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THE

NEW TIMES

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Vol. 5. No. 33.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1939.

Every Friday, 3d

Democracy Under Worldwide Attack**Extension Of Dictatorship
In Australia**

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir,—Following the Premiers' Conference last week relating to the Wheat Problem (?), we were publicly informed that "as the night wore on with no agreement in sight, there were angry exchanges between Mr. Dunstan and Mr. Menzies." No one could have read the reports of the proceedings without realising that a definite and determined attempt was being made to impose a secretly prepared plan on the people as a whole, and that the representatives of the Federal Government were the instruments through which the scheme was being worked. It did not seem to strike these "representatives" that it was entirely incongruous for them to be insisting upon an unwanted plan in the name of the people when another set of men, also acting in the name of the same people, resented it so strongly as to indulge in "angry exchanges."

Allowing for newspaper colouring and exaggeration, it is difficult to see how any thoughtful man could have doubts that we are in fact already the victims of our own ignorance in regard to finance, and that a dictatorship is actually in operation. When a man temporarily occupying the position of Prime Minister could get up at an important conference of Premiers and speak as Mr. Menzies spoke last week in Melbourne, then all pretence of representing the people of Australia vanished. His words indicated in the clearest possible way that the preservation and maintenance of the existing fraudulent system of finance is far more important to him than the health, comfort, and general happiness of the Australian people.

**COUNTRY'S LIABILITY TO
WHOM?**

Permit me to place on record in these columns what he did say. Here it is. "There must, of course, be a limit to the total funds that could be found. The wheat industry would be receiving more publicly raised money than almost any activity apart from defence and pensions. The upper limit of the assistance must be calculable. Sound public finance demands it. The means of limiting the country's liability were to limit the total annual outlay, and to limit wheat production through the control of the industry." Just think that over quietly. We must limit our liability. Liability for what and to whom?

Of course there should be a limit to the total "funds," but what should determine it? Should it be determined by the people's needs in relation to production, or should it be determined by the policy of the finance controllers? At present it is determined by banking policy for the express purpose of keeping the community struggling to get money, so that the money controllers by regulating the supply of money can regulate all community activities as they see fit. That is the present practice, and that is the practice for which Mr. Menzies is dictating. Funds at present are limited according to our holdings of sterling, and sterling is limited according to the policy of the Bank of England as explained last week. Consequently if we cannot get sterling then we are not permitted to have Australian money, and it wouldn't matter how much

production we had stacked up waiting for consumers the Australian people would not be permitted to eat it or use it. That is what Mr. Menzies means when he says "sound public finance demands it." Is it not laughable that this privy councillor and King's Counsel should; unblushingly refer to our national finance as "sound" when it is one of the most UNSOUND things in the world!

**DEMOCRACY BEING
WHITE-ANTED**

This state of affairs, combined with the nature of the recent conference of Premiers, (Continued on page 5.)

**WHEAT PRODUCTION CONTROL
AND MARKETS****Mr. Alex. Wilson, M.H.R., Interviewed**

The Victorian Wheatgrowers' Union believes that some control over wheat production is necessary, said Mr. Wilson, Federal Member for the wheat growing electorate of Wimmera, when interviewed in Melbourne this week. "Taking into consideration the world surplus and the promise of bounteous crops, I agree that the question of production control should receive serious thought; I also think that the international conference should be pursued with a view to establishing a world price for wheat," he said.

"You think there is really over production?"

"As the world situation stands, there certainly is over production,

QUEENSLAND'S FASCISTIC REGIME**Mr. Forgan-Smith Distorts Truth and
Betrays the Worker**

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

Although I had heard quite a lot, before arriving in this State, about the bureaucratic manner in which Queensland is dominated by the State Labour Party, I did not think it possible to find such a regimenting, Fascistic regime in Australia as this State suffers from. You have to come into contact with it to believe it. The sound of Mr. Forgan-Smith's name seems to have a paralysing effect upon most people, not because they worship Mr. Smith—as likely as not they are thoroughly opposed to him, but such is the power of the Labour machine that any criticism might lose them their jobs.

