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THE

## NEW TIMES

**"CATARRH"**

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MELBOURNE, FRIDAY JULY 28, 1939.

Every Friday, 3d

## One Of The World's Greatest Experiments

White Labour in Sugar Industry  
Conquers the Tropics

## But Financial Problem Not Yet Tackled

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

Australians, as a whole, know very little about their own great continent, and, some of them, still less about money. If we had a real educational system, our ignorance on these matters would not be so pronounced. The following article sets out to survey one of Australia's most important industries, and the manner in which that industry, in spite of financial difficulties, has proved a wonderful asset in the conquering of the tropics by white labour. I refer to the Sugar Industry.

For many years Queensland has been regarded by the whole world as a crucible, in which a great experiment was being conducted. Two-fifths of Australia lies within the tropics. Could Queensland demonstrate that the white man could effectively conquer and live in the tropics?

The answer has been supplied by this great industry, with the result that Australia is the only country in the world where cane sugar is produced by white labour.

But even sugar growers are finding that they have an even more formidable adversary than climatic or physical conditions. They have overcome these, only to find a rotten financial system keeping the majority of them on very little above a slave basis.

## A FEW BRIEF FACTS

In order to give the reader some conception of the size of this industry, I have classified the following brief facts.

There are nearly 10,000 growers of sugar cane in Queensland and northern New South Wales. In addition to the farmers there are over 20,000 men employed in the raw sugar industry, including engineers, mechanics, and representatives of nearly all the skilled trades. This is apart from all the thousands of men on the railways, wharves, in the ships, refineries and other occupations.

The capital amount invested in the farms is estimated at £20,000,000, while the mills, with their plants, are worth at least £10,000,000.

The sugar cane produced in Australia in a normal year is about 4,000,000 tons, and raw sugar production is approximately 600,000 tons. As in other primary industries, agricultural science has played a big part. The yield of cane per acre has doubled in thirty years. In 1920 each acre of cane harvested yielded 1.88 tons of sugar, while in 1929 the yield per acre was 2.41 tons. In 1937 an all-time Queensland and world's record was established, when production figures showed that only 6.76 tons of cane were required to make a ton of sugar.

Sugar experts are unanimous that Queensland has some of the finest sugar growing country in the world. From a physical standpoint the industry has overcome practically every problem, but, like every other primary industry in Australia today, the sugar industry is being paralysed by our present privately controlled system of

debt-finance. The sugar growers may have hewn farms out of the tropical jungles, but they don't own them. That privilege belongs to the private bankers, who have

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## "Lost Legion of Young Australians"

## SENATOR COLLINGS OUTSPOKEN

Senator Collings (Queensland, Leader of the Opposition), speaking to the States Grants (Youth Employment) Bill 1939, said:

"... The boy, when confronted with the rotten and evil competitive conditions in which the world is struggling, has to unlearn many of the things that have been taught him if he wishes to survive in the maelstrom, where the only law recognised is the law of tooth and claw—the law of the jungle."

Senator McBride: "That surely is an exaggeration."

Senator Collings: "If the Minister thinks that what I am saying is an exaggeration of the position, will he explain the need for this measure that is brought forward to rescue some, at least, of the 90,000 young men comprising that lost legion of young Australians who, under existing conditions, can find no place in the industrial life of this country, because they have no hope of employment. They are without hope, human outcasts, compelled, many of them, to congregate at street corners, where they unlearn nearly all the best things that were taught them in their earlier years. SOME WHO CRITICISE THIS YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

## NEW JAPAN SPEAKS

Under this heading, the "Japan News-Week" (Tokyo) of June 17 published the letter to its editor, which we reproduce below. "Japan News-Week" is printed in English, and is produced and published by non-Japanese. The editor is H. Vere Redman.

"I have read with much interest the series of articles written by you, under your own name, on your recent visit to Central China. As a Japanese, I admit that you show considerable sympathy with us and what we are doing, and I do not mind even admitting that some of the complaints you make against us are justified. But I feel that, while you may understand the Japanese in general, and feel very friendly towards the elderly gentlemen that you, as a foreigner, meet socially, you are out of sympathy, because you are out of touch, with what you call in your last article, the 'new Japanese.'

"Now, these new Japanese are young people. I am one of them. We are not necessarily army officers; many of us are in Government offices, business houses, and even in the professions; and we feel that, in going into China, we must do something more than just exploit the Chinese for the benefit of a few Japanese business houses. We certainly have strong nationalist feelings, and, if we are anti-British, or anti-foreign in

general, it is probably to some extent on those grounds. But, mainly, we are anti-foreign in China because we are anti-exploitation in the mere commercial sense, just as we are anti-uncontrolled-big-business in our own country. We don't want a patched-up settlement in China, such as some of our own big business men and, we feel, most Britishers want, simply because we think that such a settlement would leave China still exploited, and this not for the benefit of the Japanese nation, or even the British nation, but just for the benefit of a few British and Japanese interests.

"Do you honestly feel, you who seem to write and think like somebody who has sympathy with the ordinary people, that we are to blame for this? Do you think that, because we hold these convictions, we are 'imperialists' or 'militarists' of 'Fascists' or all the things you do not seem to like?

"You will probably answer that you have nothing against our motives, but that you do not like our methods; that we do not understand 'business,' and that, consequently, we hold business up. That may be true, too, but we shall learn in time. We are young, and youth is the time when you do learn things. It is also the time when people have the courage and the will to fulfill their ideals. We have this, and we are determined to build this 'new order in East Asia' as we think it should be. But, when the time comes for a general settlement, I don't think you will find us unreasonable, if your people are not unreasonable. We shall not ask them to change their ideas. They can go on thinking that buying cheap and selling dear is a basic law of nature, to which in their own lands all the laws of humanity must be subordinate. All that we shall insist upon is that they respect our point of view and limit their activities in China to those which promote the welfare of the Chinese people as a whole. That's all.

"NEW JAPANESE."

"Tokyo,

"June 13, 1930."

## VICIOUS CIRCLE

RAGS Make Paper,

Paper Makes Money,

Money Makes Banks  
(and vice versa),

Banks Make Loans,

Loans Make Poverty,

Poverty Makes RAGS.

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## A NEW ZEALAND MYSTERY

## Would Producers Decline Orders?

By "THE WALRUS."

Extract from the Rockhampton "Morning Bulletin" of July 1, 1939, under heading, "Must Accept Orders for Military Boots":

"Every boot factory in New Zealand has received orders for the manufacture of military boots. One footwear merchant stated that no factory was allowed to decline these orders."

Extract from W. Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice," dated July 22, 1598:

"Shylock: 'On what compulsion must I? Tell me that!'

"The Law: The quality of mercy is not strained,

(Portia) It droppeth, as the gentle rain from heaven,  
Upon the place beneath: it is twice blessed. "

Evidently the Government of New Zealand expects to encounter a classic restraint of unusual kind on the part of suppliers, and, if its worst fears are realised, things are likely to become awkward. But it is not clear, on the face of the proposition, whether we are to infer—

- (a) That human nature has changed;
- (b) That, therefore, business is not as black as sometimes painted; or
- (c) That the Government is even further than usual from the realities.

## HUMAN NATURE CHANGED?

With regard to (a), and without going as far as Kipling, who somewhere remarked that "we are very slightly changed from the semi-apes," I feel reasonably certain that a quarter of a century is too short a time for any amelioration to become apparent. Twenty-five years ago we were firmly convinced that there were none like us. The Germans held at least as firmly the same conviction of themselves. So also did the Latins, the Scandinavians, the Patagonians, the headhunters, and Dr. Crippen.

Our national self-esteem was quite naturally an extension of the good opinion we held of ourselves as individuals. Were we businessmen, our textbook was "Letters From a Self-made Merchant to His Son." Were we clerks, although conscious of the superiority of certain clerks over certain other clerks, as, for instance, of the civil servant over the bank servant, and of all clerks over all labour, we knew, of course, that OUR labourers were better than anybody else's labourers. Were we workmen, we despised all clerks, capitalists, and Parliamentarians, until our nationality was affronted, whereupon our clerks became exalted, our capitalists bigger and better than anybody else's, and Parliamentarians . . . oh well, we voted for the blighters again, anyway.

