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Clears up Obstinate
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THE

NEW TIMES

"CATARRHEX"

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C. Stomachic.

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MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, JULY 21, 1939.

Every Friday, 3d

THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Should We Sign It?

One of the best brief comments on the National Register that has come before our notice appears on the front page of the latest issue of the "New World" (Brisbane). It reads thus:

"We have just seen a copy of the National Register Form, and what is far more important, we have seen the provisions of the Act itself. Before considering the Register, and the Act under which it is authorised, it would be well to consider the following statement made by the Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies, recently: 'Just as long as the world is to remain under arms, wondering when war is going to be forced upon it, just so long will representative institutions be endangered. SO WE MUST INTENSIFY AUTHORITY AND RESTRICT LIBERTY.' Give careful consideration to the latter portion of this statement; it explains much of what is to follow.

"The National Register Act makes a bad start. It states that it is 'To provide for the taking of a Census for the purpose of National Registration, for the establishment of a National Register, and FOR OTHER PURPOSES.' There is nothing whatever mentioned in the National Register Form that could not be secured from an ordinary Census that could be taken under the Census and Statistics Act 1905-38, which gives all the necessary authority, and which is still on the Statute Book. Why, then, another Act? It must, obviously, have its necessity in the 'FOR OTHER PURPOSES.'

THIN EDGE OF WEDGE

"If we are to take the Prime Minister seriously in his statement concerning 'intensifying of authority and the restriction of liberty,' then we can look for something in this Act that could be calculated to be the thin edge of the wedge. We will deal with only one clause, No. 26. It contains the following, which will be very interesting to anyone who is anxious to retain what we have left of our British Justice. The clause in question states: 'In any proceedings for an offence against this Act (a) the Averment of the Prosecutor contained in the information that the defendant is included among the persons or classes of persons specified in any proclamation under this Act shall be deemed to be proved in the absence of any proof to the contrary; and (b) a Certificate in writing, signed by the Commonwealth Statistician, certifying that no form, filled in and signed by the defendant in accordance with this Act, has been received by the Commonwealth Statistician, shall be a prima facie evidence that the defendant has failed to transmit the form to the Commonwealth Statistician.'

REVERSAL OF RIGHTS

"This clause may not refer to a very serious offence, although Sub-clause 2 states that you are liable to a penalty not exceeding £50 or imprisonment for three months, or both; but the important item is the reversal of our rights under ordinary law, and the danger of the extension of this clause to other matters; if they get away with it. Stripped of all the high-sounding phraseology, it simply means that if you are charged with an offence under the Act you will have to prove your innocence, and that, in the absence of such proof, the

bare making of the charge against you by the authorities will be considered as proof of your guilt. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* says: 'It is for the prosecutor to prove by legal evidence the commission of the alleged offence, and the accused is not required to prove his innocence.'

BLANK CHEQUE

"Consider this matter well and decide for yourself whether or not you should give the Menzies Government a Blank Cheque, to restrict your liberty and for other purposes.' If you sign it you will probably find out, in due course, just what the 'other purposes' are."

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Starving Children Steal

As reported in the Melbourne "Herald" of Saturday last, the headmaster of Graham Street State School, Port Melbourne (Mr. C. H. Butler), is appealing for help for children who "are so underfed that they sometimes run off with the lunches of other school children."

Mr. Butler rightly pointed out that "nourishment was urgently needed, because of epidemics of influenza and measles," which had reduced the attendance to 50 per cent. "A greater percentage of poor children was attending the school, and teachers often contributed towards helping them," he said.

Shoes had recently been provided for three barefooted sisters, members of a family of seven, whose father was on sustenance. The sum of 35/9 had been contributed by the employees of Barrett Bros and Burston and Co. Pty. Ltd. to help poor children at a neighbouring school.

ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL IS NO CURE

Mr. Butler asked the *Herald* to appeal for an organisation to start a fund to assist his school, where

about 50 children are poorly clad and under-nourished.

We appreciate Mr. Butler's plea, and the humanitarian efforts of those who have responded to the appeals on behalf of these and thousands of other children throughout Australia who suffer from cold and hunger in a land of plenty. It is our job to point out, however, that the responsibility for attending to physical requirements of suffering humanity is not the schoolteachers'. Neither should

(Continued on page 8.)

WHEATGROWERS WAKE UP

Adopting Pressure-Politics

FEDERAL COUNTRY PARTY ON THE SPOT

Wheat growers have had more than they can stand. We are surprised that they have stood so much. At any rate, they are now drawing the line, realising that the Federal Country Party has betrayed them, and are starting to employ the Pressure-Politics method to obtain a fair deal, and obtain it quickly (a time limit of three months is being stipulated in Western Australia). But it is not only in Western Australia that such action is being realised to be the only way out. A report just to hand from Barellan, N.S.W., indicates which way the wind is blowing in that part of the world, too.

It is to be hoped that every wheat farmer in every district in Australia will immediately join in with action of this type - in fact start it if it isn't already being taken.

The "West Australian Wheat grower," official organ of the Wheat and Wool Growers' Union of W.A., is leading the fray. Its leading article of last week speaks for itself. We will give all but a few lines hereunder:

WHAT THE "WHEAT-GROWER" SAID.

"In those enlightened days, when it has become the fashion rather than the exception, to formulate plans and offer them for general consideration in an endeavour to drive the all devouring wolf from the door of the primary producer, we make no apology for offering our antidote to a situation which has become ridiculous.

"All you have to do is to copy out the following, sign it, and send it to your Federal Country Party member:

"This is to certify that I or we, the farmer, or farmers, of..... of Western Australia, signing our name, or names, hereto, do solemnly and sincerely undertake to vote you out of Parliament at the first opportunity, and, in addition, to vote against any man or woman

carrying the banner of the Federal Country Party, unless the Federal Country Party, as now constituted, immediately uses the balance of power in its hands to compel the Federal Government to stabilise the price of wheat at a figure which will guarantee a profitable price to the wheatgrowers of this State, within a period of three months from the date of this declaration, always assuming that international agreement has not been reached and finalised by then, in collaboration with other countries, to effect such a guaranteed price for wheat. I, or we, do not care what plan is used; what scheme is adopted. I, or we, merely insist that you employ experts and stabilise the price of wheat profitably to the grower, as soon as possible.

"Signature"

"It is our intention to send a copy of this leader to every wheat-growing body in the Commonwealth and persuade that organisation to adopt this very constitutional method of direct action.

"That it has many advantages goes without saying. Never before in the history of Australian politics has the Country Party been in a better position to make the full value of its weight felt in the deliberations of Australia's welfare, and there is suspicion, very grave suspicion, that, at the last meeting of the Premiers, to discuss the very vital position of the wheatgrowers of Australia, the Federal Country Party, despite its many utterances, completely forgot its duty. This is the more extraordinary when it is realised that the Federal Labor Party did what it could for price stabilisation and for the wheat-grower. Therefore, if the party, supposedly serving your interests, overlooks those interests, wittingly and wantonly, vote them out, not only from Parliament, but from all political influence.

"Moreover, do not hesitate when signing this round robin, to hand it to the local storekeeper, the local publican, the local Chamber of Commerce, Roads Board; in fact,

(Continued on page 8.)

SCIENCE MARCHES ON!

NEW EARS FOR WIRELESS

Relentless Research Results in Revolution of Radio

Already credited with three major contributions to radio, Prof. Edwin Armstrong, of Columbia University, now offers a wholly new, cheaper, vastly improved method of transmission and reception which is even now revolutionising radio

By WILLIAM L. LAURENCE, in "Ken," Chicago.

Professor Edwin H. Armstrong, of Columbia University, probably has contributed more than any other man to the development of modern radio. He has already "rung the bell" three times with epoch-making contributions without which modern radio would be inconceivable—the regenerative circuit, the super heterodyne circuit (which is the basis of 95% of all modern radio receivers), and the super-regenerative circuit. Now he comes with a fourth contribution which, beyond any doubt, is the greatest of them all, destined, in the opinion of unprejudiced authorities, to bring with it as great a revolution in the art of radio as the advent of talking motion pictures brought with it in the field of movie entertainment.