Although reams could be written on the unscrupulous manner in which this State is governed, I will content myself with some salient points, which may prove something in the nature of a revelation to those who talk about "democracy" in Australia. I also desire to place on public record my considered opinion that private finance can count Mr. Smith and the Queensland Labour Party among its best allies. Until the people of Queensland, particularly the rank and file of the Unions, can reverse the present position, and get control of their various executives, instead of being dominated by them, the position is likely to get steadily worse.

**HOW THE BUDGET WAS
BALANCED**

Mr. Forgan-Smith has been loudly proclaiming to the rest of Australia the magnificent recovery that Queensland has made from the depression. We will deal with this "prosperity" he speaks about later. In an article published in *The Worker* of July 11 there appears a full report of what Mr. Smith had to say in connection with the balancing of the budget. As a series of deliberate half-truths, and, in some places, a deliberate contradiction of the truth, Mr. Smith's statements are an epic. His statement that "the economic life of the community was disorganised by the deflationary tactics of the Moore Government" is simply a lie. If Mr. Smith will refresh his memory a little, he will recall that the de-

pression was brought about, not only in Queensland, but all over Australia, by the policy of credit restriction of the private banks. Furthermore, he might remember that there were four Labor Premiers present at the Conference, which endorsed the bankers' Premiers' Plan, Mr. Smith and his party came into office when the banks were making more money available to every Government in Australia, with the result that we saw a temporary alleviation of the depression. But for Mr. Smith to take credit for this shows the statements he is prepared to make in order to keep his party in office. He and the Labor Party are only tools in the hands of finance, and, when the banks decide to restrict credit again, we will then see if Mr. Smith can save Queensland from a depression. Mr. Smith knows this, and he has been astute enough to have the redistribution of the electorates carried out in such a manner that unless some other major change takes place, it will be practically impossible to remove him.

Now, let us deal briefly with that balanced budget and the "surplus" of £14,000 we have been hearing so much about. It has been obvious for many years that debt and taxation have been reaching such staggering proportions all over Australia that Governments have been forced to fake their budgets, and have not always applied special taxes to their particular objective. Readers might remember how, in the *Sydney Sun* of September 25, 1936, Professor Bland even took the Federal Government to task in this respect.

One of the most subtle methods Mr. Smith used in balancing his budget was the camouflaging of the Relief Tax by changing its title to State Development Tax and including it in consolidated

(Continued on page 8.)

"Do you think the wheatgrowers will get what they are asking for?"

"They must, or the credit base

(Continued on page 5.)

JAPAN FROM MANY ANGLES

An Address Delivered by Dr. T. A. Wright, on July 14, to a meeting of the Kernot Engineering Society held in the Radio Theatre, Melbourne Technical College

(CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE.)

As an experienced visitor to Japan, I did not notice so very much obvious military activity in relation to such an extensive military operation as is going on in China. A few more soldiers here and there, mostly officers; a certain activity in military stores on military-town railway stations; wayside station send-offs to new recruits, with garlands of flowers, white streamers, and "rising-sun" flags; open welcome home to returned men (not badly wounded), whilst not-very-invalid soldiers or convalescents were conveyed in the daytime in trains, so that the public could get a good view. Thus the horrors of war were not grossly apparent. But the real tragedies of war, I am credibly informed, are silently brought in at night, and large embarkations to the front are done at night.

In Tokyo, at the end of November, there was a two days' and nights' air raid precautions practice. On the two nights the whole city was blacked out. As an air raid precaution it was wonderfully well done; but no mention was made of the secret transfer of thousands of new recruits to embarkation for the front. The real magnitude of the military operations is not allowed to be apparent to the people or to foreigners.

It is in the isolated country parts that training goes on at night or out of sight of the people in the unpeopled mountains. You would hardly notice, for example, any change in the city and populous environs of Nagasaki from peace time; but intensive training is going on in the hills a few miles away, and no entry or wandering to those parts is allowed.

LIFE OF THE PEOPLE

In certain towns, which have a to and fro stream of soldiers, like Kobe and Shimonoseki, business is fairly prosperous from the soldiers' spending money. But, in general elsewhere, it is possible to get the admission that business is very quiet, that prices are dearer, that the quality of goods is much poorer, that, in effect, it is "Sei Katsu nan," i.e., hard to get a living. Yes, in Japan there is no unemployment problem, as we know it. A Japanese can exist on a few pence per day if he has to; and, as the very nature of their agricultural operations does not permit of labour-saving machinery, and as the many chores of the populous cities can utilise much of the cheap, casual labour, there is always available some job with a few sen attached to it.