It seems to me that everything is pretty much as it was, or, as Barry Pain's Mrs. Murphy might say, "even more so." Certainly, while class distinction shows no abatement, it is clear that national ideologies are more aggressive today: and, if anyone is inclined to think I exaggerate by the statement that Dr. Crippen esteemed himself a decent sort, we have the recent confession of Al Capone as more sinned against than sinning.

## PROFITS PALL?

When, therefore, we turn to a consideration of (b), the picture of The Profiteer apostrophising the Pound Sterling in the famous words of Lovelace,

"I could not love Thee, Dear, so much,

Loved I not Honour more,"

doesn't seem to belong. It is my considered opinion that, as "The Letters From a self-made Merchant, etc.," are still running into editions, there are no grounds what-

ever for pessimism as to business accepting its profits. So far from forcing contracts upon manufacturers, I believe it to be only necessary to leave them lying around loose to produce an abnormal crop of patriotic millionaires. The cryptic proposition that "Business is business" still holds, and is not to be confused with "Love thy neighbour," except when knighthoods are being conferred.

## GOVERNMENT FURTHER FROM REALITY?

With regard to the final proposition (c), it seems difficult to believe that any Governments could be further from realities than our Empire Governments were in the pre-war period, except that it has to be admitted that by attempting to maintain the status-quo today they do appear more futile and ridiculous now, than then. But that is because we, the people, are nearer reality in our uncensored moments.

You have merely to remind yourselves of the attitude that every self-respecting British Government has always taken when it was a question of something good for the people, to perceive that Parliaments are really tagging along unwillingly behind us, and not going somewhere else altogether, though they probably would but for us.

For instance, they gave us old-age pensions after—long after—warning us of the peculiar circumstances that, while it was most seemly for the well-to-do to accept a large pension from the State for doing nothing much, it was a degrading proceeding for a poor man, after a life of toil, to accept a small pension from the same source.

Again, they consented to reduction of working hours after a strenuous opposition, founded on the official belief that the health of the worker, although not all that could be desired, would suffer still further deterioration, since the worker would have more time in which to get drunk.

The existence of women was not even nationally recognised, and the question of women's suffrage, when it was thrust upon the Mother of Parliaments, was considered so outrageous that it was easily talked out of session by the simple expedient of protracting a debate on a Bill dealing with tail-lights on vehicles.

Whoever was the Minister responsible for the utterance quoted by the footwear merchant, he must have had something on his mind in thus speaking of compulsion. Possibly, all these conversations with, and about, Fascist peoples had had a more powerful effect on his mind than he was aware of. It is possible that, having grasped the principle that the only way to get people to do something they don't want to do is to use force, he thought it just as well to introduce a little democratic confusion, and force them to do *everything*, whether they want to or not.

If that be so, we may expect a

## MUST MEN MAKE WAR?

By "LEXICON."

Why do men make war? Standing up to one's knees in the mud of the trenches is an uncomfortable, messy business. Acting as a target for tons of steel and high explosives also has its disadvantages. Madness, blindness, physical incapacitation, and death are not desirable ends in themselves, while being a hero in a bath chair during the short period of popular adulation hardly compensates for the weary years of being a poor encumberer of the earth in the eyes of a public, which has forgotten to be grateful.

It might be argued that the makers of war are not those who suffer its hurts and privations. I would suggest, however, that no one could make war, not kings nor statesmen nor diplomats, if they weren't reasonably certain of the co-operation of the man in the street when it comes to doing "the dirty work." To the extent that we show our willingness, in times of peace, to fight in time of war, we must take our share of the blame, and, to the extent to which we incline to belligerence and anger in our relations with our family and neighbours, we are acquiescing in the spirit of hatred which makes war possible.

The martyr complex, or desire to sublimate self-interest in some worthier cause, is inherent in every human being. War seems to offer the greatest scope for dramatic sublimation of self to a high ideal. It appeals to the Galahad in youth to "lay down his life for his country." One wonders though what proportion of the ten millions who died in the last war really expected to be killed, as compared with that which dreamed of triumphal victory marches and decorations?

The writer longed to be old enough to be in the front line killing the "hated Huns," and dreamed youthful dreams of leading decimated companies of men to victory over vastly-superior forces, but he never attained to the knowledge of what it meant to actually kill another human being, and never in any circumstances did he think of himself as being among the dead. . . It is true that there were many great souls who, after exercising their minds on the question of where their duty lay, and realising to the full the horror of that which they were going to do, joined the fighting forces because of a sincere belief that by so doing they were helping to right a great wrong. Those of them who returned are, for the most part, convinced that they fought in vain. The world is no better today than it was in 1914.

## ECONOMIC CAUSE, AND INDIVIDUAL "ESCAPE"

It is becoming a generally accepted belief that the main factor in the unfriendly relations that exist between the great Powers is the economic one. Tientsin and Danzig may be the excuses for a major conflict, and reports of insults and outrageous acts of violence may be used for the purpose of stirring up public feeling here, but the fact remains that there would be less danger of war with Japan if it were not for the fact that vested interests are fearful of losing their valuable trade concessions in the Far East as a result of that nation's activities. By the same token, it is possible that many individuals are the more willing to go to war by reason of the fact that they think that by so doing they will escape from their own personal problems. In this post-war era of depressions and unemployment it seems reasonable to suppose that there are many hundreds of Australians who feel that any change

Bill before very long compelling shareholders to accept dividends, wage-earners to accept wages, beggars to receive charity, and so on.

I think it must be acknowledged that this wholesale compulsion is as good a way as any to impress the people that sovereignty at present resides not in the people but in their representatives.

would be for the better, even war. That statement is not so ridiculous as it may seem. An unemployed ex-serviceman once told the writer that, having suffered the tortures of mustard gas, besides being severely wounded on two occasions, he would welcome another war as a relief from the privations and ignominy of his state as an unwanted worker. "We was treated like men, not like dogs, in them days," he added.

Time, of course, had taken the edge off the man's memory of the horrors of war, but the fact remains that, having been through them, he was prepared to undergo them again, in order to escape the problems of life on the dole, quite overlooking the fact that by going to war he merely found a temporary solution to the problem of frying in the pan by jumping into the fire. When, by the greatest of good fortune, he escaped death by the fire, it was only to find the problem of the frying pan greatly increased. None of us who is old enough to make a comparison between the pre-war days and the present would suggest for a moment that the world was any the better as a result of the Great War; in fact, it is doubtful whether one would find many people who would not agree that considerably the worse, insofar as the lot of the majority of its inhabitants is concerned.

## THE OLD JARGON

Today our statesmen are driving the same hard bargains as of old -- exchanging "rights" for "rights," guarantees for guarantees, and threatening wrongs for wrongs. As of yore, it is the other fellow who is the scoundrel, while our virtue is unimpeachable. If war comes, as it inevitably must, unless we do something about it we will once again be asked to "fight for democracy," "protect our women and children," "make a world fit for heroes." Yet the last war taught us that war negates democracy; women and children are saved by peace and killed by war; while the lands fit for heroes to live in will never be discovered by battleships.

There are those who would argue that evil must be used to overcome evil, force with force. In that case, they must show us how and where evil was defeated in the last war, and tell us who is to be the judge who will decide between the so-called democracies. Russia and the totalitarian States.

Others argue that men are born fighters, and that war is inevitable while two of them inhabit the earth. A few hundred years ago the Scots were the sworn enemies of the English, yet they live together amicably enough today, despite the fact that they are

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## ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST EXPERIMENTS

(Continued from page 1.)

never cleared an acre of land in their history. They sit in comfort and only create money, and, by the process of only lending it to the sugar growers and charging them interest for the use of it, are slowly but surely getting complete control of the whole industry. And, the more work the sugar growers do, then the more assets they create for the banks. As for the question of the increasing number of Italians in the industry, it appears that the banks welcome them more than the Australians or Britishers because they are prepared to work harder. I used to think that slavery had been abolished!