Armstrong's latest contribution to radio is not merely an improvement on present methods of radio transmission and reception. It is an entirely new and highly revolutionary system of employing the airways, for the transmission of music and speech, in such a perfect way that man for the first time becomes the complete master of the air, making it carry only the sounds he wants it to carry, with a high fidelity such as no one had believed was possible in radio, while at the same time completely keeping out all unwanted sounds and noises made either by man or nature, such as atmospheric static hisses arising in the amplifier tubes and circuits, and static arising from telephone dials, oil burner and refrigerator motors, and automobile ignition systems.

The destruction in one masterstroke of all the radio pests that have been ruining the finest radio programmes for hundreds of millions of listeners would be sufficient glory in itself for anyone. The greatest radio inventors of all lands have matched their wits for the past 25 years against these invisible air pests and have been forced to acknowledge defeat. Armstrong himself took up the challenge as far back as 1914, in collaboration with that other great radio pioneer, Michael Pupin. After eight years of concentrated effort both men gave up the search, convinced that there was no solution. Two full years passed. Then Armstrong got a new idea on how to free the air of its pests, and he went back to the battle. It lasted a solid 15 years and cost him a fortune gained from his earlier inventions. But finally he reached the end of the radio rainbow.

This is not the place to go into the highly technical and complicated details of Armstrong's highly revolutionary system of both radio transmission and reception, requiring not only new types of transmitting stations, but also new, especially designed receiving sets. Suffice it to say that it is known technically as "the frequency modulation system," as contrasted with the "amplitude modulation system" employed at present.

FOURFOLD VICTORY

When Armstrong finally was ready to announce his latest achievement to the world, the emphasis in the reports was placed on the fact that his invention eliminated static. But that was only one element. What he actually did, in fact, was to accomplish a "quadruple play": (1) elimination of static; (2) achievement of 100% high fidelity reproduction; (3) reduction of transmission costs; and (4) bursting the strait jacket of hitherto limited range of usable air-channels.

Modern radio stations, because of the nature of the amplitude

modulation system, have to use high power, anywhere from 1000 to 50,000 watts. All the big stations, as a general rule, employ up to 50,000 watts. A reduction in power would have to come at the expense of good reception, since, in the amplitude modulation system, it is necessary (in order to drown out unbearable high amplitude noises) to increase the amplitude of the signal variations. This requires a corresponding increase in the power of the transmitting station.

Now, it can be easily grasped at once that power comes high, not only in its own cost, but also in the cost of the expensive transmitting equipment required to generate and modulate it. The result has been that only rich corporations or individuals are in a position to build radio stations, the so-called little fellow being frozen out of the field.

All this is completely changed by the Armstrong frequency modulation system. Since it does not depend at all on amplitude, it requires hardly any power at all!

AMAZING TESTS

To the amazement of all present at a recent special demonstration, Armstrong reduced the power in his experimental station, W2XMN at Alpine, N.J., from 20,000 to a mere five watts, just "an electrical whisper," as someone there described it, less than that required to light an ordinary electric lamp, without the slightest change in the quality of the reception on the other end.

But the most important, most startling and far-reaching possibility inherent in the new Armstrong system is the fact that it opens up for the field of broadcasting a vast new continent of air-channels in the ultra-short wave range, hitherto unavailable from a practical standpoint. In this new air-continent there is room for thousands upon thousands of new radio stations, to all intents and purposes practically limitless in number, as compared with the narrow, limited span of the present long-wave broadcast-

ing range used by all the big networks, in which so far only 700-odd stations can be accommodated, a situation that has confronted Congress and the American people with the spectre of a radio monopoly.

Some day the story may be told of the early history in radio, with its "gold rush" for the acquisition of the limited valuable radio channels in the long-wave broadcasting range.

The story, if ever told, may bear comparison with the mad rush of prospectors to stake out their claims for gold-bearing land in the opening of the West.

Be that as it may, the notion had been accepted that the desirable air channels were very limited in number, as they actually are in the long-wave range, and the best of them, nearly all, are now the highly valuable properties of a limited number of corporations which, by grace of priority and subject only to approval of the F.C.C., rule the air. All this the new Armstrong system has changed practically over night. Anyone with a small amount of capital will be able to apply for a license to operate a radio station without fear of interfering with his neighbour. To cite an example, before a group of astonished radio engineers Armstrong demonstrated a few weeks ago that three radio stations operating on the same wave length in Albany, Schenectady and Troy (N.Y.), only about twelve miles apart, did not interfere with one another. What is more, at points midway between these stations, about six miles from each other, where the interference of the stations would drown each other out a mere shifting of a special receiving-set antenna one-half an inch one way or the other completely eliminated all stations, with the exception of the one desired station.

SETS AND STATIONS NEARLY READY

This is not the mere prediction of a radio revolution to come some day in the vague future. It is the present announcement of a revolution that is already under way.

In addition to Professor Armstrong's

own station at Alpine, at least nine other frequency modulation stations are about to go on the air. In preparation for the expected demand for the new type of receiving sets, the General Electric Company has already started their manufacture on a commercial basis, to sell at a reasonable price within the means of the average radio listener.

The new sets will be designed to receive both the new and the old types of broadcasts, thus making possible a painless and gradual changeover between systems, as far as the listening public is concerned.

Since the new system eliminates not only static but makes possible cheap, five-watt transmitting stations at short distances from one another on the same wave length, and since, in addition, a practically limitless new number of wave lengths has been made available for high fidelity radio broadcasting, there is nothing that now stands in the way of individuals of small means to open up small radio stations, to serve small communities in areas that now do not get good radio service, and in larger cities as well.

Furthermore, for purposes of networks, it would not be necessary for these radio stations to rent the expensive telephone wires now required for large hook-ups. Stations dotting the country throughout its length and breadth at distances no greater than twenty miles, operating on the same wavelength, could relay each other's broadcasts without the need of any wires.

This would bring the installation and operation of individual radio stations and of large national hook-ups within the means of large groups of individuals of average means, thus destroying forever the spectre of any radio monopoly.

It may be argued that an investment of billions in radio, 30,000,000 sets and 700-odd stations, could not be changed at short order. It will take some time, of course, for the 30,000,000 radio owners to change their sets. But the answer to this is best made with another question: — "Where are the Model-T Fords of only yesterday?"

"AS LONG AS THE PEOPLE WILL STAND"

Josiah Stamp, one of Britain's leading businessmen, significantly and cryptically remarked that money, after having brought civilisation to its present level, may well "actually destroy society."

Josiah Stamp is a director of the Bank of England.

General Ludendorff Chief of the German General Staff during the debacle of 1914-18 declared that the world is ruled by "secret, supranational powers, the same diabolically clever wire-pullers that brought about the last cataclysm."

In 1925 Mr. Arthur Kitson wrote about "our invisible rulers" in the *National Review*.

Long before the existence of the men mentioned above, Disraeli, once England's Prime Minister, told the British House of Commons "the world is governed by very different persons from what is imagined by those who are not behind the scenes."

Now read this:

LONDON, July 4. —Replying to Mr. Gallacher (Communist) in the House of Commons today, the Dominions Secretary (Sir Thomas Inskip) stated that discussions with the New Zealand Finance Minister (Mr. W. Nash) were continuing.

Mr. Gallacher: "Is not the Government aware of the necessity for countering the unscrupulous attack on the finances of New Zealand by the Bank of England?"

Sir Thomas Inskip said he thought the statement should be repudiated.

Mr. Campbell Stephen (Labor) asked Sir Thomas if he could give an assurance that New Zealand would get as good terms as non-Empire countries.

Sir Thomas Inskip: "It is the Government's policy to treat the Dominions as well as possible, and, in any case, better than non-Empire countries."

Mr. Gallagher inquired whether Sir Thomas would ask Mr. Nash's opinion of the Bank of England. There was no answer.

And this, taken from one of last week's *West Australian* leaders:

"... British observers have issued frequent warnings against 'wishful thinking' that the system might break down and the breakdown brings Germany back to the comity of nations. The system will endure, they say, as long as the people will stand it..."

