necessity of generating an expression of public opinion against these or any similar proposals designed to deprive the people of their ownership of the Bank.

"That the dissemination of such indisputable facts as are contained in the specially prepared "Hands off the Commonwealth Bank,"

distinction between them must be kept brilliantly illuminated.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM

Such a State must, however, exhibit not only spiritual, intellectual and political freedom, but also economic freedom.

It has already been stated that the advances in purely material fields, such as science and industry, the ways and means of adapting the forces of nature to the service of mankind, have made it possible for every citizen to enjoy a considerable measure of economic freedom, to be set free from want and economic subjection. In spite of the possibility no such State yet exists—this must be the next goal of a free mankind.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Political power must be transferred absolutely to the people, so that the last word rests with the individual in his totality. Economic independence, however, is a pre-requisite for the exercise of political power.

To reach this goal a struggle is essential. In many countries this struggle has been raging for 20 years, in circumstances, which are opening the eyes of more and more people, and making them see that the whole future of mankind hangs upon the victory. The front-line fighters on the side of humanity must, however, be clear in their own minds as to what the goal is, how the enemy fights, and, above all, what democracy really is.

broadsheets will have lasting effect, is proved by subsequent enquiries and contacts made. In surveying work done, we consider that the best results have been obtained where these broadsheets have been supplied, and that in the final analysis one broadsheet has been worth dozens of signatures. Campaigners selling these at one penny per copy have met with splendid results, and all actionists are urged to carry a few with them.

"Indications point to the necessity of a special effort in Country Party electorates, whilst, as a result of anti-Bank Bill articles appearing recently, the matter is fresh in the mind. Country people are urged to see that action is taken in their particular localities. When sending in signed letterforms, would supporters please include sufficient to cover postage of same to Members?"

"Another successful drive was carried out in Melbourne last Friday by Mrs. W. Kerr, ably assisted by Mrs. Shambrook, when another batch of signatures were secured and a large number of

PROCRASTINATION IS THE THIEF OF TIME

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

broadsheets were sold, at a table at Elsternwick. These efforts have proved that the public heartily responds when approached, and that this method brings positive and far-reaching results. A similar drive will be undertaken this Friday afternoon and evening (16th June), at Prahran; those wishing to assist are asked to ring MU 2834 immediately.

"The demand for the booklet, "The Story of the Commonwealth Bank," has been so great that the latest edition is now sold out, but the earlier edition by the same author, D. J. Amos, is available at the reduced price of 5d per copy (posted), and is regarded as the best obtainable on this subject.

"The special broadsheet is available at one penny per copy, or 8d per dozen, posted. Letterforms at 1/2 per 100, posted. All enquiries, and orders accompanied stamps or P.Ns., should be addressed to Hon. Sec., "Save the People's Bank" Campaign, Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne."

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THE NEW CRIMINAL

By "THE WALRUS," in the "New World," Brisbane

A new menace has evidently sprung up in our midst. Truly, Government must be a difficult business these days. But perhaps I had better put the reader in possession of the facts.

According to the Rockhampton "Morning Bulletin" of May 20, two cases were tried on the same day by the same magistrate. One concerned the activity of a light-fingered gentleman, who, in one day's pilfering, accumulated cash and goods to the value of £8 or £9. The other concerned the crime of a relief worker—a married man with three children—who failed to own up to certain earnings, and, in consequence, obtained £6/4/6 more than he was entitled to under the Act.

The attitude of the bench towards these two cases helps us to apprehend the nature of the serious menace to our industrial fabric with which we are threatened. Of the light-fingered gentleman, the P.M. is reported to have said: "He seemed to have passed his life in crime. However . . . to give him a chance, he would be bound over."

On reading that, I naturally thought: "What oh! The bench will be giving a pianola, or, at least, a dual-wave wireless set to the relief worker's family." But it didn't. He was ordered to pay back £10/2/6, including £3/18/- costs, or go to prison for eight weeks.

WORK-STEALING

How thoroughly the authorities grasp the enormity of work-stealing, is borne out not only by this instance, but by another instance in Rockhampton over a year ago, when a relief worker was ordered to refund £8/7/6 or become the guest of the Government for six weeks. On that occasion the P.M. remarked: "Daylight robbery. That's what it is." Not mere burglary, you remark. Certainly the P.M. on that occasion was dealing with a desperado of a most perverted kind. The work snatcher had failed to reveal the extraordinary fact that his old dad was earning more than the basic wage. In bygone days the boast usually was, "My daddy earns more'n your'n." Goodness knows what this young scamp was prepared to say about his dad's earnings. He was certainly old enough to know better. Old enough to fight for his country and go to prison anyway.

"RIGHT TO WORK"

It is evident that this work-stealing business has got to be stopped. The democratic principle of the right to work, and the right to be denied work, must be protected at all costs. Unless it is, whatever will become of us when machinery finally does everything, and the only jobs available are those of the machine minders? You have to be far seeing, and gifted with a sense of proportion to sit on a bench nowadays. Burglary, barratry, arson, and robbery with violence after all make no more than an occasional ripple on the surface of such a civilisation as ours; but this persistent snatching of the pick and shovel might well lead to serious and widespread trouble.

PLAYFUL ORDEAL

I suppose it is because the ruling powers realise how covetous men will become of wielding the pick and shovel, especially in the tropical belt, that they have refrained from making the punishment fit the crime. When a man with a zero banking account and three or four dependents is suddenly faced with the alternative of forking out a tenner or going to prison, he is apt to be reckless of the rate payers' money, and choose prison, for he is usually of the improvident kind, and seldom hoards his illicit earnings. If it were not for pandering to his

DON'T SPEND A PENNY—

without consulting the "New Times" Shopping Guide.

covetousness the authorities might well be guided by army procedure in certain cases. The most appropriate is that which requires the offender to dig a hole of exact dimensions, and to fill it in again, tamping down and levelling off exactly; then to proceed to another selected spot and repeat the process. This procedure has the advantage of harmonising with "our modern civilisation" by bringing in a playful ordeal of man's creative spirit. The idea could be further adapted by requiring the prisoner to remove all the material he was instrumental in placing on the road, and to make him cart it back again to the quarry. Only, as we say, it seems evident from his enthusiasm to seize the pick and shovel, that he would probably enjoy doing it, and indulgences must be reserved for the lesser criminals.

RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTHOOD

There is another feature brought into prominence by the action of the bench, which will be approved by all believers in the present fitness of things, and that is the serious responsibility entailed by parenthood. It is even more serious than most parents realise. In the hearing of the case of the relief worker whose Dad was unaccountably receiving more than the basic wage, it was made clear that in similar circumstances and, regardless of age, a single man is entitled to free board, lodging and clothing, at home. Indeed, it seems remarkable that the authorities were not empowered to prosecute the father for siring and harbouring an individual with the pick and shovel complex, particularly as if the fine were paid at all, it would be he who would most likely pay it. But if this is an oversight on the part of democracy, it will doubtless be rectified.

NO JOKE

I sometimes think that possibly we are inclined to laugh at the wrong things. When I first heard the story of the youngster of sixty who was chastised by his dad for throwing stones at his granddad, I jumped to the conclusion that it was a joke, even if I didn't laugh. But I now perceive that it wasn't a joke at all, but a statement of a national objective in all soberness.

When all things are considered, the action of the Government in abolishing work for relief purposes is perfectly consistent, if not with the needs of the people, at any rate with the Government's view of those needs. It will at least help those to whom WORK is the "vision splendid" to avoid paying the price that visionaries pay.

REGIMENTING WOMEN

By LEONORA POLKINGHORNE

It seems pretty clear that while the world is in the stranglehold of a money system that keeps many sections of society in a state of slavery, there will be a deal of regimenting anyway, and this process becomes intensified when its various anomalies and absurdities come to a head, and we have a "crisis."

Crises of various sorts are the inevitable consequence of a shortness of cash, or whatever stands for it, and, naturally, those who are most dependent economically get the full blast of the storm.

When the crisis is a war alarm, the born regimenter has a grand time. When everyone, more or less, is in uniform, when bands are playing, and community-singing of patriotic songs is going full blast under a conductor's baton, and citizens are signing up and enrolling (no matter for what) he is in his glory. What it is all going to lead to he doesn't ask.

Particularly does the regimenting of women appeal to him. The stubborn individuality of women annoys him—the way they refuse to "line-up" or fail to "get the team-spirit" arouses his disgust. If he could only stamp out this regrettable tendency to break away and stand alone, which is characteristic of the sex, he feels that the world would be a better place, or, at any rate, an easier one for persons like himself. He need only scent a distant war to get going. In fact, distant wars suit him best; the real thing is too messy.

WOMEN IN GERMANY

Hitler seems to be one of these. Into his dream world where everyone looks alike, thinks alike (which means doesn't think at all), dresses in uniform, and marches in strict time, the women simply won't fit. Most ungrateful of them—after all the trouble he has taken to give them a place in his great stud farm. It isn't working out according to schedule. He-who-knows - what - is - good - for - everybody knew that all a woman wants is a husband and a house to keep clean, so did his best to get just that for every German woman, but statistics, economics, and human nature were all against him. In the first place, statistics reveal that there are a great many more women than men in Germany, so strict adherence to his plan would have meant plurality of wives, a thing that even his boldly adventurous spirit balked at. Then, like many Australians, he imagined that industry could do without women altogether. He forgot that at one time industry was supplied by women in the home, and that the industrial revolution sent those same women into factories, where they operated delicate machines better than men. Then the drafting of as many able-bodied men as possible into the army did not go side by side with robbing industry of women workers.

Dr. Clifford Kirkpatrick, Professor of Sociology in the University of Minnesota, U.S.A., in his book, "Woman in Nazi Germany," says that the marriage propaganda and marriage loans make girls none too discriminating in choosing their husbands, and the marry-at-any-price philosophy may not further the welding together of congenial personalities necessary for family stability. Also, the back-to-the-hearth ideal has only ended in an increase in the number of women working outside the home, owing to "national economic necessity." He says: "It is a paradox that love of German mothers does not save them from the task of making shells to kill the sons of other mothers . . . There is hard work to be done under the Four-Year-Plan to make Germany economically independent, and women workers are still

doing tasks which gynecologists would not approve."

Moreover, divorce is much on the increase, and the Leader has made the annoying discovery that even dictators cannot regiment the heart, soul and mind. So the best-laid schemes of dictators and men "gang aft agley,"

IT CAN'T BE DONE

The fact is that you can't regiment women—not successfully. Their economic dependence does, indeed, force them to come under such schemes, but the result is not gratifying. Women are individualists. They can combine of *their own volition* for a cause in which they are vitally concerned; but any "eyes right," goose-stepping arrangement for women is simply ludicrous, however suitable for men. They are just not like that, and the late Mr. Lyons must have known it when he said that there would be no compulsory register for women in this time of "national emergency." His marriage must have taught him something. If women could be conditioned and regimented, as some men would like to see them, the world would be a horrible place indeed.

There are plenty of would-be Hitlers, of course. They write to the daily papers every day. They know what to do with "our women," and tell the world so: They must "return to the home." They do not say how this is to be done, and, fortunately for them, they are not Hitler, and do not have to bear the responsibility of their opinions; but, if they did, they, too, would learn that statistics, economics and human nature are also against *them*.

ACTIONISTS!

SAVE TIME AND TALK.
USE THE BEST METHOD.
Sell them a "Hands Off the Bank" broadsheet for one penny. Obtainable at 8d per doz. (posted) from "Save the People's Bank" Campaign, Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne.

URGENT!

CALLING ALL
CAMPAIGNERS!

An Important Meeting of all Campaigners will be held at the Youth Section Rooms, 5th Floor, Chartres House (next Metro), 165 Collins Street, at 8 p.m., NEXT WEDNESDAY, June 21.
Urgent Business to Discuss
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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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WHAT'S WRONG WITH AUSTRALIA?

Headed "An Amazing Rebuff," a plaintive leading article in last Friday's "Age," indicates that the "Age" is as much in the dark about the ways of the "City" of London, or pretends to be, as it is in regard to the nature of real democracy.

The rebuff was obvious, as the "Age" correctly points out, but the "New Times" does not find it any more amazing than the customarily colossal "hide" of financial interests in other directions. The following three factors alone provide a sufficient explanation of the rebuff.

Firstly, Australians are challenging the dictatorship of finance more and more strongly of late and are rapidly developing a grim determination—which the "Age" describes as "political terrorism"—to shape their own destiny, to DEMAND, through their parliamentary representatives, those physically possible results which they desire, but which scarcity-finance has so long denied them.