### THE EXPORT MANIA

Like every other primary industry in Australia today, the sugar industry, and its "leaders," suffers from the export mania. "Unless we can ship sugar to the other side of the world we are ruined, etc." One would think that all the Australian people were consuming as much sugar as they would like to.

My own impression, after a personal contact with the industry, is that the alleged leaders and representatives of the industry are the very ones who have the least grip on the realities of the situation. There are, of course, exceptions. I put the following proposition to a secretary of one of the big districts: "At the present time we tax the Australian consumers in order to, sell below the cost of production overseas. At the same time, large quantities of fruit are dumped, or not harvested, in our fruit growing areas. In view of the fact that thousands of Australian families cannot buy jam, or consume as much sugar as they desire, it appears obvious that if the Australian people as a whole had more money, some of the biggest difficulties facing the sugar industry would be overcome." I dealt with the function of the Commonwealth Bank, and showed that the solution was quite simple. However, the secretary's rather heated and insulting reply was that I was a "crank," while his remarks on banking left me without appropriate words to deal with such nonsense. And yet 95 per cent, of the cane growers, whose interests this man and others are supposed to be representing, have their assets in pawn to the private trading banks. However, as the secretary mentioned draws a regular salary from those who are doing all the slaving, I have very little doubt that he feels that he is quite all right. And yet reliable persons informed me that the same man, prior to getting this job, was interested in money reform. But such are the regimenting tactics in bureaucratically governed Queensland, with a Labor Party in office, that, instead of executives functioning to represent the rank and file of the various unions, they have reversed the position. If democracy is ever to become a reality, this will have to be altered. I might say that neither in this article nor from the platform have I given the mentioned secretary's name, for the very good reason that I was without witnesses. My clashes with the Labor Party in this State have filled me with respect for their subtle and rather corrupt tactics against those who reveal the truth to the public. At some future date I will deal with them in detail.

### POWER ALCOHOL FROM CANE

Apart from the usual uses of sugar, another marvellous development in modern chemistry has opened up untold possibilities for the sugar industry. That is, of course, if we had a decent money system. The new science of chemurgy means putting chemistry to work for the farmers.

A lot of propaganda has been put out on this subject by the Australian Power Alcohol and Liquid Fuel League, and there is no disputing the fact that power alcohol can easily be produced. As a matter of fact, a factory at Sarina has been manufacturing power alcohol successfully for some time. This is being used as a mixture with ordinary petrol. Reams could be written on this fascinating subject, but I think the following statement by Professor R. H. Carr, of the Purdue University, United States, in the *Western Mail*, after he addressed the West Australian branch of the Australian Chemical Institute, sums the matter up in a very interesting manner:

"I am amazed to find black strap molasses being used in Queensland as a fertiliser. This molasses is a gold mine. There was no need for Australia to have supplies of petroleum available, as she had plant life sufficient to meet her needs in power if she took advantage of them. It was expected that the supply of petroleum in the United States, at the present rate of consumption, would last another 25 years, when that country would be in the same position as Australia, and would be forced to utilise the supplies of fuel obtainable from plant life. Much work on the production of power alcohol had been done in the United States, and production was carried out on a commercial scale. It had been found that oil supplies could be conserved by using mixtures of gasoline and alcohol. The alcohol was sold at two cents (one penny) over the standard price of gasoline, due to its anti-knock qualities, its freedom from carbon deposit in the engine, and its increased octane number."

Professor Carr concluded: "There is a new day dawning for agriculture. We are getting past the time when crops will be raised just for food. The new chemistry is solving problems associated with surplus crops which lend themselves readily to conversion to more marketable materials."

### VESTED INTERESTS PREVENT DEVELOPMENT

Although the subject of power alcohol has been exercising the minds of many people in Queensland for years, nothing has been done. When I first arrived in Queensland, and came in contact with this matter, I thought that here was an issue upon which businessmen and farmers could surely be agreed. Surely this was a great opportunity for pressure politics. Unfortunately, I found the so-called leaders the stumbling block. There was one notable exception. I had the privilege of spending over an hour with Mr. Seymour-Howe, president of the Australian Power Alcohol League. One of the best-known men in the sugar world, and a leading authority on Power Alcohol, he spent time and money all over Australia trying to get a hearing from responsible citizens. Apparently he got as much opposition from the oil monopol-

ists as Mr. Pollock did during the famous Royal Commission on Petrol. It seems to be one of the issues, which party politics cannot stand up against.

In the course of my conversation with Mr. Howe I pointed out that all their deputations and resolutions would make no impression. Their Federal representatives might be interested, but while they were controlled by the party, all that vested interests had to do was to control the party. I pointed out that even if, as the opponents of power alcohol said, the cost was slightly more than ordinary petrol, we had plenty of men and resources in this country, with a Commonwealth Bank which could function in the interests of the Australian people.

I outlined the idea of pressure politics on the matter, and before I left, Mr. Howe said that he was very interested in the proposition, and would give me all the assistance he could. Unfortunately, his tragic death a week later, as a result of an accident, robbed Australia of a man who had been a tower of strength in arousing interest on this national question.

A campaign along Electoral Campaign lines has already been experimented with in one centre. I am in receipt of a letter from a correspondent there who informs me that he has been threatened from the platform, while his best supporter was "framed" in a defamation action. But he says they

## PROCRASTINATION IS THE THIEF OF TIME

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

are still fighting. The following extract from his letter indicates the position: "The factory operating at Sarina, calling itself 'The Australasian National Power Alcohol Company,' is manufacturing its spirit from molasses drawn from the sugar mills. It is often claimed by the Queensland Government supporters that the Sarina factory is finding difficulty in disposing of its product, and that a sort of 'Use More' campaign should be inaugurated to help them over the difficulty. This is all "hoey," as we have made very definite attempts to secure a quantity of the spirit with no success. Even a cheque for 30 gallons was returned to my friend, who tried to secure enough to demonstrate to the people that we could use the spirit to run a tractor. As a matter of fact, we have already tried the stuff with remarkable success, even to diluting it with water, and we proposed to set up a tractor in the street and show what could be done. I enclose the reply together with the returned cheque for your perusal, and to show that the Sarina Coy. does NOT experience any difficulty in disposing of its product. We tried to obtain a supply through every channel, applying to the various Government Departments, but without success, with the result that we are at the end of our tether with regard to a practical demonstration. The Queensland Government does not want to help, and therein lies a tale. They are supposed to be opposed to all forms of foreign capital, yet they shut their eyes to the fact that the Sarina Coy.

is a foreign company. As a matter of fact, we had to go as far as Melbourne to secure the names of the registered shareholders." There then follows a list of the groups, all monopolies, and tied up with the financial ramp.

My correspondent concludes by saying: "So you see that the people are led to believe that they can't use power alcohol without it is blended with American spirit, that there is no sale for the spirit, that it is economically unsound, and that everything is being done to achieve success, etc., etc."

He also adds that Mr. Forgan-Smith is one of the bankers' best men. I thoroughly agree, and the sugar industry is never going to get out of the present mess while it is regimented by every form of graft known to modern politics. It is to be hoped that before long the rank and file in the sugar industry will get together and demand that their paid servants do something.

### NONSENSE FROM THE "LEADERS"

In the meantime the industry faces a hopeless position. Even a Royal Commission was deemed necessary, and, if the report, which I have before me, is the best advice that the "leaders" have to offer, the position is hopeless. Its statement that, "We consider that action for the more effective control of production is necessitated by the Commonwealth Agreement as well as the International Agreement" seems to indicate the sinister influence of finance working for control of production, in order to equate it with an artificially restricted money supply. But, Royal Commissions, whether they deal with Sugar, Wheat, or any other industry, studiously avoid this subject.