—W.A. Wheatgrower, July 13.

STALIN AND HITLER

General Krivitsky's Inside Story

THE SECRET GERMAN-JAPANESE PACT

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: It has been asserted that the writer of the articles in the "Saturday Evening Post" has never been entitled to the name Krivitsky or the title of General—in short, that the "Saturday Evening Post" was sold a "pup," not a "scoop."

That such a rumour would be circulated was, of course, to be expected. No specific confirmation of its veracity has reached us, however. At the same time we are not in a position to guarantee that the famous American journal was not misled in that regard. But if its contributor was not previously a Red Army General, he must either have had considerable inside information in any case, or have made some remarkable guesses, as his story tallies with the underlying facts of the situation to a remarkable degree—particularly with the fact that innumerable human beings have been cold-bloodedly used as mere pawns in the chess-game of power politics, in which the player's objective is usually the increase or consolidation of centralised power and/or the attainment of some abstract ideal of his own, regardless of the consequences in terms of flesh and blood (e.g., Stalin's "liquidation" of millions of Kulaks—human beings—in pursuit of Collectivisation—abstract ideal). The moral to be inferred is that Australians should keep their nose out of oversea affairs and concentrate their energies on the established reality—within their jurisdiction—that a large proportion of their fellows are enduring hell-on-earth.

However, it is all very interesting, so we give, the "Saturday Evening Post" the benefit of the doubt for the moment, and commit the conclusion of our contributor's review to the mercy of our readers.]

Last week I reviewed Krivitsky's articles dealing with the Soviet's part in the Spanish war. This week it will be of interest to deal with matters, which have a direct bearing upon the international line-up of the present time. Krivitsky certainly offers an explanation of much of that has hitherto been rather a mystery. He also indicates that those who expect Russia to do more than sit on the fence, in line with International Finance's plan, have been sadly disillusioned. He is quite emphatic that Stalin is more concerned with maintaining peace with Hitler, as a matter of tactics, than any alleged altruistic attitude. Krivitsky, as the man who carried out a lot of the negotiations, should know.

Why did Stalin behead the Red Army leaders at a time when Hitler was generally believed to be feverishly preparing for war? Was there any connection between the Red Army "purge" and Stalin's reported efforts to come to an agreement with Germany? Krivitsky gives an answer to these and many more questions, which have aroused worldwide interest.

THE KEY TO THE PUZZLE?

Dealing with the purge, he makes the following observations: "Long before Stalin had 'suddenly' discovered and disclosed the great Red Army plot against his power, I was already in possession, without knowing it, of a main link in the singular chain of events which proves that Stalin had plotted the extermination of the high command of the Red Army. When all the pieces of the great puzzle of the great Red Army purge are fitted together, the finished pattern reveals the following facts: Stalin's plot to frame Tukhachevsky and the other generals had been put into motion at least six months before the surprising discovery of the Red Army 'conspiracy.' Stalin executed Marshal Tukhachevsky and his associates as German spies at the very time that he was on the eve of closing a deal with Hitler resulting from months of secret negotiations. Stalin deliberately used evidence imported from Germany and manufactured by the Nazi Gestapo in his frame-up of the most loyal generals of the Red Army."

After dealing with the start of the purge, he continues: "In the growing tension of impending catastrophe a bombshell burst. It was in the form of most secret news from Germany, conveyed to me by Sloutski. This news was that an agreement between Stalin and Hitler had been drafted . . . Kandelaki had succeeded where the other Soviet envoys had failed. He had initiated negotiations with the Nazi leaders and had even had a private audience with Hitler himself."

SICKLE AND SWASTIKA

Left-Wing apologists have long been trying to tell us that there is an undying hatred between the Nazi and Communist regimes. Those who, have contended that fundamentally they are both in the same category will find the following extract more than informative.

Krivitsky writes: "It was, of course, no secret in the inner Soviet circles that Stalin had long striven for an understanding with Hitler. Almost three years had passed since the night of the blood purge in Germany which had convinced Stalin, even while it was occurring, that the Nazi regime was firmly established, and that it was best to try and come to terms with a powerful opponent."

When Stalin had almost arranged his deal with Hitler, he knew that he had no immediate fear of attack from Hitler, with the result that he speeded up the purge of the leaders of the Red Army. There then follows a story of the ruthless manner in which Stalin was rapidly gathering more and more power in the control of the OGPU, which was rapidly controlling the whole of Russia, with Stalin in complete control of the whole machine. And still we hear about the great democratic government of the proletariat in Russia. If they do nothing else, the Krivitsky articles will do much to smash that fantasy. Krivitsky says, "On the bodies of his former comrades and fellow-revolutionists, of the creators and builders of the Soviet Government, Stalin was mounting step by step to solitary control of the entire Soviet Union. There was

but one slip in the OGPU's preparations for the Red Army purge. One man was left out of their calculations. It was the writer of this article."

SAYS STALIN SOUGHT AGREEMENT WITH HITLER

"There is probably no more widespread myth in the world today than the one which presents Hitler and Stalin as mortal and irreconcilable enemies. It is a distorted, perverted picture, created by clever camouflage and the vapourings of propaganda. The true picture of the relationship is that of a persistent suitor who will not be discouraged by rebuffs. Stalin is that suitor. There is enmity on the side of Hitler. On the side of Stalin there is fear."

The writer gives a detailed account of the close relationships of the German and Red Army, even taking place some time after the rise of Hitler, when they were gradually dissolved. But in spite of this, Stalin continued his policy of appeasement, and on January 26, 1934, delivered the following message to the Seventeenth Party Congress. He denied that Soviet Russia had changed its policy towards Berlin, because "of the establishment of a Fascistic regime in Germany." He stretched out his hands to Hitler with these words: "This is not true . . . But Fascism is not the issue here, if only for the reason that Fascism, for example, in Italy, did not prevent the Soviet Union from establishing friendly relations with that country."

The writer deals in turn with the various methods used to try and get a better understanding with Hitler. When these failed, a move was made to get closer relationships with France in order to pave the way for the entry of the Soviet into the League of Nations. It was thought that this would force Hitler's hand. It would appear that the suggestions being made at the present time, thru Wall St. is trying, though Russia, to maintain a balance of power in Europe, are forcefully supported by Krivitsky, although he does not mention finance more than once. It also explains why Russia is not likely to enter into an open alliance with Britain. Stalin's policy appears to be to play one side off against the other.

After some months of negotiation from the inside, Stalin scored his biggest triumph. The Reichbank granted a long-term loan of 200,000,000 gold marks to the Soviet Government!

SECRET GERMAN-JAPANESE PACT

Now that he had taken one step, Stalin wanted to take another in his desire for friendship with Germany. But, late in September, Krivitsky, who was handling the Secret Intelligence Department in Germany, stumbled across the negotiation of a secret pact between Germany and Japan. He was immediately ordered by Moscow to obtain possession of the agreement.

"Moscow was pressing hard for documentary proof of the agreement. My men in Germany were risking their lives, in the face of almost insuperable difficulties, in their quest for that evidence. It was known to us that the Nazi secret service was intercepting and had, as a matter of course, in its possession copies of all the coded messages exchanged between General Oshima and Tokyo. Late in July, 1936, I received word that the complete file of all this confidential correspondence had at last been secured in Photostatic form by our men in Berlin." There then follows a

description of the terms of the agreement, which stated that neither nation would take action in the Pacific or Europe without consulting each other. The writer also describes how it was decided to sign this agreement under an artificial anti-Comintern pact, which was for the express purpose of misleading world opinion. The result of this, however, was that Russia was able to astound Germany by an exposure of what was really happening. However, the writer deals with the closer relationships, which have existed between Germany and Japan for some time, and brings forward much evidence to support his views. Unfortunately, he does not mention the underlying cause, which is forcing the have-not nations to seek closer relationships with a view to taking by force what the alleged democracies have denied them by peaceful trading methods.