Secondly, there has been too much talk here, even in Government circles, of expanding credit (increasing the money-supply) for the liking of the prophets of money-scarcity in the City of London.

Thirdly, the publicly owned Commonwealth Bank has actually "come to light" more than once recently when the private debt-merchants said nay. Although this involved no break with the sacred mechanism of debt-finance, and even improved the equally sacred "liquidity" of private trading banks in Australia, it was indicative of a tendency to obtain "funds" without private financial interests directly dominating or directly benefiting.

As so very few of our readers can bring themselves to read the "Age," we place on record, for their information and amusement, the plaintive wail referred to. It ran thus

"Whatever technical reasons are adduced for the failure of the London loan, the fact that four-fifths was left in the underwriters' hands admits of inferences disturbing to many people in this country. The rebuff, following that of last year, when only one-third of a £7,000,000 loan was subscribed, might have a salutary effect if it restored the earlier resolve to cease borrowing in London except for conversions and strictly unavoidable purposes. In view of the well-nigh unique record of Australia as a borrower, whose debt service has been unfailingly prompt and regular, it seems inexplicable that when the Commonwealth goes on the London market for assistance in a difficult time it should be so cold-shouldered. The result is all the more astounding when every penny of the £6,000,000 sought was to be spent in Britain, and huge sums are offered without hesitation to other Dominions and foreign countries.

"Almost at the same time as the Australian failure, loans were successfully raised by South Africa and Northern Ireland. Although South Africa offered only £5,000,000 for subscription at 3½ per cent, the applications totalled over £63,000,000, and the lists were open only fifteen minutes. A British loan of £15,000,000 was part of the agreement made with Turkey. When Czechoslovakia was dismembered the British Government made £10,000,000 available to that unfortunate country. A year ago Canada obtained a London loan of 140 million dollars, or, roughly, £35,000,000 in Australian money, at 2 per cent, the sum being oversubscribed in half an hour. Australia offers 4 per cent, with unimpeachable security, for a £6,000,000 loan, and is met with an almost hostile reception. A few weeks ago the British Government guaranteed two British banks against losses in subscribing half of a £10,000,000 loan to support the Chinese dollar in the currency war against the yuan, which the Japanese are attempting to put into circulation in China. A recent report on British investments in South America declares that £547,000,000 of the stocks of Argentine, Brazil and Mexico are giving no return, and have been in default for years. In 1938 the interest received was lower in proportion and amount than ever before, and represented only 1.2 per cent, on outstanding capital of £821,300,000 invested in Government bonds and railway stocks.

"Such contrasts are frankly puzzling to the people of Australia, who are not aware of any grounds on which their credit might be questioned."

The remainder of the article amounted to a suggestion that we should restrict British exports into this country so that our London funds could stand the purchasing of instruments of war from the international dealers-in-death, enabling us to defend this particular slave plantation of the international dealers-in-debt for them. Ye Gods!

One thing, at any rate, wrong with Australia is the Melbourne "Age."

WATCHDOGS ASLEEP?

Something the (Sup)press Didn't Suppress

This is the second time in a week that a report of a sensible utterance, unfavourable to the "status quo," has slipped in to the columns of the Melbourne "Herald." Wonders never cease. Under the heading, "Paradox of Poverty in Age of Plenty," the "Herald" of Tuesday night last published the following report:

The only way to solve the slum problem was to solve the problem of poverty first; the City Health Officer (Dr. John Dale) told the University Public Questions Society in an address on slums this afternoon.

To destroy slum houses and build new ones for their occupants was often dangerous, he said. In their new homes the former slum dwellers spent less on food and their death rate increased enormously.

It was now practicable to solve the problem of poverty, because we had reached an era where we had an abundance of all the common essentials of health.

In terms of real wealth, and as a result of science, we were living in an age of plenty.

However, it was a paradox most

of our leaders refused to face. At least 10 per cent, of Melbourne's population was destitute or near destitution, tens of thousands living in "tunnel" houses in the central suburbs, which in many ways were worse than the "back-to-back" houses in the Black Country in England.

Replying a question, Dr. Dale said only a few houses had been built at Fishermen's Bend, and the lucky few who had been chosen for them had probably had to be picked from out of a hat from thousands of applicants.

The Housing Commission would continue to demolish slums, and build new homes from time to time, he concluded; but the only real solution would be by providing the poor with means sufficient to enable them to purchase decent accommodation.

THE ENGINEER AND THE BANKER

Professor Lancelot Hogben Says Money System Is Not Based On Natural Laws

In the course of a recent address, Professor Hogben said:

"The engineer bases his case on the balance-sheet of human effort, materials, and natural resources, expressed in the established equivalence between the various physical units of heat, kinetic energy, and potential energy. If it is complete the balance sheet will include the necessary minimum of calorie debt involved in the human activity of administration. It need not include the large wastage of calories involved in maintaining the body heat, sudorific and motor activity of speculators, solicitors, and a multiplicity of middlemen. When the thermodynamic balance-sheet shows that the result of adopting a new process is to increase the free energy of the social system, and the social system operates to pile up a caloric debt of human effort in the manufacture of poison gas, thermite bombs, gas masks and subterranean concrete shelters, the intellectual flunkeys of the cosmopolitan financier exempt neither themselves nor us from the universal conservation of energy by asserting that the new process will not 'pay.' All they contribute to the discussion is the information that they agree among themselves to use the verb to pay, in an anti-social sense. *In effect, they tell us that the system of costing adopted by the Bank of England does not exhibit the social adjustment of human effort to available sources of free energy. That is another way of saying that the existing credit system is not based on the laws of nature, like*

the accountancy of the engineer and biologist, and that it is our rational business to socialise the banks. As the word is used in its anti-social sense by the academic apologists of salesmanship, the armament industry 'pays' better than a system of scientific food production, socially planned to meet the known dietetic minimum needs of a population." [Our italics.]

CHANGE INEVITABLE

(Continued from page 1.)
and other variables are effectively controlled, credit expansion has no dangers."

During discussion, Professor Copland asked, "whether a deliberate transfer of resources would not be necessary to carry out a large defence programme? It might not be possible to induce the necessary changes by purely fiscal methods." In simple language, this proposal means barter exchange.

Professor Belshaw also contributed what must be disconcerting to the Money Monopoly when he said: "If a Government could borrow from the central bank, its political position would be improved, since it could demonstrate that it had given an advantage to a section of the community at no cost."