Mr. A. R. Townsend, the Commonwealth Sugar Adviser, is reported in the *Cairns Post* of June 23, as saying: "The industry in Australia has, rather unwisely, produced sugar during the last two years in excess of the home and export markets available." If Mr. Townsend only realised it, one of the best markets is here in Australia—but markets are useless without money. I wonder if Mr. Townsend thinks that money is some mysterious thing that cannot be produced at will. It appears so.

But the Royal Commission went even further. After dealing with "quotas" and the control of production, the following gem appears: "As the total amount of money available for distribution cannot be increased . . ." This is quite certain while the private trading banks have the manufacturing monopoly of what should be controlled by the people through their Members of Parliament.

No review of this industry could be complete without briefly dealing with what our High Commissioner, Mr. S. M. Bruce, had to say at the Thirteenth Annual Conference, while in Australia recently. He said, in reviewing his actions on behalf of the Australian Sugar Industry: "We reached a position of hopeless overproduction in relationship to the consumption power of the world." Mr. Bruce knows that that statement is contrary to facts. The people of nearly every country would consume a lot more sugar if they had the money to buy it. Mr. Bruce did not mention that. However, as the report states that representatives of the Banks were present at this conference, he may not have liked to mention this matter. One must be charitable sometimes.

(Continued on page 8.)

## 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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### BOYCOTT BOOMERANG

#### Pressure-Politics Preferable

As this is written it appears that trades unionists will be urged by the Trades Hall Councils in their respective States to drop the boycott of the National Register. This arises from the meeting of the Prime Minister and the Federal Labor Advisory Committee, which ended on Tuesday.

The proposal to boycott the National Register has been claiming much attention—even taking second place to "Teintsin Tension" or "Danzig Danger" on the front page of more than one daily paper. Whilst it is a most distasteful task to throw even a single drop of cold water on what appears to be a courageous attempt to stem the rising tide of political dictatorship, it must be realised sooner or later—and the sooner the better—that a frontal attack is not always the best tactics.

The boycott method may be described as "unconstitutional," and for that reason alone the "New Times" as an advocate of constitutional action, could not positively recommend the boycott to its readers. However, that objection is admittedly a purely technical one, as the National Registration Act was hastily "wangled" through Parliament by a minority Government, representing a minority of the electors and having absolutely no mandate, actual or implied, from the people for any such measure as this Act, appears to be on more than superficial examination (especially if it be considered in conjunction with other associated legislation).

However, it is easy to see how the boycott would be met by the bogey that Parliamentary government was threatened and chaos impending. It is true that Mr. Menzies, his backers and his followers themselves constitute all the immediate threat in Federal politics to Parliamentary government as a democratic reality (or the shadow of it)—as witness, the National Register Act itself. It is also true that no sort of chaos that matters will arise from Australians failing to make certain ink-marks on the pieces of cardboard which are the outward symbols of the National Register—they have, in the past, come through droughts, depressions, and a world-war as well as could be expected, and without any such bureaucratic "hanky-panky." But would the daily papers ventilate these two facts? Would the Australian Broadcasting Commission and all the other channels of misinformation? Of course not. Poor John Citizen would be deluded into thinking that the deluge was upon him, and that Mr. Menzies was his only Ark—before democratic reformers had time adequately to place the facts before him. A snap election, and Mr. Menzies and his satellites might be firmly ensconced in the seats of the mighty—precariously occupied at present—and seeking fresh worlds of popular will to conquer.

No, the method that has saved Australians from another National candidate, that didn't come home—the National Insurance Act—is the one to be applied. It has none of the characteristics of the boomerang. Let everyone opposed to the National Registration Act—a majority of electors when the truth has had time to get around, if not already—write to their respective Federal representatives at Canberra demanding its repeal. (It is certain clauses in the Act, rather than the card-filling process, which constitute the ultimate danger.) Mr. Menzies is not quite sure about that snap election, and has agreed to the re-opening of the matter of obnoxious clauses during the coming session of Parliament. Now is the time for vigorous action along the above lines.

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## THE MENACE OF THE BOYCOTT

### LETTER TO EDITOR

Sir, —I know of nothing more calculated to destroy democratic institutions in Australia than the boycott of the National Register Act, Abhorrent as the legislation is, it cannot be defeated by a defiance of the law.

In the first place, it is the kind of legislation only made possible by the clamant demands of the "popular front" for protection against "aggressors." If there is anything in the cry for "collective security," which means, according to the Communist Party, an alliance of all progressive parties and peoples against the encroachment of Fascism, is not the purpose of the National Register Act one of the necessary steps to organise and weld the Australian people into an effective form of resistance?

Those of us who believe, as I strongly do, that the "collective security" hocus-pocus is a specious snare, liable to corral the workers into an Imperialist war, can find legitimate ground for hostility to all legislation of the type of the National Register Act, but the so-called militant bodies are themselves morally responsible for the pro-conscription Acts of the Menzies Government, for they have, through their blindness, and by some obliquity of judgment, created the atmosphere which made them possible. First, they demand an organisation of democracies against war and Fascism, and then, when their demands are met by an attempt to scientifically classify the community for purposes of "defence," they shout it down as Fascism. But, as Aldous Huxley says, there is no virtue in consistency.

What does the boycott involve? We believe in Parliamentary institutions. We send representatives of the people into Parliament to carry out the people's will. Even when the legislation is odious and distasteful, as the present Acts are, the only reasonable method is to convince the electors that it is wrong; it deprives the people of liberty, it is inimical to their well-being, and so on. That is the procedure, which everyone must necessarily accept.

Some Communist leaders, with a naiveté that is astonishing, assert that Mr. Menzies would be defeated if he went to the country on the boycott issue. They know little of the Australian electors. Elections are won through the success achieved by political parties in winning over that mass of voters who have no party affiliations. It is obvious they would support Mr. Menzies on a constitutional issue. What a great weapon the boycott places in the hands of Mr. Menzies! If he did not appeal to the country on the right of Parliament to govern, he would not only manifest that he is deficient in all political sagacity, but he would lose prestige entirely in the community. It is the chance of his career in consolidating the U.A.P. forces and other "bourgeois" elements. What could better rally the dissident elements of the Country Party behind him in an election than this? Even Sir Earle Page would have to sink his opposition to the Prime Minister and support him in his demand for a mandate from the people to carry on responsible government. But, if the Communist Party is so sure of defeating the Menzies Government on the issue of boycotting the National Register Act, why not wait for the next Federal elections and challenge

the Government on the Act itself? It must be remembered that it is not only the Act, which is at stake, but the whole defence policy of the Government. It means, if the Menzies Government is defeated, the community has turned down its defence policy. Is it likely?

The Labor movement is committed to political action, and must take the political consequences. Labor Members of Parliament would have to support Mr. Menzies on the issue of constitutional law. What a strange spectacle it would be with Labor Members supporting Mr. Menzies and the union members against them! All opponents of the pernicious Acts, which the Menzies Government has placed on the Statute Book, should rally their forces for the next Federal elections, and not allow the Government the strategic advantage of putting them on the defensive. If that should happen, it would mean political oblivion of the Labor movement for a generation.

It is assumed that if thousands refused to sign the register forms, the Government could not gaoil them all. This overlooks the fact that there are such places as concentration camps and such things as loss of union rights, etc. The boycott would probably be provocative of Fascist exercise of the very power the unions fear. It would be easy, under a mandate from the people, to establish a military dictatorship, dispense with the Courts, and herd the recalcitrant workers into concentration camps. The boycotters are doing exactly those things likely to destroy democracy in Australia. They are the friends of Menzies, rather than of democracy, for, if he did not seize the opportunity to appeal to the country on the issue of "lawlessness," and defiance of a lawfully-constituted Government, he would prove himself the weakest Prime Minister that ever occupied the office. What of Spain? It was Franco's rebellion against a lawfully constituted Government that made the Communist Party go berserker. The boycott is a chance for Mr. Menzies to settle himself in power for the next twenty years. — Yours, etc.,

J. McKELLAR.

Melbourne.