STALIN'S PRESENT POLICY

In spite of this pact between forces on either side of him, Stalin still vigorously pursued a campaign to try and make friendly relations with Hitler. Of course, Krivitsky points out, Russia had a different surface policy, but that was not the real policy. He gives a report of a conversation he had with Yezhov, described as Stalin's mouthpiece. To quote: "Yezhov continued in the same strain. Germany was strong. She was now the strongest power in the world. Hitler had made her so. Who could doubt that fact . . . For Soviet Russia there was but one course. And he quoted Stalin, 'We must come to terms with a superior power such as Nazi Germany.'"

Signs have not been wanting, since Munich, to indicate that Stalin is carrying on this policy of appeasement. On January 12 of this year there took place before the entire diplomatic corps in Berlin the cordial and demonstrative chat of Hitler and the new Soviet Ambassador.

In view of the alarming thesis that International Finance is using Russia to play off the other powers against one another, the following seems rather illuminating: On January 25, 1939, W. N. Ewer, the diplomatic correspondent of the London *Daily Herald*, reported that the Nazi Government was "now almost convinced that, in the event of a European war, the Soviet Union would adopt a policy of neutrality and non-intervention." Early in February it was reported that Moscow had made a deal to sell its oil only to Italy and Germany and to those nations friendly to the Rome-Berlin axis, and that for the first time in its history the Soviet Government had stopped the sale of oil to private foreign corporations, and also that the new policy would provide supplies vital to Italy and Germany in case of war with Great Britain and France.

AXIS AGAINST AXIS

On March 10, 1939, Stalin at last spoke for the first time since the annexation of Austria and the Sudeten lands by Germany. He displayed such remarkable tolerance towards Hitler that it shocked some people. He attacked the democracies for plotting "to (Continued on page 7.)



The New Times

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THE NATIONAL REGISTER

The National Register may be harmless enough in principle—as a statistical record for reference. However, the "New Times" considers the present Act a danger to democratic government in Australia. Co-related to other major legislation passed and proposed by the Menzies' Government, it shows itself as being an integral part of a perfect machine to impose unadulterated dictatorship on the people of Australia.

The attitude of the "New Times" towards the Act is that it should be opposed by every constitutional means. We will not lend our influence to any action, which will tend to weaken the principles of democratic government. On the contrary, it is the policy of the "New Times" to assist in establishing true democratic government, in accordance with the Constitution of the country. We uphold and emphasise the principle that it is the function of the people to know what they want and to instruct their Parliamentary representatives to re-present that which they want to Parliament, and that it is the function of Parliament to give effect to the expressed WILL of the people.

To those who wish to oppose the Act we would suggest that, in addition to writing direct to Members of Parliament, a slip be pasted on the Register form, bearing wording such as: "I, whose signature appears on this National Register form, have signed under duress; and I do hereby exercise my constitutional right to instruct Parliament to repeal the National Register Act."

There is reason to suppose that the boycott method may prove to be somewhat in the nature of a boomerang. We intend to have a few words to say on that point next week.

THE MONEY SYSTEM

N.Z. Prime Minister Gives His Views

A statement of his views about the financial system in relation to production and distribution was given in an interview recently by the Prime Minister, Mr. Savage, in amplification of some remarks he made on a recent visit to a factory. On that occasion he said he wondered if the Reserve Bank would not be better for the employment of a scientist to put banking on the same footing as a paint manufacturer who employed a chemist. With the chemist, he added, it was not just a question of muddling along.

"I am not going to apologise to the Reserve Bank or anyone else for my belief that the money system should be changed, in order to make it fully express increased production," said Mr. Savage. "Unless we can get increased production and have it reach the people responsible for it, what is the use of it all? The money system that we know never has done that.

"I do not blame the Reserve Bank any more than I blame any other institution. When I am talking about banking, I am talking about the banking system, not just one small part of it. I still think there is room for the scientist, not only in the factory, but in financial institutions that play so important a part in the distribution of those goods when they have been produced, and I do not see that any revolution is necessary, only the application of common-sense"

Mr. Savage said there were certain people in banking institutions and elsewhere who thought the

money system was all right and that there was no need for any change. "We are living in a changing age and that should be applied not only to the manufacture of things and the production of other services, but to the instrument of exchange, the system of exchange," said Mr. Savage. "Unless it is made to apply to it, we will go on with glutted markets, and sometimes without necessary goods, and all the time living in fear of war because we have not had the intelligence to distribute equitably as well as to produce."

Mr. Savage said that in the course of his addresses in factories he had made it clear that he was not asking the people to produce more without a guarantee that they were going to receive more of that production. That applied to employers, as well as employees. Unless expanded income was guaranteed for expanded production it was not reasonable to expect an expansion of production to take place.

"If there is any clogging of the machine," added the Prime Minister, "we will have to remove the obstruction, wherever it is." He said he had met with the utmost enthusiasm in the factories he had visited. "Employers seem well satisfied with the position," he said, "and employees are delighted to see the Government is taking an intelligent interest in the development of secondary industries."

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on Wednesday, August 2,
at the Capitol Theatre.
"HOTEL IMPERIAL"
is the picture.**

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WHAT A STUDY OF THE COMMON-WEALTH BANK ACT AMENDMENT BILL REVEALS

Danger in 24 Clauses Exposed! Daily Press Remains Silent!

(Contributed by the Save the People's Bank Campaign Committee, Victoria.)

Though the Commonwealth Bank Act Amendment Bill was introduced into the House of Representatives by Mr. R. G. Casey on November 25 last, little or no worthwhile comment has been made about it in the Daily Press. This leads us to believe that those who control the daily newspapers are deliberately attempting to conceal the facts from the people. The progress of the Commonwealth-wide campaign to "Save the People's Bank" proves that in this attempt the newspapers have been unsuccessful.

The main objection to the Bank Bill arises from the fact that it is proposed to issue Debentures and Inscribed Stock to a limit of £10,000,000 on the Central, or Trading Bank Account, and up to £24,000,000 on the Mortgage Bank Account. If issued, it is obvious that two-and-a-half-times the People's proportion of the Capital Account (of £4,000,000) will be held by financiers, possibly mostly foreign, and, therefore, the real ownership of their Bank will be removed from the Australian people.

Since the Commonwealth Bank now shows a SURPLUS OF ASSETS OVER LIABILITIES OF £19,195,000, WHY IS IT CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO ISSUE DEBENTURES OR INSCRIBED STOCK AT ALL?

A CLOSE STUDY OF THE OTHER OBJECTIONABLE CLAUSES WILL REVEAL THE ENTIRE PLOT TO PLACE AUSTRALIA AND AUSTRALIANS COMPLETELY IN PAWN TO AND AT THE MERCY OF, THE PRIVATE FINANCIERS!

Please read the following carefully, and then ACT WITHOUT DELAY.

Clause 4 refers to the taking over of the business of other banks by the Commonwealth Bank, and adds the words: "Inscribed Stock." If any private bank is bought by the Commonwealth Bank, the payment should be made in cash, not in debentures or inscribed stock, as the latter course would offer a possibly bankrupt corporation virtual financial partnership in the Commonwealth Bank.

Clause 6 which gave the Treasurer power to notify the Bank Board regarding the desirability of discharging London Treasury Bill indebtedness by gold transfer is to be deleted.

Clause 7 in reference to the capital of the Bank, has had the words "Inscribed Stock," added.

Clause 8 increases the number of Directors on the Board, making it possible for an additional private bank nominee to be appointed.

Clause 10 substitutes the word "may" for "shall" regarding the appointment of the London Board of Advice. Why make the appointment of this Board indefinite, instead of obligatory?

Clause 16 deletes, with other matter, the obligation to publish in the *Gazette*, quarterly statements of the Bank's business and its assets and liabilities. Why?

Clauses 17 and 18 change the audit periods from half-yearly to yearly. Why?

Clause 19, by its deletion and incorporation in Clause 18, removes the definite time-limit as to the submission of the Balance-Sheet and Profit and Loss Account to both Houses of Parliament. (At present the Treasurer is under an obligation to place a statement of the combined accounts before both Houses at least twice in each year.)