In Japan, as in other Fascistic type countries, to the ordinary man, pursuing his ordinary occupation, there is a certain grade of personal liberty and freedom, provided this liberty or freedom so enjoyed does not touch or cross the many important restrictions. Thus, though "Shinto-ism" is one of their chief religious doctrines, whose basic principle teaches the innate goodness of the human heart, and whose ethical essence is "Follow the genuine impulses of your heart," i.e., pure individualism, the ruling group have, from time immemorial, seen to it that the heart is properly pre-conditioned, so that the genuine impulses will be suitable.

SPY FEVER

The people cannot speak what they choose, nor should the visitor to Japan speak out as he chooses. He should learn the answers expected of him. "Do you like Japan?" "Do you notice any difference in Japan?" "What is your age?" "Your nationality?" "Your business?" "Why did you come to Japan?" "How long do you intend to stay?" "Who are your friends?" "Where are you visiting?" "Why do you study Japanese language?" "Where did you stay last night?" "Where will you stay tomorrow?" etc. In Japan, they have every visitor

docketed day by day; where he was yesterday, is today, and intends to be tomorrow. Every hotel is part of the National Intelligence Bureau, as it were, and if you happen to leave your hotel today and stay with friends, say, tomorrow night, i.e., you don't hop from one hotel (intelligence post) to another: they miss you, and then the bees hum in the hive till you are located again, and your friends may be severely spoken to for harbouring a foreigner, if the local "Kei satsu san," or policeman, happens to be very officious.

The Japanese police and secret police are thoroughly ingrained with spy fever. Mind you, you are never molested beyond routine questioning, especially in trains, by the plain-clothes police, and if you are a genuine tourist or business man, you need have no fear or worry. In fact, all this helps to keep a stranger from losing his way. These police are very polite and very earnest, and you can see that they feel they are doing their bit for Dai Nippon.

CENSORSHIP

You cannot read what you like in Japan. All literature on sale is well scrutinised and censored. Every book, magazine, etc., you seek to bring into the country has to be declared on your disembarkation papers, is well scrutinised, and, if not acceptable to Japanese thought, is confiscated. Any newspaper that dared transgress the laid down lines of proper thought would soon be shut up.

The cinema and entertainments are also strictly censored, so that the people only get access to what the established central regime think is good for them, and the people thus have little, if any, means of learning that everything they see or hear is carefully chosen for them after having passed through the Japanese Fascistic sieve.

I would here warn readers not just to sneer at this state of affairs and then forget it. Millions of people under this unswervingly faithful patriotic emotion, led by intelligent patriotic fanatics, make a very nearly irresistible force; and this force is moving today. If, and when, the present aim of this force is successful in subduing China to its satisfaction, with added momentum it will in turn continue of necessity either north to Siberia, to get control of Vladivostock, which is an ever-present menace to Japan's geographical

LET'S JOIN THE ADULTS

That Brisbane "Raid"

By "THE WALRUS"

This is really alarming. I thought, when I discovered some weeks ago, the "New Criminal"—the man who was prepared to tell falsehoods about his dad's earnings, to provide himself with a short cut to the coveted pick and shovel—that I had plumbed the depths of the depravity which is eating into the foundations of our great and glorious—if unproven—democracy. It seems I was premature.

For news reaches me that 37 desperadoes, on the appropriate day of August 4, scaled the bulwarks of our fine old Constitution, and penetrated the trembling heart—oh, well, they barged in on Caucus.

According to some reports the Ministers were, drawing straws for portfolios, but you can never tell what Ministers get up to when off parade; and no gentleman would try to know, any more than he would try to surprise a celebrity in his braces.

As Mr. Forgan Smith remarked, suitable machinery has been devised for people with strong ideas on right and wrong, and a lovely system of drainpipes exists for them to holler into. This system, which resembles talking to oneself with a megaphone, has hitherto prevented any knowledge of injustice or inequity from reaching the Minister concerned, and has functioned smoothly on the whole, although certain amendments to the Crimes Act suggest that somebody HIGH UP has detected certain flaws in the circulating system.