It is not likely that professional economists would venture to express unorthodox ideas if there were not recognition that orthodoxy had failed and radical changes have, of necessity, to be introduced into the system.

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A LOVELY MESS!

Floundering in a Financial Bog

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir, —The servile press has been gradually preparing us for an atmosphere of financial emergency, and we have been told that funds are so short and our financial "resources" so taxed that the greatest difficulty will be experienced in meeting the needs of the defence programme. Not only so, but even this will involve "sacrifices" on the part of the people. Last week it was asked, "Who will get the proceeds of the sacrifices?" and this question should be put to every politician in the country. As a citizen, I have had no benefit whatever from these so-called sacrifices. The only sacrifice of any use to me was the sacrifice by my mother of the things she should have been enjoying, so that I and other members of the family could have a little more. That is typical of all families where the income is limited, and it is a fact that most Australian mothers are continually sacrificing themselves for their children. In these cases, however, they can see their children getting the benefit of their effort, but WHO gets the benefit of community "sacrifices"? The question is WHO?

BUSINESS AGAIN BAD

Once again our businessmen are up against it. Demand for the goods they have to sell is falling off, and they are faced with the necessity of dismissing their workers, in order to reduce "costs." Demand is falling off because less money is circulating in the community. Less money is circulating in the community because prices have fallen overseas and banks are restricting credit. Prices have fallen overseas because of the action of the controllers of the banking system (see Paragraph 93 of the Banking Commission's Report), and credit is being restricted because the local banks have pretended to lend money they did not have to such an extent that their liabilities to the public are far greater than they are in the position to meet if called upon. This situation leads to a tightening of the money market and the calling in of overdrafts. When overdrafts are called in it means that those who have the overdraft must make an effort to collect money from the community and hand it in to the banks. When it is handed in to the banks the overdraft is cancelled and that much money goes out of existence. That means that that much money LESS is in use, and that that much less is available to the people with which to make purchases. It can only come out again as further DEBT to the bank, but the bank will not permit it to come out until its "liquid" position has been improved—i.e., until its liabilities to the public have been so reduced that it feels in the position to resume the creation of further credit. So we experience what is called the "cycle."

AVOIDING REVOLUTION

But the system has become so strained that unless money is kept moving in some way or another there would be revolution, and our wise leaders would get hurt. To avoid that, we have the armaments race, and so long as we can be kept in a state of nervousness about the intentions of certain "leaders" in other countries we will be willing to put up with almost anything in the sacred name of defence. We will be thinking so constantly of the possibility of war that we will not notice the further pawning of our country to its *internal* enemies, and the burdening of our children's children with an intolerable load of interest on the mounting national debt. In harmony with all this we even teach our children to prepare for the alleged inevitability of hardship and suffering. Only this morning (Sunday, June 11), the hymn for the children at the local Methodist church included the following verse: "When my work seems hard and dry,

May I press on cheerily;
Help me patiently to bear
Pain and hardship, toil and care."
This, of course, is quite contrary

to the words of Jesus, when He said: "I have come that ye might have life, and have it more abundantly." It is also contrary to the purpose of God's wonderful bounty of necessary things, and to the example of Jesus in healing the sick. But it helps to create the right atmosphere, so that, if our money supplies are curtailed to suit the purposes of a private monopoly, we will patiently bear the consequences and ask no questions.

NO SHORT CUTS

We are often being told by professional economists, bankers, politicians and the press that the cure is a long one, and that there are no short cuts to prosperity. Those who have studied the financial system know differently. A short cut HAS been found through every problem that mankind has ever come up against, and anyone who says there is no short cut out of this economic blizzard, crisis, chaos, or whatever else you like to call it, merely means that HE doesn't know one; that HE doesn't care whether there is one or not; and that HE doesn't really want one. Take particular notice of the gentlemen who speak in that way and trace out their personal interests. This will help you to understand what to many seems inexplicable. High Finance knows all this, but it also knows that a contented people would have nothing to do with war. A divided people is, therefore, a help to the machinations of the money monopolists, and the funny thing is that the churches have been their greatest helpers, notwithstanding the warning of Jesus that a house divided against itself cannot stand.

FIGURES MORE IMPORTANT THAN FOOD

Some readers might feel that that is ungenerous. It may be that the financiers are only trying to ensure the literal truth of the belief that the POOR shall ALWAYS be with us, even though the means to abolish poverty are right at our hands. It may be that God does intend poverty and misery to be perpetuated, and that HE does send in great profusion the things that would abolish poverty only to mock us. As much as 600,000 bags of coffee went "overboard" in one month in Brazil merely because it was not in harmony with the FIGURES prescribed by the financiers. The figures were more important than the food! Even God could not be allowed to interfere with sacred finance, and so His bounty was thrown back at Him and the poor remained poor. The short cut, which is also scientifically correct, is to increase the power of the people to buy by giving the nation enough money to purchase the goods it produces—i.e., to make the financial figures equal the production figures. That is pure arithmetic. But then it would give the people something for nothing.

and that is a privilege which must be reserved for those who receive legacies or dividends from companies. It would never do to extend the principle so that others could be comfortable also. That would do away with class warfare and make us a united nation. We only PRAY "Thy kingdom come." We do not MEAN it, of course!

HEAL THE SICK?

Look at it from another aspect: Not so long ago a man who had suffered a compound fracture of the leg could not get accommodation in the Melbourne hospitals. This quite properly led to strong criticism that such a disgraceful position should have been allowed to develop. The Premier of Victoria explained as follows:

"It is difficult to know how to provide an immediate remedy . . . Finance is the great difficulty. Not only would a large sum of money be required, but the question of paying interest on the sum BORROWED for such a purpose would be very serious." These wise leaders, who can think of nothing but borrowing! Borrowing WHAT and from WHOM? A piece of paper from the banking system! We cannot have hospitals to care for the sick unless we first obtain finance, and we can only obtain finance by BORROWING it from those who create it costlessly out of nothing. Figures and paper are more important than health.

A BEDTIME STORY

But what a state of affairs in a civilised country! Here we have the Premier of a State, representing the Sovereign Government of the State, elected by the PEOPLE of the State, saying that he cannot carry out the will of the people because he can't get the money, or, if he does get it, he can't pay for it. Who or what prevents him? Is this not a democracy? And is the Premier not bound only by the will of the people? Alas, dear friends, that is only another bedtime story. The Premier, representing the Government, is bound hand and foot by the few private financiers to whom has been surrendered the right to say just how much and how little of the will of the people shall be given effect to. And even the small portion which IS given effect to is only possible, subject to heavy and unnecessary annual tribute to the money manufacturers, the handful of men who control the creation, issue, recall, and destruction of OUR money.