Clause 20 provides that, when the Mortgage Bank Department Capital Account reaches £4,000,000, the yearly two-sixths of the profits are to be placed in the Reserve Fund (instead of for instance, to the National Debt Sinking Fund).

Clause 22 provides that debts due to the Commonwealth Bank by other banks will have priority over debts due by these banks to the Government. (In other words, this clause removes the Commonwealth Government's EQUALITY of priority with the Commonwealth Bank regarding debt claims against private banking corporations.)

Clause 23 frees all Debentures and Stock from the payment of stamp duty, and both State and Federal income tax. Why, with the possibility of private stock holding in the Commonwealth Bank, should holders of such documents be relieved of the obligation to contribute to the national revenue?

Clause 25 deletes the treasurer's approval regarding the nature of investment of Savings Bank funds. Why?

Clause 32 is regarded (and quite rightly) as the major clause of the Bill, for it provides for the issue of INSCRIBED STOCK, as well as Debentures, up to a limit of £10,000,000, on the Central, or Trading Bank, Account. (The distinction between Debentures and Inscribed Stock: Holders of Inscribed Stock can keep their identity secret, since their names, or company names, may not be disclosed without their consent. Debenture holders can foreclose on their security, in this case the Commonwealth Bank, should it fail to fulfill any clause in its agreement with the Debenture holders.)

THERE IS NO NEED TO ISSUE DEBENTURES OR INSCRIBED STOCK

By Section 51 (sub-sections 12 and 13) of the Commonwealth Constitution, the Commonwealth Government is given power to make all necessary laws in respect to Currency, Coinage, Legal Tender, Banking, and the issue of Paper Money. Further, paragraph 504, page 196, of the Report of the Royal Commission on Banking, distinctly states that the Commonwealth Bank "can lend to the Governments or to others in a variety of ways; and it can even make money available to the Governments or to others FREE OF ANY CHARGE."

In reference to that statement, Mr. Lyons (the late Prime Minister) said: "I accept that fact as beyond all argument."

The proposal to raise capital by the issue of Debentures and Inscribed Stock for national purposes is tantamount to a big emporium, such as Myer's, borrowing stock from Paddy's Market!

Clause 33 removes the obligation of placing the Debentures under the common seal of the Bank. Why?

(Continued on page 7.)

PRIME MINISTER'S TRAGIC INCOMPETENCE

(3)

Ignorance NOT the Cause

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir, —After cutting such a sorry figure, with the women's organisations in Sydney, and misrepresenting what had been placed before him, as described in these columns last week, Mr. Menzies came to Adelaide. He appeared at the Town Hall on Monday evening, July 10. I was one of the audience. It was the most unenthusiastic political meeting of the kind I have ever known. The hall was not filled, as had obviously been expected, and it was clear that the array of politicians on the platform suffered from unfavourable reactions. As is customary with Mr. Menzies, interjections were twisted to suit his purpose, and he said not one word of hope or encouragement for a sorely tried people. He avoided the subject of FINANCE as if it were poison, although he was forced to acknowledge that the question of assistance to the wheatgrowers is entirely a matter of money. No questions of any kind were allowed, and immediately the Prime Minister finished speaking the Lord Mayor rose and said: "That concludes the addresses. The meeting will be closed by the singing of the National Anthem."

"SACRIFICES" FOR DEMOCRACY

This, mind you, after most of the audience had listened in silence to the amazing declaration that they would be required to make heavy sacrifices by way of taxation and loss of personal liberty; that, through the Federal Government, they were going to be committed to a policy of restricting production according to the "market" available; and that the defence measures were necessary to save democracy. No one was permitted to voice his objection. My own impression was that I had listened to an insincere, unreliable, and even unscrupulous political opportunist—to a man whom, without a blush, and almost with tears in his voice, pleaded for a better Australia and happier conditions for our children, when he himself is one of the biggest obstacles to the fulfilment of such a desire.

WHERE WILL THE PEOPLE GET IT?

He repeated the absurdity that finance for the defence programme will be provided by the people of Australia, but ignored an interjection as to where the people were to get it from. Wheatgrowers have none. Woolgrowers are millions worse off than last year. Producers generally are finding it more and more difficult to sell their production. Business houses are shortening hands because their turnovers are falling. Railway services find their revenues vanishing and are faced with increasing agitation for "economy." Even the wage earners have less when regard is had to the higher prices they have to pay for what they buy. It is beyond argument that the PEOPLE cannot increase their own incomes, which are already far below what is necessary for their individual needs. If they are to surrender more to the Taxation authorities then it must be at the expense of food, clothes, and comfort in the home. They will be able to buy less of these. When the people buy less the businessman must put still more employees off, and this in turn must render the position of the producer still more chaotic. More taxation inevitably means a lower standard of living (admitted by the Bank Board!), and yet this man, temporarily filling the office of Prime Minister, talks of Australia being a better place for our children.

IT CAN GO TOO FAR

There is, of course, a limit to this nonsense. Even Professor Copland has admitted that taxation can go too far, and, in view of the public awakening on the general fraud of the taxation system, it would be wise for all Governments to bear this in mind. They have to face

the position that the people can only pay heavier taxation by impoverishing themselves, thus further weakening the stability of the nation's home life. It will mean the spread and the intensification of poverty and misery, and this at a time when producers are crying out for the community to make use of an abundance of good things, the very things that will remove the misery and poverty and make our homes a more attractive place for those who live in them. Although our gallant returned soldiers have been kept in check by the league, under Sir Gilbert Dyett, while many of them have been suffering the tortures of the damned, some even being threatened with ejection from war service homes because they were unable to collect the MONEY to meet the INTEREST on the alleged "loan," there are signs that even these are waking up. Sir Gilbert does not seem to have suffered a great deal from economic stress, but what of the great body of men who face insecurity and want?

THE VERGE OF REVOLT

The farmers, too are waking up. Only this week I heard a man declare at a public meeting that no section of the community has taken punishment like the "cocky." That I think is a correct statement of the position. The farmer does take punishment, but the part I have not been able to understand is the regularity with which he has voted for the very men who impose the punishment on him. Sir Earle Page is one of the leaders of these, and the Federal Country Party has actually become an apologist for the controllers of the financial system, which keeps the primary producers in a condition of servitude. This party is actually flooding the country press with propaganda in support of the treasonable proposal to deprive the people of the ownership of their own bank, and it is this very party, which makes possible the continuance of the financial conditions, which prevent the primary producers from getting a satisfactory income. But at long last, the farmers are on the verge of revolt, and no one can reasonably charge them with impatience or hotheadness; They have been as docile as a mule, and have received, perhaps, less consideration than is usually given to mules. Evidently, through ignorance, they thought there was no alternative, but they are now beginning to see that if they continue to act as mules then they will have little to complain of if they are treated as such. What they have first to do is to let Sir Earle Page and his followers know that they are servants, not "leaders," and that, unless this money business is put right immediately, they will be removed from the Commonwealth Parliament at

the next election. If the farmers have the sense to do this, they will find that, for the first time in the history of Government in Australia, their representatives will be all attention to be representatives. At present they are merely mouthpieces for financial institutions, and must be held equally responsible with Mr. Menzies for the doings, and the proposed doings, of the Federal Government. One of their numbers actually occupied a prominent position just behind the Prime Minister on the platform at the Adelaide Town Hall meeting!