Doctor: "Your husband needs a complete rest. I will prescribe a sleeping draught."

Woman: "When shall I give it to him?"

Doctor: "Don't give it—take it"

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## MORE HUMBUG

### Fun Being Made of Unemployed Youth

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir, —There has been another conference. It was held in Melbourne, and was between Commonwealth and State Ministers on Youth Employment. Great prominence was given in the press to the "recommendations," and we were informed that a special paper on the subject had been prepared for the guidance of the conference by Dr. Mauldon, of the Commonwealth Statistician's staff. When I read that I felt that the results, as usual, would be abortive, and the summary of his "paper" strengthened that feeling. He actually said that "one of the DIRECT CAUSES of the youth employment problem" is the increasing longevity of the Australian population, combined with the employment of female labour as a substitute for adults and young males. If this be so, then the remedy is easy: simply co-operate with the medical profession to prevent this longevity, and bring in legislation to prohibit the employment of females! If that IS one of the direct causes, then obviously the cause must be removed before it is possible to achieve the desired end.

But what causes the employment of female labour? Females are employed because females want money and because employers, too, are in a desperate fight for money. To all, except the economists of the Ark age, the idea that longevity and females are responsible for the outrageous treatment being meted out to the youth by the Commonwealth is too absurd for a second thought. Ideas of this kind are only to be expected from a man who was closely associated with Professors Copland and Giblin at the Melbourne University, and in the imposition of the devilish Premiers' Plan. Like these two "professors," he also has been paraded by the Melbourne *Herald*, giving pseudo-wise dissections of conditions within the framework of the depression. Like them, he accepted the depression itself without attempting to analyse its CAUSE, and wrote reams and reams as it were about its effects and how it influenced the number of people at "work." He gave melancholy statistics of labour conditions, the number of male, female, and juvenile workers, and what is happening to them within the present depressed state of industry. Not the slightest help has ever been offered by him towards a solution of the real economic barbarism he must surely see all around him. Apparently he is unable or unwilling to admit realities, but is still useful to the finance controllers as a propagandist, particularly in turning attention from causes to effects. Consequently, it was not surprising that the latest conference, held only last week, with a discredited economist as "adviser," was as unsuccessful as its many predecessors.

#### A SWINDLE—NOT A PROBLEM!

No honest man or woman would dispute the FACT that material of all descriptions is available here in abundance, and that producers are almost breaking their hearts to get rid of it; that labour for all needs and to spare is awaiting employment; and that some of the best men of the community are forced into soul-searing idleness when they could be doing useful and necessary work; that, notwithstanding these things, there is pressing need for more and better hospitals, for more and better bridges to relieve traffic congestion, for new school buildings throughout the country, for an extension of the water, sewerage, and electric light systems; for better roads and footpaths, for the clearance of slums, for the prevention of soil erosion, and so on, in all directions. We have the materials, we have the labour, and we have the work; but men of the type mentioned still talk of the "problem" of unemployment. There is

no such problem at all. We are simply the victims of a financial swindle, and the men referred to, unfortunately, either lack the wit to see it or the courage to declare it.

#### NOT A DISEASE

Unemployment is NOT a disease. To a large extent, it is the inevitable result of our labour-saving efforts, and merely calls for a corresponding adjustment of the distributing system. This adjustment may present difficulties to the prejudiced, single-track minds of the "experts," but it presents no difficulty to those who have studied the question with the sole object of benefit to the community. Even the London *Times* recognises this, for it has stated that the professional economic experts have failed to get us out of the impasse, and expressed the belief that the solution will only be arrived at by "thinkers outside these experts, who are not prejudiced by preconceived theories." The professional experts have actually got us further and further into the mire, and it is time they were clearly given to understand that they have been weighed in the balance of public well-being and found wanting.

#### WHAT OF THE 1932 CONFERENCE?

It seems to have been forgotten by the Commonwealth Government that at its own instigation a special committee was appointed in 1932 "to survey the economic position in relation to unemployment," and that that committee presented its report to the Prime Minister on April 13, 1932. The personnel for that committee suggested by the Commonwealth Government was as follows: Claude Reading, of Sydney; G. S. Colman, of Melbourne; and Professors Copland, Giblin, Melville, and Shann. It was explained in the telegram to the several Premiers that, "owing to Professor Copland's absence from Australia at the moment, he will be unable to act immediately, but it is hoped that his assistance will be available in the later stages of the committee's deliberations." As the man who has taken a leading part in trying to disprove the FACT that costs are generated faster than money is distributed, it was important to the "sound-finance" Government that a specially-selected representative of the correct mental type should be there as a sort of watchdog to keep the committee from dealing with realities. It transpired that Mr. Reading (now Sir Claude!) was not able to act, and his place was taken by Sir Wallace Bruce, of Adelaide, another man who has actually done nothing whatever to bring better living conditions to the people, but who, through the control he exercises in financial matters, has actually

helped to bring harm to them. Another interesting change in the personnel of the committee was the substitution of Professor Mills, of Sydney, for Professor Copland. Mills has taken a similar line to Copland in helping to keep the community short of money. He, too, is an economist of the Ark type, and, like opponents of progress in the past, has publicly argued against facts.

#### THEIR "RECOMMENDATIONS"

That committee made several recommendations, all of which have proved futile. These recommendations were useless to the community, but the men who made them, with the exception of Professor Shann, who was killed, have all been made more economically secure in their respective spheres. They, at any rate, have not themselves suffered for recommending suffering for others. Their recommendations included the following:

1. A lowering of standards to agree with the fall in the national income;
2. A lowering of internal prices to agree with the fall in export prices;
3. Balancing of budgets;
4. Cutting costs by reducing wages;
5. Increased efficiency in industry;
6. Governments to borrow only for works which are able to "earn interest";
7. Promotion of subsistence farming; and
8. Revision of the tariff.

It was pointed out at the time that not any of these touched the core of the "problem," because it is not possible to raise standards by lowering them; to give people more money by reducing what they have; to reduce the output by increasing the efficiency of production; to increase sales by giving people less with which to buy; to balance the budget by depriving the Government of its Customs revenues. Every one of the recommendations depended absolutely on the question of finance, but that question found no place in the committee's report, except to this extent:

"The extent of Government action is determined by finance. Any money raised for public works, for assistance to private industry, or for the balancing of budgets will come mainly from short-term loans from the banks by way of Treasury Bills..." So the banks do determine what Governments may do!

#### THE NEW "RECOMMENDATIONS"

Now we are told that the latest committee has recommended proposals, which "may result in sweeping alterations to social, educational and industrial systems throughout Australia." Note particularly that there is no mention of the financial system! Anything can be altered but that. As to the proposals themselves, think them over quietly as to their effect upon YOU, as the father or the mother of a family. Here they are:

1. School-leaving age to be raised to 15;
2. Boys and girls less than 15 to be prohibited from working in factories;
3. "Investigation" of dead-end jobs;
4. Industrial tribunals to be given power to fix ratios of juniors to adults and of females to males in employment;
5. Royal Commission to inquire into the practicability of a shorter working week;
6. Uniformity of factory legislation in all States: and

7. Meetings twice yearly of the Youth Employment Conference!

#### SCHOOL-LEAVING AGE

What does the raising of the school-leaving age mean? For the great majority of families it will simply mean that Mum and Dad must keep their hand to the grindstone for a longer period, struggling to make ends meet, for it will be impossible for the youngsters to help by bringing in a few shillings for the family income. Parents will be subjected to further financial worry, and the State Governments will be subjected to further heavy expenditure in the Education Departments. It is, therefore, a question of finance for both parents and Governments. If the financial aspect is put right, then the proposal is right; otherwise, it will be a double burden on shoulders least able to bear it.