MR. PLAYFORD NO DIFFERENT

The Premier of South Australia is no different in this respect from the Premiers of the other States. His only reply to the claim of the Society Working For a Christian Social Order that work at award rates should be found for all men willing and able to work, or, failing that, that the basic wage should be paid to all men whose work is not wanted, was to ask the question: "Who will provide the money?" Needless to say, he was quickly informed on this point, but here was a further official admission that the question was one of MONEY, not of work. He could carry out the will of the people of his State and be humane, if only he had the *money*, but he is one of the responsible public men who are completely silent in public about the fraud of the financial system. Instead of exposing it he actually supports it. He is one of the chief slaves of a system which makes it physically impossible for the people ever to get out of the clutches of the debt merchants, and forces the community into greater and greater poverty in the midst of material plenty. He is, therefore, a political marionette. He gets round all dressed up, but can do nothing at all for the common people. He can do only what the

controllers of finance permit and approve.

THE REAL GOVERNMENT

THEY, and they alone, determine how much money shall be in circulation at any time; how much the farmer shall get for his produce, and how much produce he may sell; whether the manufacturer shall succeed or fail; whether employees shall be retained or sacked; whether children shall be educated or illiterate; whether our aged and infirm shall have adequate subsistence or be forced to feed on husks; whether we shall take advantage of improved methods and new discoveries; what concessions shall be granted by our Arbitration Courts; what we shall have or shall not have; whether we shall have prosperity or depression; in fact, THEY determine everything relating to our physical needs. THEY get the proceeds of all community sacrifices. THEY are the sovereign government. All other Governments are only shepherds to keep the sheep quiet.

THE MISSING LINK

And what a tragic farce it all is. Everybody in this community knows and agrees that additional hospital accommodation, the removal of the slums, assistance to the primary producers, pensions to tubercular victims, and help to the needy of all kinds are urgently necessary, to say nothing of the very serious traffic and other problems literally screaming for attention. The Premier, in our name, acknowledges the need, but that is all. Plenty of land is available, waiting to be used. Material is here in abundance and the producers of the material are most anxious to supply it. Workers, the best in the world, would leap for joy if allowed to erect buildings for us. The need is pressing and everything is at hand except—Except what? MONEY—bits of paper and figures in books.

A DELUSION

While the halt and the lame go hang, we, supposed to be an enlightened and advanced democracy, allow a few private individuals so to manipulate these bits of paper and figures in books as to become virtual owners of everything. We meekly submit to their absolute dictation. Yet we like to think we are a Free people. IT IS A DELUSION. We are the bondmen of the Dictatorship of Finance. Nothing can be done without money, and we not only allow the absolute control of this to remain in private hands, but permit them to hold up the nation's legitimate development. Because of this, it is extremely difficult to enthuse about the belief of the Oxford Groupers that it is Dick, Tom and Harry's sin that is responsible for the mess we are in.—Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H BROWN

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(Continued on page 7.)

BUTTER INDUSTRY FACES CHAOS

(Continued from page 1.)

entirely in accordance with our views. The solution of the synthetic butter problem is obvious, as is also the fundamental cause."

Regarding the fundamental cause we can do no better than quote the same journal in its issue of June 15, 1938:

"As a matter of fact, as at present operated, the economic-financial system makes it practically impossible for the primary producers of the world to obtain prices for their commodities over a term of years which reflect actual costs incidental thereto. Hence their progressive impoverishment, and the need of bounties and other grants to keep them from going to the wall. This is also directly responsible for the restricted demand for foodstuffs, and the effect on world market prices. *The root of the trouble, of course, lies in the hopeless inadequacy of purchasing-power, and no attempt is being made to overcome the deficiency.*"

WHY DO PEOPLE EAT MARGARINE?

Possibly the most open admission from the orthodox press as to why people eat margarine in preference to butter was made by the *Sydney Telegraph* on March 9 of this year, when it said: "They eat it [margarine] because they can't afford to buy butter." It will be readily understood why so many people can't afford to buy butter when we know that the last Commonwealth census revealed that 63 per cent of the breadwinners got less than £3 per week. The *real cause* of the "margarine menace" is not the duplicity of hotel, cafe or boarding-house keepers, but is, primarily, the fact that our rotten financial system arbitrarily restricts the money supply of the community.

As to who creates and regulates the bulk of our money supply, that needs very little investigation. Let me briefly quote the Bank of England's journal, *Branch Banking*, which, in an editorial, states: "There are enough substantial quotations in existence to prove to the uninitiated that banks do create credit without restraint, and that they do create within themselves the means of repayment." In other words, the bulk of our money supply exists as figures in bank ledgers, operated upon by cheques. Dairy farmers can create *real wealth* "until the cows come home," but they can't create *money*.

Perhaps the most ironical example of the futility of the present approach to the problem was given at a meeting in Gippsland, Victoria, some two months ago, when a Mr. G. Bowden stated that grocers in a principal town had been approached and asked not to sell margarine. *Their reply was that 90 per cent of the people who bought margarine were dairy farmers.* Comment is superfluous. However, we might well ask: "Where is this 'prosperity' we have been, and are still, hearing so much about?" Not with the dairy farmers, it seems.

THE REAL MENACE

If, instead of spending time at meetings discussing "the menace of synthetic wool" or "the menace of margarine, the primary pro-

ducers discussed the menace of the present money system," they would be taking a big step towards economic emancipation for themselves and the rest of the community. They would then find themselves relieved of the present slave conditions under which they and their families exist.

Early in 1938, after spending a few weeks on a dairy farm in Gippsland in order to get first-hand knowledge of the industry, I made some pertinent observations in an article published in the *New Times* under the title, "Slavery In Gippsland." I mentioned that in some places children had to do their share of the milking before leaving for school.

From what I can gather, the same thing can be found on the North Coast of New South Wales. Discussing the matter with a schoolteacher at Taree, he mentioned how one of his boys arrived late (at 10 a.m.) one morning. Upon being questioned, the boy said that he was sorry to be late, but the family had slept-in until 4 a.m. Milking, therefore, finished later than usual. Although possibly an extreme case, it is a damning indictment of the conditions imposed by the present money system.