CHURCHMEN FACING REALITIES

Another aspect that the Government cannot afford to disregard is the increasing interest being shown by earnest churchmen in the realities of the situation. These earnest men are also beginning to realise that God has not failed in any of His promises. The plain truth is that He has not been given a chance. Just as the multitude were miraculously fed, and with baskets full to spare, so in this very day is God providing all that mankind requires, and with baskets full to spare. The only trouble is that mankind cannot get these bountiful gifts because men and women are obliged, first, to collect money from somewhere. If they cannot, first, get money, then they have no recognised claim to a proper share of the bounty. God supplies the life-giving bounty, but He has no say at all in supplying the debt-creating symbols called money. It was the desire of the Society Working for a Christian Social Order to discuss this aspect with the Prime Minister

remains for the survivors, whether they be of the winning side or the losing side? The running of the war will have meant an enormous increase in the national debt, and a much heavier annual burden for the payment of interest. In addition to this, the survivors would face the task of rebuilding the devastated areas, only to see it all blown up again at a later period. The war would be over temporarily, but the DEBT would remain. Is it not obvious that the only beneficiaries of this criminality are the owners of the DEBT? As more than 80 per cent, of all debt is held by the financial institutions, it is clear that THEY, and they alone, will benefit from this so-called "defence" programme? The man in the street will NOT benefit from it. The business community will not benefit. The farming community will not benefit. The religious community will not benefit. So, for any man to call for sacrifices from others when God has supplied more than sufficient for all, is not only to affront the Creator, but is definitely to associate himself with the work of the devil.

THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Like many others, I was rather tickled to hear Robert Gordon Menzies, P.C., K.C., Prime Minister of Australia, championing our great Australian Democracy and denouncing those who object to the National Register and its associated legislation. My own attitude to this legislation is that, although it is entirely contrary to my ideas of liberty, it is, nevertheless, the law of the country, and that, unless we can succeed in having the law repealed, then we are obliged to observe it. It is quite useless appealing to us to support such a law on the ground that we are democrats. The men who voted against the Bills in Parliament represented a considerable majority of the electors, and, consequently, it can be truthfully said that the law in question has been forced upon the Australian people by the representatives of a minority of the electors. That is the position if we have regard only to the figures at the last general election, but since then the Opposition in the Federal House has won several by-elections with a greatly increased aggregate of electors' votes behind them. Consequently, our Federal Parliament, as at present constituted, is anything but democratic, and the whole thing affords but one more example of the Prime Minister's piffling attempts at make-believe.

NOT A MATTER OF IGNORANCE

The more he travels, and the more he speaks, the more obvious it becomes that, so far as the great body of citizens is concerned, the man now occupying the office of Prime Minister intends only to talk about happiness for the people. He does not intend that they shall HAVE it. His political incompetence is tragic, and, since he has had the facts relating to money clearly placed before him (he admitted at Adelaide that he reads the papers dealing with monetary questions, including, presumably, the *New Times*) his incompetence cannot any longer be attributed to ignorance. —Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H BROWN

PROCRASTINATION IS THE THIEF OF TIME

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

during his Adelaide visit, but he declined to receive representatives of the society. But, in common with many other sections, clergymen and church officials are showing an encouraging interest in this fundamental aspect of the problem of poverty in the midst of plenty. Hypocritical speeches from church pulpits will soon be assessed at their true value, and it will then require more than these, plus substantial donations to church funds to secure political support from those institutions.

WHO GETS THEM?

Mr. Menzies made it clear that more sacrifices had already been decided upon. He said they were inescapable, because of defence requirements. As has been asked before, if we do make sacrifices, who will get the product of them? If we sacrifice a thing then we no longer have it. It passes to someone else. So, if the community sacrifices what it ought to be using for its own well being, to WHOM will it pass? Suppose we sacrifice our incomes and then sacrifice ourselves. We will have gone short of food and clothes, in order to get guns and other war materials. Then we go into the line, and, besides blowing up the war material, get blown up ourselves. By that time we will have sacrificed the food and clothes, the war material, the lives of our best citizens, and most of the assets in the war area. What

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(Continued on page 7.)

CIRCUS DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN

Some Reflections on Agricultural Shows

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

Before these comments see the light of the public gaze, the most important of the Central Queensland Agricultural Shows will be history, and new records, not otherwise to be discerned, will be dragged into the light of day.

For same time past the press and wireless have been crying that everything is perfectly wonderful again (or should I say wonderful still?) what with too much wool and wheat and butter, and one thing and another. And, with the season of carnival once again upon us, last year's speeches on agricultural subjects by Great Personages will be dragged forth to have the necessary statistical amendments made, to bring this year's eulogium into line with official records.

Up and down our wide dominion, parents and children alike are even now refusing some of the minor comforts of civilisation, such as peanuts, soap, and suitable clothing, that they may demonstrate our prosperity and stability in one crowded hour of "hoop-la."

While I fully appreciate, of course, that the primary object of an agricultural show is to create records of some sort or another, I think it would be an advantage if some means could be devised to make the "events" as attractive as the sideshows. Our material is limited, of course, to the best available, and there always seems to be so little of that. A section of the Worst Animal in every class should have a very wide appeal, and a section for the Most Outstandingly Mediocre would probably result in the showground of the Commonwealth being found to be too small. Then there should be a section reserved for Ideal Homes. This would excite quite a deal of interest, and would probably illustrate, in a way incapable of achievement by any other method, the startling variations in our architectural ideals. The cypress-girt and many-gabled retreat of the dealer would show in agreeable contrast to those laughable excursions in architecture indulged in by our hardy pioneers.

It would be instructive, for example, to follow, in tableaux, the history of a pound of butter from selection to table, showing the representative architecture of the dwellings of all those variously employed in its marketing. I make a present of the following sketch of tableau No. 1: "On Our Selection."

ON OUR SELECTION

Scene: Living room of Dad's shack (built by Dad's grandfather), an airy apartment, composed of slabs and gaps, with a cavernous chimney recess compounded of flattened kerosene tins.

Mum and Dad are discovered. Mum is tending the kangaroo rat boiling in a kerosene tin at the fireplace RUE. Dad is seated on a "Laurel" stool at the table C, which supports his elbows. His head is propped between his hands as he reads laboriously. He is reading the paper, which had been wrapped round a parcel of discarded clothing from a relation-in-law, and his whiskers are going in and out from the breathing caused by this unwonted concentration.

There is no other noise, save for Mum's sniffs, caused by inhalation of bristolow smoke (the treacle tin is off the chimney again).

Noise and excitement of dogs without.

"Creditors!" gasps Dad, paling beneath his whiskers. Dives under table.

But it is only Sally, the youngest, home from school. With her enters (L.W.), the radiance of youth. Her simple, short "Millaquin" frock shows her figure to perfection. Lots of her figure, anyway. Her luxurious hair is neatly if austerely, restrained by a natty piece of binder-twine, and her purple jazz garters show the texture of her bare legs in startling fashion. She advances C.

Sally: Well, Daddy dear, any

more creditors. (Artlessly): We got lots more creditors than Amy Hogg's folk.

Mum (in bored voice): Your frock's inside out again. You can read "Bundyberg" right across the back, plain as day.

More noise, etc., without.

Dad (paling beneath the whiskers again): Creditors!

But again it isn't creditors. Only a bad debt. Dave, in fact.

Dialogue between dramatis personae to suit local conditions, but care must be taken to show that it is butter, which is being advertised, and not a popular sweetmeat. You get the general idea?

MARGARINE AND ECONOMICS

In another booth, the Margarine Menace might be suitably portrayed by feeding the malevolent substitute to rats, mice, and guinea pigs, unless the R.S.P.C.A. intervene, in which case the children of the poor could be used. In districts where margarine is manufactured this booth will, of course, be omitted, so as not to conflict with the margarine exhibits of vitamins photographed in the act of vitalising or whatever it is.

An important booth should be devoted to a demonstration of why when butter costs more the farmer gets less. Ordinary people will have a lot of difficulty over suitable dialogue for this booth. You really require an economist, who could entertain his hearers with a general introduction to the proposition, "The more you have, the poorer you really are." Economists are good at this. Nobody else is.

NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

These hurdles disposed of, the fortunes of the pound of butter could be followed through an ascending scale of society, by arrangement of appropriate booths, until, finally, we see and hear a Great Personage, pound of butter in hand, standing before the microphone, and exhausting the superlatives in extolling the virtues of our hardy pioneers, our harder buccaneers, our droughts, floods, bush-fires, Sydney Harbour Bridge, and the Lay-by System, to be followed by the broadcasting of appropriate music, such as "I Love to Whistle," "Down Among the Dead Men," and "Australia Will Be There."