#### YOUNGSTERS IN FACTORIES

The prohibition of girls and boys from working in factories is also a question of finance. Employers now take the younger people because they have to PAY them less, and there is sure to be a howl if employers are required to pay higher wages without first being put in the financial position to do so. If youngsters are not to be permitted to work until they attain the age of 15 years, then, under existing conditions, the youngsters themselves must suffer, particularly in the homes where the income is small and the family large. In addition to this, the employer will be obliged, because of competitive conditions, to resort to the more extensive use of machinery, in preference to paying higher wages to men. In any case, this could have no effect at all on the dismissal of youths upon attaining the age of 21. That would still go on, as it must go on so long as we permit the continuance of a fraudulent system of finance.

#### RATIOS AND THE REST

There will always be dead-end jobs, and no "investigation" will alter it. Industrial tribunals may fix ratios until the cows come home, but that will not help any business to remain solvent if the people of the community are not supplied with sufficient money to buy what the business has to sell. The tendency would be to increase costs, so that the employer would find it more difficult to pay wages at all. As to the shorter working week, what prevents it now? Finance alone. Give the employer the financial wherewithal to pay the extra wages that would be involved, and his opposition will immediately vanish. He opposes it now simply because he knows that in most cases employers could not possibly stand the financial strain without getting into the clutches of the banker. But let him know definitely that the running of his business would not be subject to the approval or disapproval of the private financiers, and that he could depend on receiving accommodation equal to his legitimate business demands, and he would be ready and even enthusiastic to reduce hours immediately. Workers who take the trouble to notice what is going on already know that the only argu-

(Continued on page 8.)

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(Continued on page 7.)

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM HANSARD

### Democracy or Dictatorship?

#### 'EVERY DAY IN EVERY WAY

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

##### June 6th

*Mr. Ward* (East Sydney): "I ask the Treasurer whether certain Public Works in various States are being delayed because of lack of finance, and whether in view of the recommendation made by the Royal Commission on Monetary and Banking Systems, that it is within the capacity of the Commonwealth Bank to grant financial accommodation to the Commonwealth and State Governments free of interest, he will take appropriate action to ensure that no further delay is incurred on those works? If he is not prepared to adopt the recommendation of the Royal Commission to which I have referred, will he state his reasons for refusing to do so?"

*Mr. Menzies*: "The honourable member's question relates to a matter of financial policy, and it is not customary to make statements of policy in reply to questions." [Convenient custom.]

##### June 7th

In reply to the following question previously submitted by *Mr. Curtin*: "Having regard to the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Banking that, in the event of conflict between the trading banks and the Commonwealth Bank Board, the policy of the Commonwealth Bank Board should be supreme, what steps does the Government propose to take to ensure that the Board's policy shall prevail?" *Mr. Menzies* replied: "I understand that there is a large measure of agreement between the Commonwealth Bank Board and the trading banks regarding the question of credit expansion in present circumstances." (This is supposed to be an answer to the question!)

#### THE SENATE

##### June 8th

*Senator Cameron*: "On the 31st May I asked the Minister representing the Treasurer the following question: 'From what fund or source or by what method, was money obtained by the Commonwealth Bank and subscribed by it to the last three internal loans, including the conversion loan?' The answer I received on the 7th June read—'The bank operates as a savings bank, a trading bank, and a central bank, and the subscriptions were made from the resources resulting from these different functions.'—I regard that as an impertinent and evasive answer. If Honourable Senators are expected to discuss subjects intelligently they have a right to receive intelligent answers. This evasive answer has been made with the object of trying to mislead Honourable Senators or of making it more difficult for them to understand the position of the Commonwealth Bank. I should like to know what the board of that bank has to hide? I believe that the Commonwealth Bank is depreciating currency by printing and circulating notes, and is afraid to acknowledge the fact. The answer I received convinces me that the bank desires to withhold knowledge from the public. . . ."

*Senator Arthur*: "Last year I asked a question relating to the total profits earned by the Note Issue Dept. of the Commonwealth Bank. In 1932, the answer given

to a similar question was that the profit amounted to £21,000,000; but in 1938, when I asked the question, the profit had dwindled to £15,000,000. I asked a further question as to the total paid-up capital of all the trading banks of the Commonwealth. In 1932, the answer to a similar question was that the total paid-up capital amounted to £60,000,000; by 1938, when I asked the question, it had dwindled to £39,000,000. Later, the then Treasurer (Mr. Casey) forwarded to me a letter in which he stated that in making up the figures the paid-up capital of certain foreign banks operating in this country had not been included, I found, however, that the total paid-up capital of those foreign banks is out of all proportion to the error contained in the answer to my question. Up to date I have not received correct answers to either of these questions."

##### June 9th

*Senator Clothier* (W.A.) asked the Minister representing the Treasurer, upon notice: "1. What is the amount of Government currency in Australia? 2. What is the total amount of money deposited in the trading and savings banks in Australia? 3. What is the difference between the amounts referred to in questions Nos. 1 and 2? 4. By what authority was this difference in amounts issued?"

*Senator McLeay*: "The Treasurer has furnished the following answers: 1. Australian notes. £47,530,000. The amount of silver and copper in circulation is not known. 2. £631,086,000 3. There is no relation between the figures quoted in Nos. 1 and 2. 4. See answer to No. 3." [Shades of Caesar!]

##### June 13th

*Senator Keane* asked the Minister representing the Treasurer, upon notice: "1. Is it a fact that the £6,000,000 loan floated in London has been a failure, and that 80 per cent, has been left with the underwriters? 2. If so, will the Minister inform the Senate what steps are proposed to restore Australian credit in London? 3. Did the High Commissioner, Mr. Bruce, advise the launching of the loan at this time?"

*Senator McLeay*: "The Treasurer has supplied the following answers: 1. Approximately 80 per cent, of the £6,000,000 London loan was left with the underwriters, but this rather indicates that the market was adversely influenced by the international situation, 2. See answer to No. 1. [Question evaded.] 3. Yes."

*Senator Cameron* asked the Minister representing the Prime Minister, upon notice: "1. Is it a fact that the Government's attempt to float a loan of £6,000,000 in London has been a failure? 2. If so, will the Government indicate, firstly, from what source it now proposes to obtain the money required for Defence and other purposes in order to be able to liquidate maturing commitments, and, secondly, whether the Government is prepared to use the resources of the Commonwealth Bank in an effort to obtain the money required, if the private banks and other private financial institutions refuse to subscribe to Government loans?"

*Senator McLeay*: "The follow-

## MUST MEN MAKE WAR?

(Continued from page 3.)

racially less akin to the English than are the Germans.

\* \* \*

The truth of the matter is that no one wants to fight. Youngsters who have grown up since the last war, and those who didn't have the experience of hearing battered men screaming for death as a welcome release, may feel that it would be an interesting change, but they are chiefly thinking of escape from the dullness or poverty of everyday life—war to them means travel, military camps, and bonhomie, not ghastly reality and death. Those who really feel that it would solve the present international problems only need to cast their minds back a matter of twenty years or so in order to get their answer.

The other day a so-called pacifist remarked, referring to some militarist acquaintances:

"Well, if they want to go and fight, let them. In fact, the more of them that leave their entrails on the battlefield, the fewer there'll be to bother the people who want to live in peace."

In talking like that he was behaving as belligerently as the young warriors to whose militarism he objected. Most of us, having experienced the same feelings as those, which have motivated present-day youth in that regard, can understand them. The pity of it is that those are the very feelings which, rightly directed, would give them value in our world. Our desire for peace is not motivated by a wish to escape from a necessary unpleasantness, but by a knowledge that the initial horror of war can only be followed by the greater, long-drawn-out miseries of a wretched "peace," such as we know now, while the fighting will result, not in the righting of wrongs or the punishing of the "war criminals," but merely in the wholesale slaughter of the healthy young Galahads who are, no doubt, prepared to scorn us for trying to save them.