Nobody seems quite clear at this stage, before the charge is answered as to how the 37 desperadoes should be described. My newspaper report gives a tentative selection, including deputations, visitors, strikers, and unlawful assemblers. But a perusal of the demands by them, as elsewhere enumerated, * suggests the crime to be at least as heinous as that of a child of an unemployed father, who cries, "Dad, I'm hungry!" True, it is hard to reason with a child, otherwise we could point out to him that there is a gutter to die in, and that starvation is quite inevitable in a country whose first industry is grazing and agriculture. The politicians have told us this over and over again in their own way, and it is a case of willful misunderstanding with intent to do something about it, on the part of the misguided raiders.

Evidently the matter is at least as serious as it seems to me, for the "Watchman" discovered in it a subject for comment in a chatty midday discourse. He finds it remarkable that an organisation professing democratic aims should have adopted such fascistic methods of drawing attention to itself. Oh, very neat, Sir! Surely nobody will want to listen to them now; and possibly nobody will ever ask you now it is that, when these men were hollerin' into the drainpipes, you apparently couldn't hear the noise among the news behind the news.

CAUCUS AND PARLIAMENT

One of the counsel for the visitors, strikers, deputationists, or unlawful assemblers seems to me to have dropped a brick. He said that if Ministers hadn't been drawing straws—I mean, if Parliament had been sitting—the offence might have been serious. As it was, it was merely a mass visit to Caucus that had to be dealt with. He must have been misinformed about the relative importance of Caucus and Parliament. The statement, which the reverend gentleman in the case is alleged to have made,

security, or south to Indo-China and Borneo, for oil, a modern economic necessity.

(To be continued.)

that he was to notify the police on the seizure of Parliament House, is, no doubt, due to the cunning of the ringleader, thus seeking to minimise his offence in advance. The ringleader should be punished for that, and he probably will be by getting his publicity cut off at the source.

One encouraging feature of the report of the proceedings is that certain Ministers accepted leaflets after the arrest of the ... er ... defendants. It is quite uplifting to know that, at last, somebody somewhere in the service of the public knows what people are demanding. Warmed by this knowledge, we can be generous and extend our sympathy to all those in public positions whose duties prevent them from finding out what they are there for.

AN OLD GAME

Up till now we have been playing a game of "Botany Bay," the people on their part chanting, "Here comes the old man from Botany Bay, What have you got to give him today?" and the politicians on their part, mindful of the penalties of the game for making truthful or even sensible replies, chanting, "Yes, we have no bananas."

Possibly it has been our own fault that the politician who fails to keep up the "bananas" fiction is liable to become an old man from Botany Bay. At any rate, we have been so long asking for things that nobody wants, such as tariffs, taxes and restricted liberties, and being offered things we want less, that we have no right to be surprised if we suddenly talk sense and get daft replies. Its up to us to tell the politicians we've stopped playing, and we don't want to holler down drain-pipes any more.

We want to join the adults.

*The first paragraph of a leaflet used by the "raiders" reads: "The League's deputation to the State Parliament, comprising farmers, unionists, small businessmen, and church members, is asking for improved conditions for all sections of the community, including:

"A stabilised price for all primary producers;
"A forty-hour week;
"Co-operative control by the farmers of all primary industries;
"Full-time work for the unemployed;
"Removal of all road and bridge tolls;
"Reduction in taxation and rates;
"Public finance without debt (as per Sec. 504 of the Report of the Royal Commission on Banking);
"No alteration to the legal hotel hours without a referendum."

NOTE. —The Social Justice Campaign, sponsored by the "New Era," points out that it has no relationship whatever to the League for Social Justice, which carried out the "raid"—which it refers to as "misguided tactics that invite dictatorship."

THE POSITION IN NEW ZEALAND

And How It Arose

By D. J. AMOS, F.A.I.S.

New Zealand was founded by a company formed in London, in 1838, by a group of wealthy men who wanted to find a profitable investment for the huge funds they had accumulated, through the manipulation of the monetary system that followed the Napoleonic Wars. They emigrated 12,000 people to New Zealand, selling land to which they had no legal title whatever, and when, some years later, the colonists formed their first Parliament, they had to float a loan in London to pay off a claim of the company against them for £200,000, although the Crown Commissioner on the company's board stated that the claim was established by "gross frauds, concealments, and misrepresentation."