* * *

It would be difficult to assign a limit to what might be achieved on these lines. Doubtless, in a world of bread and circuses, it behoves us to look to our circuses when the bread has got out of hand.

It was explained as follows why the driver of a hansom cab sits on the back: "So that the superior in the interior should not see the posterior of the inferior on the exterior."

ON LEISURE

The Basis of Civilisation

We really know nothing of the personality and character of individuals during their working hours any more than when they are sleeping. For, during the majority of working hours, the inner man is asleep. If you wish to know anything concerning the inner nature of these individuals, you must see them outside of office hours.

The moment the day's work is over and the worker is free, where does he go? What use does he make of his leisure? For, except in creative work, it is *leisure* alone that reveals or betrays him.

I will go further. The use of leisure eventually determined the fate of an entire community, or nation. The Roman Empire was destroyed by the *wrong* use of too much leisure.

Leisure is the test of the individual and of society. CIVILISATION COMES THROUGH LEISURE. And lasting happiness comes through its *right* use.

The signs of the times seek to indicate the coming of more leisure. If, by education and refinement, men and women will make a profitable use of the time, the coming generation will be more civilised and more happy than at any previous period in history.

The real business of life is Life; food, clothing and shelter are mere means to life. With many the daily work is not life; it is a means to life. If leisure means laziness, means only bodily pleasures or amusements, etc., the mind stagnates.

We live in an age of machines, but the machines were made for man, not man for the machines.

I say that every person should have, rather than a hobby, an avocation, the mastery of *something*, whether it be the tools of a carpenter, or the language of a foreign country. It is astounding what some people accomplished in their leisure moments. John Stuart Mill was a clerk in the East India Office. He became one of the world's leading authorities on political economy, logic and philosophy.

But genius is scarce. I am interested here only in the human happiness and mental development that can come to the *average man* by the proper use of leisure.

Every person in the world may not become a personage. But he may become a personality. The happiest people are those who think the most interesting thoughts. Interesting thoughts can only live in cultivated minds. Those who love good music, good books, good pictures, good plays, good conversation—what are they? They are the happiest people in the world; and the cause of happiness in others.

—Condensed from the *Delineator*, by W. L. Phelps.

THE "NEW TIMES"
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NEWSAGENTS

What a Study of the Commonwealth Bank Act Amendment Bill Reveals

(Continued from page 4.)

Clause 34 deals with the period of Debentures and Inscribed Stock, but, apparently, does not provide for the prevention of making such perpetual. Should the Board conveniently forget to give the twelve months' notice after the fixed date, the redemption of Stock could be delayed indefinitely.

Clause 35 provides for the appropriation of the Consolidated Revenue Fund as a guarantee of payment by the Bank of the principal and interest due in respect of any Debentures or Inscribed Stock issued. Since the Commonwealth Bank is backed by the entire wealth of the nation, there should be no needed whatsoever for this provision, since the failure of the Commonwealth Bank is extremely remote. This appears to be an attempt to ensure a stranglehold on the nation's finances in the event of a liberal financial policy by the Bank being counter to the wishes of large holders of Inscribed Stock.

Clause 41 increases the reserve in gold or English sterling against the issue of Australian Notes from fifteen per cent to twenty-five per cent. This will have a deflationary effect by tying the Note Issue to gold or British paper money, instead of it reflecting the real wealth of the people of Australia.

Clause 59 gives the power to issue Debentures and Inscribed Stock for the financing of the Mortgage Bank Department up to six times the amount of the capital of that department -- i.e., £24,000,000. The findings of the Royal Commission on Banking show that there is no need to raise money in this manner. If Debentures are issued, however, they should be less than the capital of the Mortgage Bank Department, and not six times as great. As all advances made by this department will be backed by assets of considerably greater value, any suggestion of inflation through the Commonwealth Bank's action in creating new credits, cannot be sustained.

Clause 60, relating to the supply of Banking Statistics to the Treasurer, and the publishing of same in the *Gazette*, is to be deleted entirely. Why is it proposed to relieve the private banks of the obligation to furnish these statements relating to their assets and liabilities? What have the private banks to hide? The answer is not difficult.

Four additional Clauses (Nos.

36, 37, 54, and 55) relate to the issue of Inscribed Stock also.

This Bill is regarded as the most important that has appeared in Parliament since 1924 when the Bruce-Page Government brought in a Bill to amend the Commonwealth Bank Act by taking the control of the Commonwealth Bank out of the hands of the Governor and placing it in the hands of a directorate, consisting of the Governor of the Bank, the Secretary of the Treasury, and six other persons. The effect of this amendment was to place the Bank absolutely under the control of a body of men who might be bitterly opposed to any competition with private banking.

The policy of the private banking institutions has been imposed upon the Government of the Commonwealth, and only by preserving the power of the Commonwealth Bank, enabling it to successfully compete with the private banks, will we be enabled to make any favourable alterations or improvements to our existing social and economic conditions. The Commonwealth Bank Act Amendment Bill 1938 therefore, should be opposed, in its present form, by every elector demanding that his or her elected representative in Parliament vote against every clause, which is considered to be of an anti-social character.

Many Members of the House of Representatives have already submitted their signed undertaking that they will strongly oppose the Bill when it comes up shortly for debate.

The pressure of public opinion throughout the Commonwealth is growing so rapidly that, if the steady stream of letters from electors to Members and Senators can be kept up during the few remaining weeks, the passage of the Bill in its present form will be prevented, and the united will of the people will have prevailed in the greatest struggle for true Democracy yet attempted by the Australian people.

A supreme effort to get the facts to the people before the opportunity has passed is being made by those who, realising the danger with which Australia is threatened, have accepted THEIR individual responsibility and are doing their utmost to see that OTHERS are brought to realise the true position. The distribution of the special broadsheet is playing an important part

in this campaign. Copies are obtainable at 8d per dozen, posted.

Letters-forms, to be signed by electors and despatched to M.H.R.s. and Senators, are available at 1/2 per hundred, posted. All orders and enquiries should be addressed to the Hon. Sec., "Save the People's Bank" Campaign, Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne.

THIS MATTER IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE. THE PEOPLE MUST STAND TOGETHER, IRRESPECTIVE OF PARTY, AND DEMAND THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN PARLIAMENT OPPOSE THE MEASURE! BOUND UP IN THIS ISSUE IS THE DESTINY OF EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD IN AUSTRALIA. PLEASE DO YOUR UTMOST TO GET THE FACTS TO EVERY ELECTOR AT ONCE!

STALIN AND HITLER

(Continued from page 3.)

poison the atmosphere and provoke a conflict between Germany and Soviet Russia."

There appears to be very little doubt about it, that the sooner the people of the so-called democracies decide that finance must be tackled in order to remove the cause of all the international strife, the sooner we will breathe a little more freely. As far as I am concerned, a careful study of these articles strengthens my conviction that the thesis reported in the *New Times* several weeks ago is substantially correct. Krivitsky has laid bare the rotten corruption of power politics, and, without even mentioning finance, indicates that Russia is being used when he says at the conclusion of his last article, "It follows from the record that Stalin is now playing the Berlin-Rome axis against the London-Paris axis." And who stands behind Stalin? Who benefited from the 700,000,000 dollars' worth of gold removed from Spain, as outlined last week?

There is one thing that this series of articles has indicated clearly. Forget everything you read in the world press and concentrate on putting your own house in order. And when the enthusiastic Communists ask us to join up with Russia for "world peace," the foregoing might be pointed out to them. It is to be sincerely hoped that General Krivitsky has no "unfortunate accidents" in the near future, as it is said that he intends to write quite a lot more about the international mix-up.

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 6.)

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WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

(Continued from page 1.)

any other section of the community be depended upon for "rob-Peter-to-pay-Paul" charity, which at the best, amounts to a mere pittance.