PRESSING PAGE.

After perusing a detailed report of the Central Rivers District Council's last quarterly meeting, the writer feels that they are at least moving in the right direction. One speaker mentioned that 1300 farmers had gone off the land in the past 12 months. No wonder he suggested that something should be done.

Possibly the most important resolution passed at the meeting was one moved by Mr. McLaughlin. It read as follows: "That we definitely refuse to admit the claim that butter substitutes have any place in the economy of Australia while we have an over-abundance of dairy products, and we further declare our conviction that any inability to purchase those products at a price remunerative to producers is due to Government inefficiency."

As the Federal Government, through the Commonwealth Bank, has the power to make more purchasing power available to the Australian people, so that they can buy all the goods produced (at remunerative prices), this charge of Government inefficiency is most

appropriate. However, the most significant matter dealt with was the decision to openly use electoral campaign pressure against Sir Earle Page. The following demand-letter form being issued is of interest: "To Sir Earle Page,

"As an elector of Cowper, and deeply concerned for the welfare of the Dairy Industry, I now demand that you take prompt action to protect this industry against the menace of Butter Substitutes. Failing such action, I pledge myself to vote against your re-election.

"(Signed)"

As mentioned before, this is not aimed directly at the fundamental cause, but if the electors once realise their power through this matter, it is only another step to get the same action in demanding that the Commonwealth Bank be used for the purpose of making available to the people sufficient additional purchasing - power to enable them to consume as much butter as can be produced or is desired. And when we realise that Australian consumption of butter per head worked out at about 9½ ozs per week for 1935-36, while we exported 174,109,146 pounds, we see that the consumption of another 8 ozs per week per head would leave nothing for export out of that volume of production.

SIGNIFICANT STATEMENT.

The repercussions of this move of the dairy farmers has more than perturbed the Country Party. One of the most significant statements made in the Federal House when the matter was brought up a couple of weeks ago, was one by Mr. Lane, U.A.P. The *Sydney Morning Herald* of Saturday, June 3, reports him as saying: "that the only reason that this matter had been brought up was because electors of Richmond and Cowper said that they would obtain new parliamentary representatives if something was not done about margarine." I think that Mr. Lane would also bring the matter up if his electors threatened him with the same fate being threatened for Sir Earle Page.

However, it is very encouraging to see that Sir Earle is getting interested. Possibly he hasn't quite forgotten the vigorous campaign on the National Insurance issue in his electorate. There appears to be very little doubt that we are going to see some real action in Cowper, and should Sir Earle Page be replaced because of failure to do something for his electors, I suppose we won't lose much sleep over it.

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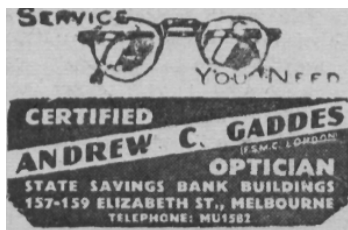
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Queensland Electoral Campaign

The Director reports:

It is not easy to invent a new language, which everyone can understand, but electoral campaigners are the teachers of a new language.

It is surprising how rapidly the new words, and old words in new dress, are being assimilated by the people.

It is one of the unexpected pleasures of crusaders to meet these words cropping up in the most unlikely places, and from the most unlikely people.

The executive officers of one of the most active women's organisations in Queensland are using the new language in their approach to M.L.A.'s, aldermen and staid permanent officials, and the reaction to this approach is both unique and amusing. This organisation is producing results, which other organisations have failed to obtain.

Mr. H. V. Eastaughffe, of Murgon, and Mr. G. H. Anderson, of Kingaroy, are doing splendid work through the broadcasting station, 4SB, Kingaroy, every Wednesday at 8.30 p.m., and some splendid addresses on monetary reform are given. All listeners should avail themselves of the valuable information supplied. Letters are arriving from all parts of Australia expressing appreciation of the service.

The chairman of the Douglas Shire Council called a public meeting at Mossman on May 14 to devise ways and means of solving the unemployed problem in that shire. There were over 300 people present, including representatives from practically every organisation in the district. The following resolution was carried unanimously:

"That this meeting of citizens and representatives of various organisation in Mossman district express, through their State and Federal Parliamentary representatives, its desire that the Federal Government give effect to the advice of the Royal Commission on Banking and Finance, and issue all the credit necessary for the purpose of carrying out all public and semi-public services free of interest and free from debt, and that the people of this district pledge themselves to support the Parliamentary representatives while carrying out the wishes of the electors."

This is a clear indication of the awakening of the people in the far North.

An amusing incident occurred recently. A new arrival in a suburb found the street in a shocking condition. Inquiries were made, and the head of the department responsible for repairs was located. He was requested by telephone, and promised to have the work done. A letter was also sent to the Town Clerk the same day. As the men were not on the job the following day, this official

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was again 'phoned and reminded of his promise. He was rung up twice daily for eleven days, and on the twelfth day the road gang arrived and completed the work. Five weeks afterwards a letter was received from the Council advising that, as soon as the grader was available, the work would be done, and yet some aldermen wonder why some citizens are agitating for reform in civic administration.

We believe it is needless to mention that the person responsible for initiating this novel and effective method of getting work done was a woman. Try it; it will work.

ERIC BUTLER'S TOUR

Arrangements are well in hand for Mr. Eric D. Butler's tour of this State. He has been supplied with all available literature on the production of power alcohol, and, as he will visit the sugar areas and get first-hand information of this industry, he will be able, when he returns, to enlighten the Southerners and enlist their support for the establishment of the necessary plants for the production of this commodity in this State. We have the materials; why not use them, instead of importing others?

Mr. Butler, who did such yeoman service in the National Insurance Campaign, arrived in Brisbane on Wednesday last to assist in the fight against the Commonwealth Bank Act Amending Bill and other matters. He addressed a public meeting in the School of Arts Hall, Brisbane, on Thursday (report in our next issue). He will leave by the Orungal for Cairns on Saturday. Mr. Mal Burns, of Mossman, has charge of the campaign in that area.