## A SUGGESTION

At a meeting of enthusiasts representative of the Kennedy electorate, held on Sunday, June 25, and called for the purpose of welcoming Eric Butler to the electorate, it was suggested that an appeal be made throughout Queensland for 500 supporters to put in £1 each to provide a proper fund to pay a full-time organiser, who could carry on the work which Eric was engaged in. Those present were very emphatic that it could be done and backed their enthusiasm with action. £12 was subscribed on the spot. It was pointed out that once they got one organiser going they could then set out to have another one. All supporters in Queensland, it is suggested, should give this suggestion their serious consideration. Remittances should be sent to the Electoral Campaign, 142 Adelaide Street, Brisbane.

ing answers have been supplied by the Treasurer: '1. [The same as supplied to Senator Keane was given.] 2. The loan having been underwritten, the Commonwealth's Defence requirements in London for the present have now been provided for.' [Questions again evaded.]

\* \* \*

We Australians hear a lot about the "freedom of speech" and "democracy." Does it look like it?

## ACTION IN NORTH QUEENSLAND

### Series of Meetings Addressed by Eric Butler

Eric Butler carries on. Successful meetings in North Queensland have resulted in increasing demands for his services everywhere. One of the highlights of his present tour is his open clash with the State Labour Party. In a letter, he writes:

"Before leaving Sydney I was in possession of information which led me to believe that I would strike serious opposition. This was more than confirmed when I reached Queensland. At Cairns, although the hall had been booked, it was immediately cancelled without any explanation when my name was mentioned. After a brief contact with conditions in this State, I am of the definite opinion that Forgan-Smith and his party are a menace to democratic government. Bureaucratic government can be seen at its worst, while the regimentation of the rank and file of the workers is open dictatorship."

#### 300 MEET AT MOSSMAN

After a week of activity in Cairns, where his success with the rank and file of the Unions has the executives worried, Eric travelled north for 40 miles to Mossman. During his week there, he was the guest of Mr. S. M. Burns, shire clerk. Eric writes in glowing terms of this great stalwart, who has jeopardised his position by his open activities. His clash with the Labor Party on the matter of misappropriation of public money has also made him a marked man with the State Labor Fascists. In fact, Forgan-Smith's secretary, upon meeting Mr. Burns' son recently, suggested that they "go easy" in the Mossman Council, or the Government would put a receiver in!

The meeting in the shire hall on Sunday, July 2, saw an audience of 300 in attendance. The enthusiasm was wonderful, while Eric's open attack on the Labor Party left the officials present in complete silence. Demand forms against the Bank Bill were signed freely, while large quantities of literature were disposed of. So enthusiastic were those present that they demanded another meeting for the following Thursday night.

#### BUSH MEETING

The next meeting, on Tuesday, July 4, was held at Mowbray, where a small group of 40 settlers sat on the grass and were addressed from a settler's verandah. These pioneers, on the outskirts of civilisation, gave a typical bush welcome, and signed the demand forms to a man.

#### MOSSMAN AGAIN

Although not as large an audience as at the Sunday night meeting, there was another good roll

up on the Thursday, July 6. There was no mistaking the enthusiasm indicated by the very manner in which literature was sold and demand forms signed.

#### 66 ATTEND—66 SIGN

The meeting at Port Douglas, a very small centre, was well attended for the size of the town. The result of the meeting can be judged by the fact that sixty-six people attended and there were sixty-six signatures.

#### SPLENDID MEETING AT DAINTREE

Daintree has always been noted for its radical thought. When people are eking out an existence in the most untamed jungle in Australia, cut off from civilisation when it rains, and get little consideration from the Government, one doesn't wonder that they are fed-up. They were all keenly anticipating Eric's visit, and there was no mistaking the welcome they gave him. Over 100 attended.

At this and other meetings, Eric was frequently asked about the National Register, and the opposition to it was so intense that he was asked to draw up a demand form. This was done, and it has gone like a bush fire. Democracy is speaking in no uncertain terms in North Queensland.

#### SECOND CAIRNS MEETING

In spite of ill health Eric had continued to influence public opinion at every centre he had touched, and on Friday, July 14, a big audience of 500 gave him a very receptive hearing, at the second meeting in Cairns, for nearly an hour and a half. There was no doubting the great enthusiasm as many dozens surged forward after the meeting to sign

demand forms against the Commonwealth Bank Act. Many papers were sold, and other literature was disposed of. So keen were those present that they nearly had a second meeting to deal with their enquiries. Many questions were asked about the National Register, which they were told, could be easily defeated along constitutional lines. Many intimated that they would help to do this.

One of the sidelights of the meeting was the manner in which the operators in the adjacent telegraph exchange displayed such keen interest from their open window that arguments developed among them as to who was to send the telegrams.

Prior to the Cairns meeting there were several small country meetings. On Wednesday, July 12, one at Freshwater, and one the following night at Stratford. Although only small meetings, those present were very impressed. Papers were disposed of, as usual, and dozens of demand forms were signed.

Several lunch-hour meetings of cane-cutters had to be cancelled, as Eric did not feel well enough. After Cairns, he left for the Atherton Tableland on Sunday, July 16, and opened his campaign there the same day.

#### ATHERTON TABLELAND

The first meeting on the Atherton Tableland, at East Barron, on Sunday, July 16, was very enthusiastic and successful. Demand forms were freely signed.

So pleased were the supporters, that Eric was pressed to extend his tour on the tableland for three weeks instead of two. He is engaged in carrying out a very heavy programme in spite of the fact that he is far from well. Influenza has taken its heaviest toll for many years in this part of the State, and many people have died. Audiences have consequently been affected as to numbers, but those attending the meetings have displayed great enthusiasm.

On Tuesday, July 18, Eric addressed a good meeting at Kairi, and was very pleased with the results. On Wednesday night he spoke at Tolga, while on the Thursday night he addressed a good meeting at Malanda.

Excellent results were achieved by an inspiring radio talk over the Atherton station on Friday evening last. Many glowing compliments were paid.

On Saturday, July 22, he addressed a small gathering at Upper Barron prior to a dance. He has 14 more meetings on the tableland before returning to the coast. He will then start to work southwards.

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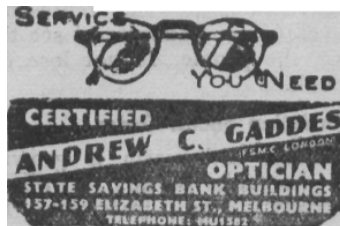
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(Continued from page 6.)

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## ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST EXPERIMENTS

### THE NECESSITY FOR ACTION

If white people are to effectively hold the tropics of Queensland, the Sugar Industry must be maintained. From a physical standpoint they have already done marvels. But it is rather a hopeless proposition to expect people to pioneer country under adverse climatic conditions, only to go further into debt to the private banks who create nothing more than figures in ledgers. Taxation on top of this is reaching staggering proportions; and there has been no stronger advocate of this taxation robbery than the present State Labor Party, with Forgan-Smith as Premier. Dealing with a resolution to compel the Federal Government to do something about power alcohol, moved at a recent conference, he said that he did not like the word "compel," and thought that the word "persuade" would be much nicer. The position has become far too critical to talk about nice words. Many thousands of people are suffering the misery of an earthly hell under the present system. The sugar growers want to use the strongest possible language in demanding that their paid servants *do something or get out*. If they take this action something will be done; and, if they don't, they will only have themselves to blame for the swamp of further debt and taxation into which they are sinking fast at the present time.

Paragraph 504 of the Banking Commission Report cannot be quoted too often: "The Commonwealth Bank can make money available to the Government, or other bodies, free of any charge." The sugar growers should learn this off by heart, in order that they will realise that debt and taxation are robbery.

## GARFIELD MEETING

The success of the meeting held in the Garfield Hall last Friday night was an indication of the good work being done by Mr. J. Stewart and other active reformers in that Victorian district.