When innocent children are forced by pressure of economic circumstances to either steal or starve **THE RESPONSIBILITY RESTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE CRIME MUST BE PLACED AT THE DOORS OF THOSE ELECTED TO GOVERN.**

As a response to the mute appeals of the children, the teachers, in turn, appeal to the daily press. And what does the daily press do? Does it justify its existence by demanding rectification of these pitiful conditions by the responsible authorities? It does not. Instead it turns the appeal for money back to the people, so completing the vicious circle and assisting in the perpetuation of the CAUSE; putting the onus not upon those whose business it is to attend to the needs of the people, but upon the people themselves. The Government, having evaded its responsibility, *the task now rests with the people.*

WHAT IS THEIR WILL?

It is evident that, if these deplorable conditions are to be remedied, the cause must be REMOVED. Only the united will of the people may be depended upon to see that this is done. Mr. Butler, and all those who are concerned about the tragic state of affairs existing today, should know that the power to overcome it is vested in the Commonwealth Bank, that the Commonwealth Bank is controlled by a board of directors, and that **THIS IS THE ORGANISATION NOT ONLY TO APPEAL TO, through Parliament, but to DEMAND FROM.** The will of the people will prevail so soon as it is UNITED and EXPRESSED. It is for this purpose that the *New Times* exists. Whilst poverty exists, child-theft will continue—but the crime is not the children's, and the responsibility rests with the people, who have failed to DEMAND THAT POVERTY BE ABOLISHED.

**DOCTOR JOHN DALE
Will Address Women's
Meeting on
"URGENT PROBLEMS"**

This is final notice of the meeting to be held in the rear lounge of the Housewives' Rooms, Howey Court, Collins street, on Tuesday, July 25, at 8 p.m.

"Urgent Problems" is the subject chosen by Dr. Dale for his address.

New Times readers are asked to do all in their power to advertise the meeting. Mention of it is expected in the social columns of the daily press, and many personal invitations have been sent out. Mrs. Kerr, c/o this office, would be glad to hear from supporters, so as to gain an indication of the number likely to attend, as a guide to the number for whom to provide tea.

The room is well appointed, with easy chairs and occasional tables. Everything possible is being done to make it an enjoyable evening. Why not go along and take your lady friends? There is accommodation for one hundred and fifty.

3UL, WARRAGUL

Listeners throughout Gippsland were favoured on Monday night, July 17, with an illuminating ten-minute talk given over 3UL by Mr. Rush. His subject was "The Farmer and the Banker." By the close of the ten minutes, many *sad* farmers must have also become *wise farmers*. The cost of the session is £2, and if any ambitious reformer is looking for a way of contacting a large audience, he could not do better than deliver his message to the thousands of Gippsland listeners.

IMPORTANT MEETING

The weekly meetings recently held in the Melbourne Youth Section rooms have provided the opportunity for reformers to meet and discuss the various phases of reform activity. The next meeting will be held in Room 9, 5th Hour, McEwan House, Little Collins-street, on Wednesday night, July 26. All are invited to attend. It is only by meeting and discussion that "the other fellow's mind" can be known, and a contribution gained towards mapping out plans of action.

Reformers are requested by Electoral Campaign H.Q., to test the business community as to whether it would welcome a campaign against increased taxation, by contacting businessmen to ascertain their feeling on the matter, and to what extent they would give monetary support should a campaign be properly launched. Reports wanted on Wednesday the 26th.

HAWTHORN GROUP

The Hawthorn group of the U.E.A. will meet at the home of Mrs. Allsop, 78 Power Street, Hawthorn on Thursday evening July 27. There are many important matters to be discussed. Don't fail to be present. Bring friends with you.

ACTIONISTS! THAT BANK BILL!
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YOUTH SECTION GENERAL MEETING
on Tuesday, July 25.
Youth members, please note, and keep this date free.
Fifth Floor, Chartres House
163 Collins Street, C.I.
A DANCE will be held on Saturday, July 22. Make this your night of relaxation, at above address.

WHEATGROWERS WAKE UP

(Continued from page 1.)

local everything, because the position is now such that everybody and business in the country districts are interwoven so in a stabilised price for wheat that failure to obtain such stabilisation will spell ruin for them.

"Unquestionably, this is a weapon for cracking hard skulls. Use it. The day of philandering is over. Either the Country Party serves us or looks for a new ticket to take its members touring into the realms of comfort and importance. In the face of the dangerous rumblings, now so prevalent throughout the length and breadth of the country, the Federal Country Party dare not disregard the warning emanating from a general signature of the protest suggested.

"We are fed up, fed to teeth which no longer relish the taste of red herrings. We want action and justice, and if the Country Party fail to give us both, now that they hold a position not unlike that of America in international affairs today, then make the name Federal Country Party a nebulous memory in the history of Australian politics.

"The declaration contained in the above can be cut for use with little effort. Sign it and send it in."

"THAT TAKE THE SWORD"

Ambassador on War Makers

The United States Ambassador, Mr. William C. Bullitt, speaking recently at Chalons-sur-Marne, at a ceremony in commemoration of the American Unknown Soldier whose remains were taken from France to Washington, said:

"All the propaganda in the world will not whiten the hands or soul of a man who draws upon evil in order to fill the earth with unknown soldiers. We hear their voices saying to those who consider war a normal instrument of national policy: 'All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.'"

Mr. Bullitt recalled President Roosevelt's "Peace" Note to Herr Hitler and Signor Mussolini on April 14, and said:

"The Unknown Soldier serves and dies, but his sons live and judge."

Let us hope that the sons of unknown soldiers were not fooled by President Roosevelt's so-called "Peace" Note, which was simply a subterfuge intended to pin the "war guilt" on Germany and Italy in advance. At the same time, the same Roosevelt and his administration deliberately but quietly imposed additional crippling duties on the entry of German manufactures into the U.S.A., thus making it vastly harder for Germany to obtain vital raw materials without military action likely to "fill the earth with unknown soldiers."

ACTION AT BARELLAN.

A meeting was held in the School of Arts last Thursday, which was attended by nearly 300 farmers, workers, and business men of the district for the purpose of urging the Federal Government to adopt the Robertson Wheat Scheme, which is, as you probably are aware, for a stabilised wheat price of 4/- per bushel for the first 3000 bushels of each grower's production. After the resolution had been adopted by a 90 per cent, or more majority, Mr. J. R. Wood introduced the following resolution, which was also adopted by a very large majority, perhaps as great as the first, for a show of hands made it quite clear that there was no doubt as to the feeling of the meeting.

The important point is that, after the meeting, as the people were leaving the hall, they were asked to sign a petition, the sheets of which had been prepared beforehand, and were headed as follows:

*Name. Address. Occupation.
Average crop sown each year*

Attached to this petition were the three resolutions passed at the meeting, and about 230 signatures had been obtained when our correspondent left the hall, and more were to come. This petition has been forwarded to the Hon. H. K. Nock, M.H.R., for Riverina, to be handed to the Prime Minister. The resolution was: "To the Hon. H. K. Nock, M.H.R., Canberra, — We, the signatories to the attached petition, being farmers, workers, and business men of Barellan district, require that you, as our Parliamentary representative and paid servant, use the powers which we delegated to you by election in support of our demand from the Federal Government for a stabilised price for wheat, in accordance with the previous resolution, the necessary credit for financing same to be issued by the Commonwealth Bank on the most favourable terms which the Report of the Royal Commission on Banking discloses as being available. Failing your support of this matter, and on these lines, we will endeavour to displace you at the next election."

The first resolution read as follows:

"That this meeting urges the adoption of a Wheat Stabilisation Scheme which provides for a stabilised price of 4/- per bushel net to growers up to and including the first 3000 bushels per unit of production, as the best practical alternative to complete stabilisation."

A third resolution carried was as follows:

"That it is the opinion of this meeting that the Prime Minister should make a clear public statement that his Government intends to bring down legislation to secure, a stabilised and remunerative price for the present growing wheat crop, and that the present delay does not mean that there is any doubt about the Government's intention to bring down such legislation, in co-operation with the State Governments concerned."

* * *

We can expect to see a fluttering in the dovescotes of Canberra in the immediate future, and a fair deal for the wheat farmers in the equally immediate future if they will all throw their weight into the campaign. It looks as if a day of reckoning with certain rebellious political servants is fast approaching. Speed the day!

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