After completing his work in the Cairns district, Mr. Butler will proceed to Townsville, where Mr. W. F. Savage, 59 Walker Street, will have charge. Charters Towers will be visited if possible. Mr. Butler then goes to Ayr, where Mr. W. H. C. Hogan will be in charge. From there he will go to Bowen, Proserpine, and Mackay, if arrangements can be made at those places, and other places in those districts; thence to Rockhampton, where Mr. J. E. Harding will have charge. Bundaberg and Maryborough will then be visited, if suitable arrangements are made, after which he expects to spend about eight days visiting Mulgeldie, Monto, Biggenden, Gayndah, Murgon, Coulstoun Lakes, Kingaroy, and Nanango, and, perhaps, other centres in that area. Mr. A. E. Robinson, Coulstoun Lakes, will have charge of proceedings in that area. Gympie and Tewantin will then be visited if suitable arrangements are made, thence to Brisbane. From Brisbane he is expected to go to Ipswich, Toowoomba, Tara, Dalby, Warwick and Stanthorpe.

At this stage definite dates cannot be given, but those interested and desirous of having this gifted campaigner should immediately communicate with the director of the Electoral Campaign, 142 Adelaide Street, Brisbane.

The Electoral Campaign Appeal Fund, from which Mr. Butler's tour will be financed, has a credit of £60/6/6, and we have received a further donation of £1 from "W.J.C." As this will not be sufficient for the extensive tour planned, further donations are solicited. It is urgently desirable to give as many people as possible the benefit of hearing Mr. Butler's message.

OPPOSITION TO BANK BILL

Adelaide Town Hall Meeting

This recent meeting, attended by over 400 citizens, was very successful. The speakers were Mr. E. Dawes, secretary of the Australian Society of Engineers; Mr. D. J. Amos, F.A.I.S., president of the United Democrats (Non-Party); Mr. Bruce H. Brown, president of the Society Working for a Christian Social Order; and Miss A. Bromham, organising secretary, W.C.T.U. Mr. E. H. Hergstrom, J.P., occupied the chair.

Mr. Dawes dealt briefly with the history of the Bank, and detailed the usefulness of the Bank to the people of Australia in financing the War Services, Commonwealth Ships, Wheat and Wool Pools, and War Service Homes.

Mr. Amos dealt with other aspects of the Bank and its varied uses for the common good.

Mr. Bruce H. Brown dealt simply and most effectively with the subject of Money, and especially with the reality as to the actual nature of capital, in the financial sense. It is regretted that a verbatim report of this speech is not available.

Miss A. Bromham dealt with the Bank and its possible usefulness from the woman's point of view.

Over 100 people handed in names and addresses as willing to do a share in the urgent work of securing signatures to bring pressure to bear on their M.P.'s. A subsequent meeting of these workers was held, as a result of which action will be intensified.

Recently a seat and table were placed in the East End Market, Adelaide, where 200 signatures were collected and 400 other forms distributed during six hours. Application has been made to the City Council for permission to have two other tables in prominent parts of the city. We commend this method to those in other States who realise the need for urgency, and the necessity to maintain a constant flow of signatures to each Federal M.P.

Will all those who are anxious to hear the truth about the Commonwealth Bank Act Amending Bill over South Australian broadcasting stations please forward their donations immediately to The United Democrats, 17 Waymouth Street, Adelaide?

Letter to Editor AN ASSURANCE

Sir, —May I, through your columns, assure Mr. Paice of my complete concurrence with the principles he outlines? My proposal is put forward because my investigations among the workers have led me to believe that the demand for a better deal does exist at this moment, though in an inarticulate form, and that some such demand-form will permit the crystallisation of this silent desire.

The last thing I desire is to start an argument, but I do feel that we can only test what the public wants by means of experiments such as these.

May I take this opportunity of thanking all those who offered criticism or suggestions? As a consequence, several alterations in wording are being made. As soon as possible I will report progress, encouraging or otherwise, for the information of all interested. — Yours, etc.,

G. B. MALTBY.
Mordialloc, Vic.

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 6.)

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HUGE TAXATION SWINDLE!

(Continued from page 1.)

to their Federal Parliamentary representatives demanding that the Bill be dropped.

A TRAGIC BLUNDER

In view of the fact that many national development works have not been undertaken, and that social services, such as caring for our aged and infirm, have been dangerously restricted under the false plea of "no money," a charge of misadministration would be a mild one when the resultant poverty, hardship, insecurity, and even loss of life is considered.

BUSINESS COMMUNITY SHOCKED

Business leaders and executives who previously regarded heavy Federal taxation as inevitable, and accordingly resigned themselves to it, are now incensed to learn that they have been unnecessarily paying gigantic sums away, and that, therefore, the mental anxiety of trying to keep business on a paying basis has too often had no better reward than insolvency or health failure. It is, indeed, no wonder that such people regard the matter as a swindle of the worst kind.

CITIZENS DEMAND ACTION

Already citizens' groups of the "Tax Repeal League" are mobilising public opinion to see that this cruel injustice is righted, and that no further borrowing is permitted, especially the borrowing proposed in the Commonwealth Bank Bill. It is even possible that restitution of previous wrongful taxation will be asked for; on behalf of those with lower incomes especially. Business men, taxpayers' associations and newspapers are being approached and asked to do their duty by assisting in every way possible to clean up this public scandal, and to see that those responsible for it account for their actions—irrespective of who they may be.

MILLIONS OF PROTESTS

The "Tax Repeal League" is organising Commonwealth-wide action to see that millions of protest letters are sent to Federal Members. This method, it will be remembered, was successful in bringing about the defeat of the National Insurance Act, and is known as united electoral action, or pressure politics. Such action will appeal strongly, because it is constitutional, democratic and dignified. Moreover, it will be realised that electors owe a duty to themselves and their parliamentary representatives to make their wishes known — otherwise representatives cannot be expected to know what is required of them.

IT IS YOUR FIGHT

Each citizen should play his (or her) part in the campaign. You can obtain and distribute literature, send in a donation, follow future developments in the columns of the *New Times* (see that your friends do so, too), write a protest-letter to your Federal Member at Canberra, and see that your friends do likewise. Why not organise a local group?

Employers and employees can see that literature is distributed throughout factories and offices; as

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.

Melbourne Youth Section Notes

Supporters at OAKLEIGH, HIGHETT and KILMORE are asked to help make meetings at these centres successful and productive of a further spreading of the campaign. OAKLEIGH meeting is booked for Tuesday next (20th) at the hall, 37 Portman Street, at 8 p.m. A spectacular means of gaining publicity may be tried out on Friday night in and around Oakleigh. A report on its success (or otherwise) may be expected next week. On Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock, June 25, HIGHETT HALL, Highett Road, Highett (near station), Y.S. speakers will address a meeting, which is being arranged by "deeds-not-words" supporters in the district. Date for KILMORE is not yet fixed, but will be before the end of this month.