Eighty people listened attentively to three speakers from Melbourne who dealt with the National Register, the Commonwealth Bank Bill, and the application of the principles of "pressure politics" to rectify the existing state of affairs.

Cr. Anderson, who occupied the chair, was warmly complimented upon the conduct of what was described as "a most interesting and very democratic meeting." A good quantity of literature was disposed of. The visitors, who arrived back in Melbourne in the small hours, expressed gratification at the results and are confident that the enlightenment and arousing of electors will proceed apace in this district.

It is up to others to emulate the spirit of Garfield actionists, and make similar arrangements for the reception of U.E.A. speakers in their part of Victoria. There are vital issues, which must be placed before John Citizen (and his wife) as quickly as possible. Arrangements for speakers may be made by dropping a line to the Hon. Sec., United Electors of Australia, 5th Floor, McEwan House, Melbourne.

## Letter to Editor VOTES OR WASTE PAPER-WHICH?

By J. F. YOUNG President, P.R. Group, S.A.

### NATIONAL REGISTER ACT PROTEST

Sir, —I enclose herewith literature on the campaign in Tasmania against Compulsory National Registration. Three Electoral Campaigners are on the Sub - Committee, with Trade Unionists and others, and have helped to produce their literature and to guide their actions. The experience has been a very stimulating one; the number of enthusiastic helpers is most amazing and contacts are wide.

For several years now we have been warned about the advent of such an Act as this, and that the Financial Dictatorship will shortly be driven to take complete control of the country from the Government, and most of the Acts of Parliament which have been passed have led up to such a climax.

The dangers within the Act are apparent at the first reading, and every effort should be made to support those bodies, which are fighting the Act; to join in with them and to help them.

If a strong protest is not raised against the Act immediately, the control of the country will be taken out of the hands of Parliament and handed over to a Commission against whose actions there can be no appeal. Many yet know nothing about the Act and its far-reaching effects, and meetings should be held all over the country to explain the Act to the people.

Attempting to get monetary reform or any other reform while this tremendous weapon hangs over us appears, to me, to be futile. Wishing you and your friends every success in your efforts, —Yours sincerely,

JAS. GUTHRIE,  
Tasmanian Division,  
The Electoral Campaign,  
Hobart, Tasmania.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NOTES

#### Bank Bill Campaign

Through the courtesy of the Mayor of Norwood tables were placed on the footpath of the Parade in front of one of the biggest drapery stores the other Friday, and a successful day was had collecting signatures. Great praise is due to those ladies and gentleman who so courageously attended the tables, for it was an exceedingly cold day.

The Mayor of Glenelg kindly permitted the placing of tables on the footpath of the main street of Glenelg on Friday last, July 21.

People are still readily signing instructions to their representatives (?) in Canberra to see that we, the people, do not lose our Bank.

#### Christian Social Order

Great enthusiasm is growing in the ranks of this progressive Society. An invitation has been extended to members to attend Committee meetings as spectators, so as to keep in touch with what is being done. Many keen members are availing themselves of this privilege.

Speakers will, in the near future, deliver the Society's message from many pulpits apart from Church groups and outside organisations. The Society is still enrolling members.

The Society's badge is now available at the small cost of 1/-. This is most artistically finished in gold and dark blue. The gilded figure of Justice holding the scales in perfect balance, with production on one

Are you satisfied with your Voting systems? If so, then you are very easily satisfied. Or perhaps—which is much more understandable—you are like a voter I met recently, who did not know that elections could give such extraordinary results. I pointed out that, taking the Federal Government and its opponents, there were more voters against the Government than for them, in primaries; but the Government had 33 seats in the Senate and opponents only 3, for a period of years. The voter looked incredulous at first, then burst out: "Well, then, a change must be made." I agreed, and said: "Well, we are trying to change it, will you help us?" "Too right, I will," was the ready response. And that is the view, I believe, the people will take, in spite of the Lamentations of Job's political comforters to the contrary, when we ask them: "Will you help us to get Proportional Representation for the Senate, and will you vote to have the system embodied in the Federal Constitution?" "Too right," I am sure we shall be able to count on their willing co-operation.

But the puzzled voter might reasonably ask: "What about the other Houses of Parliament? Are they much better than the Senate, and cannot we make a clean sweep of the present election methods and build safely and well on the sure foundation of Proportional Representation?" "Too right we can," while you are all ready to help. "Educate, educate, educate." Yes, but this means money. That is just why we have taken our courage in both hands at last, and set out on a New Drive for Proportional Representation, throughout the Commonwealth. In South Australia we have already launched an appeal for 10,000 shillings to begin with. Will you send your shillings, as many as you can spare, and as often as you can spare them? Every shilling will help to bring our Houses of Parliament into line with modern democratic thought. If you wanted to start a new factory, would you put up with obsolete and inefficient machinery? Of course, you would not, or it would be a sorry day for your articles of commerce. Then, if you must have efficient machinery for making goods, is it not imperative that the people must have efficient machinery to make their Parliaments? Today, the votes cast by one half, sometimes by more than one half, of the voters, simply drop into the waste paper basket, because the obsolete electoral machinery of a by-gone age is still used, not to enfranchise the voter, but too often to Disfranchise him or her.

Look at this. In 1925 for a Senate election, there were 22 vacancies—four casual in addition to the 18 ordinary vacancies. The U.A.P. voters numbering one million and a half won every seat, while a million and a quarter voters lost every seat. If the million and a quarter had not voted they would have been fined. THEY DID VOTE AND THEY WERE DISFRANCHISED.

side and money on the other, stands out boldly on a matted background, whilst on a blue edge are the gilded letters "C.S.O.," and at the bottom, "It can be done."

Proportional Representation will stop gerrymandering; it will represent both majorities and minorities; it will encourage the People to vote and thus tend to DESTROY APATHY, that apathy, which is the MENACE OF DEMOCRACY; it will help to restore the parliaments to the control of the people; and finally IT WILL GIVE US ELECTORAL JUSTICE. Millions are squandered on charity, and Oliver still asks for more. GIVE US SOMETHING FOR JUSTICE, so that we may fight the good fight of faith in, and for, Democracy.

More information can be gained from and help forwarded to Sir James Barrett (President), or Mr. Royden E. Powell (Hon. Sec.), Surrey Hills, Victoria.

### Lost Legion of Young Australians

(Continued from page 1.)

AND TORN, ON BARBED-WIRE ENTANGLEMENTS ON BATTLEFIELDS; but when a proposal is made to find money to preserve the lives and souls of these young men and to give them a chance to become good citizens of the nation, we are asked WHERE IT IS TO COME FROM. We must stop tinkering at effects and deal with the causes of this social evil . . ."

Senator McLeay. ". . . there is some risk that the rising generation may be spoon-fed too much."

\* \* \*

[The above is taken from Parliamentary Debates (Hansard) No. 15, from what was said in the Senate on 16th June. We leave readers to form their own opinions of the truth in Senator Collings' statements, and the attitude towards a vitally urgent problem adopted by certain gentlemen with Scotch-sounding names. Why did Senator Collings stop at that, however? If he has courage as well as convictions, we may hope to find that he is also aware that the Report of the Royal Commission on Banking distinctly states *How and Where* the money may be "found."]

### MORE HUMBUG

(Continued from page 5.)

ment yet put forward against a shorter working week is the financial effect—i.e., the additional EXPENDITURE that would be entailed. And this will always be so until Parliament requires its money department to provide the community with finance equal to the full needs of industry.

### MAKING FUN OF YOUTH

Uniformity of factory legislation will do nothing whatever in the direction of controlling the money supply, and this aspect would not be influenced one iota even if the Youth Employment Conference met every week or every day. None but a liar would say that our actual and potential production is not sufficient to give us, all of us, the best standard of living in the world, and this quite irrespective of whether our youth are employed or not. It is nothing but lack of purchasing power or money that prevents our realisation of this higher standard, and until we act upon this truth we are only making fun of our youth and all others who profess to be "looking for employment." —Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H BROWN  
(To be continued.)