The Youth Section Rooms are on the Fifth Floor, Chartres House, Collins Street (next to Metro Theatre), and they are open on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

On Monday last a party of Y.S. members scrambled, slid, rolled, hiked and galloped in and around Werribee Gorge. These picnics are such an outstanding success that they are arranging to accommodate more people each time, and anyone who has a car and would like to join in the outings, and take a few passengers (petrol expenses are arranged for), is cordially invited to do so. Arrangements are on foot for another picnic in the near future, and the secretary of the Youth Section would like to be notified by all those who wish to join in.

More books and more borrowers are needed for the library. It is growing steadily, but slowly. After all, a library is expected to make progress in a dignified and leisurely, rather than a meteoric, manner. (Less chance of covers and leaves being mislaid that way!)

The Y.S. is rather proud of its speakers' class. It has reason to be—the class is providing the Youth Section with a steady increase in capable speakers. And there's plenty of room for more speakers. The class is held every Tuesday night at the Y.S. Rooms. Aspirants should come and indulge that suppressed and secret longing to talk to a sympathetic audience.

Due to the fact that last Friday night was the eve of the Hawthorn bye-election, street speaking was conducted in a slightly unorthodox, but undoubtedly, exciting manner, and the U.E.A. message was spread in no uncertain way. An interesting feature of this bye-election was the fact that every candidate disowned party domination.

It should also be to members of lodges, clubs, unions and churches. Many citizens can make arrangements for addresses to be given on the subject, can write to newspapers, journals, etc., or think up other angles of attack not mentioned here, and send their ideas to the honorary secretary of the League at the under-mentioned address. Literature, in suitable mixed quantities from one shilling's worth upwards, will be available. Donations will be gratefully acknowledged.

All communications and enquiries should be addressed to: Tax Repeal League, Room 9, Fifth Floor, McEwan House, 343 Little Collins Street., Melbourne, C.I. 'Phone: MU 2834.

ERIC BUTLER ON NORTH COAST OF N.S.W.

Leaving Sydney on Monday, June 5, Eric travelled north to Newcastle, where he lectured to a small group on Tuesday, June 6. Great interest was evinced in his summary of the general trends, and the issue of the *New Times* on the European situation was in great demand.

The next stop after Newcastle was at Taree, where Eric was met by "Pax" Toomey, who is doing some great work in the Cowper electorate. All day Thursday was spent in interviewing local businessmen, who were in a very receptive mood. The open-air meeting on Friday night was a great success, in spite of the low temperature. A loud-speaking outfit, made available through the generosity of a local businessman proved of great assistance. A stirring address, dealing particularly with the position of the dairying industry, got excellent results and many enquiries. Copies of the *New Times* were sold, and Eric can expect a great hearing in this area as he travels south, later in the year.

Before arriving in Brisbane, on Wednesday, June 14, he also addressed a very successful meeting at Lismore, N.S.W., dealing mainly with the Commonwealth Bank Bill. Reports of Eric's arrival in Brisbane, and the big meeting, which took place last night, will appear in our next issue.

AGAINST NATIONAL REGISTER

Town Hall Meeting at Coburg (Vic.)

At a well-attended meeting in the Coburg Town Hall on Tuesday, June 13, convened by the Coburg branch of the A.L.P., the speakers were Mr. C. Crofts, of the A.C.T.U.; Mr. N. Roberts, of the Engineers' Society; and Mr. McInness, of the Trades Hall executive.

After the speakers had outlined the National Register Bill and the Supply and Development Bill, and voiced their opposition to them, a resolution, setting out that, as those present believed the National Register Bill was a measure to implement industrial and military conscription, they would make every endeavour to defeat the Bill, and, should it become an Act, they pledged themselves to refuse to fill in the forms or to apply for them, was carried unanimously.

A further resolution, recommending that the Trades Union movement draft a suitable form letter, to be sent to M.H.R.'s, and to be made available to the general public through the medium of trades unionists in factories and workshops, was also carried unanimously.

A committee of citizens was formed from those assembled to give effect to the resolutions. The committee (quite a large number volunteered) will meet at the Labor Hall, Sheffield Street, on Sunday night next.

Several speakers from the body of the hall spoke in favour of a demand-letter campaign, and stressed the success of this method in connection with National Insurance. Speakers from the platform assured the people present that this method would receive the earnest consideration of the Trades Union movement.

Freedom Must Be Thought For

In the world as it is today there is the greatest possible need for clear thinking. There never was a time when the proper function of man—which is the incisive use of his brain—was more imperative.

Whether a man holds a high office or is the humblest of humble citizens, his one paramount duty is to think, to reason, and to guide his actions by the results of those thoughts.

There is no lack of people who are willing, and even anxious, to do your thinking for you. There has always been a good supply of such people don't work for nothing—until we wake up.

But you should remember that such people don't work for nothing. If they do your thinking for you, they expect a reward; and the reward they want is that you shall help them to grind whatever axe they happen to want sharpened!

It would be silly if it wasn't serious; but it's not silly, because, unless thought is opposed by thought, argument by argument, and ideas by ideas, there can be no such things as freedom and democracy.

Only can there be mental and spiritual slavery.

Freedom is only possible where men and women are willing to be free; and there can be no willingness to be free where there is unwillingness to think. Mental effort is the essential forerunner to democratic ease.

Anyone who lets another do his thinking for him is already in a state of spiritual slavery. It is but a brief step from that to physical dictatorship. For freedom is a heritage that must be thought for.

— From *John Bull*, London.

TALE OF TWO COWS

Socialism means that you keep one cow and give the other to your neighbour.

Communism means that you give both cows to the Government, which gives you back some of the milk.

Fascism means that you keep the cows, but give the milk to the Government, which gives some of it back.

New Dealism means that you shoot one cow, milk the other, and pour the milk down the sink. — *Raleigh News and Observer*.

UNITED ELECTORS

Women's Section Meeting

The Melbourne Women's Section of the United Electors of Australia will hold its next meeting in the U.E.A. Rooms, fifth floor, McEwan House, Little Collins-street, Melbourne, on Thursday, June 22, at 8 p.m. All women who are interested are invited to attend.

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