So was born the Public Debt of New Zealand. In the founding of New Zealand it was nobody's business in particular to see that there was a sufficient supply of money to meet the community's needs, so, after a while, private banking companies stepped into the breach and were left to supply the necessary medium of exchange for the expanding business of the Colony. Under the charters granted them they were forced to hold coin to the value of one-third of their note issue, and bullion or Government securities for the remaining two-thirds. Two important consequences followed.

The first was that the Banks naturally became particularly interested in increasing the stock of gold coin in the country. This meant increasing the export trade. With the settlers producing much more than they could consume, exports were bound to be a big item in any case, but the currency arrangements, on top of this, made external trade the dominating interest of the banks. Local production for local consumption, and secondary industries generally, brought no increase of coined gold and no expanded base for issuing bank credits. Accordingly, they were neglected, and the policy of the banks was heavily in favour of financing exports and imports and the development of a one-sided national economy. This was intensified as time went on, and New Zealand is today a very backward country, as far as manufactures and secondary industries are concerned.

The second consequence was that financial expansion also meant debt expansion. The Banks financed farmers to export, and they bought from the farmers with their notes, the sterling received in London from the sale of the exports. At the same time, the Banks advanced money on overdraft to traders to import goods from London, and they then sold to the traders the bulk of the sterling they had bought from the farmers. With this sterling the traders paid in London the bills for their imports.

Practically the whole of the advances made by the banks were repayable on demand, and throughout the history of New Zealand its leading citizens have necessarily conducted their business affairs on a basis of debt to the banks, their overdrafts usually being very much greater than most of them could actually meet upon demand. From men so situated, a considerable number of Members of Parliament and public leaders have been drawn, men who could be bankrupted at any moment by their bankers quietly calling up their loans, and presently a bank was formed by two leading barristers (Mr. Russell and Mr. Whittaker), with far-reaching political interests—The Bank of New Zealand.

INIQUITIES OF BANK OF N.Z.

The iniquities of this bank can only receive passing mention in an article such as this—the student must consult Mr. A. N. Field's pamphlet, "The Truth About New Zealand," for the details—but one or other of its founders was for a series of years either the Premier of New Zealand or a Minister of his Government, and sometimes one would be Premier and the other a Minister in the same Government. They used the Government of the country to further the interests of the bank.

They brought about the wars between the Government and the Maoris, with the express purpose of seizing the native lands, and when these were confiscated by the Government, subsidiary companies formed and financed by the bank bought them at 2/6 per acre and advanced interest-bearing loans to the settlers to purchase them. The rates of interest were so high that the settlers could never pay off the principal, and

when they had improved their farms sufficiently, they could always be bankrupted by calling in the loans, and the farms resold at higher prices. Time and time again the greed and rapacity of the bank caused such widespread ruin and devastation that the bank was left cluttered up with valuable property of all kinds that it could not sell. It would then appeal to the Government to come to the assistance of the settlers, and obtain the money by floating foreign loans through the bank's own branch in London. Its charges for flotation expenses on these loans sometimes reached the incredible figure of 4/- in the £, or 20 per cent, of the entire loan.

Black as is the record of the Australian banks, it appears a dirty white beside that of the Bank of New Zealand, and, in 1883, Sir George Grey, speaking in Parliament, said, "One great central power in New Zealand (meaning the bank and its subsidiary companies) oppresses it from end to end. That central power is moved by the Premier, and the Premier is the solicitor of these great moneyed corporations. Is it just? Does it give the people of New Zealand a fair chance? Is it not hard for a man to know that, if he cries for justice, some debt upon his estate may be made the cause of his ruin instantly? As long as this continues I see no hope for ourselves or our country." The National Debt continued to rise until it reached £290,000,000, and when the great deflation started it became very difficult to find the interest.

ENTER SIR OTTO

In 1930 the international bondholders, feeling that the time was now ripe, sent Sir Otto Niemeyer to establish a Reserve Bank in New Zealand. The powers that

he proposed to give this Reserve Bank were practically the same powers that a receiver under the Bankruptcy Act would require. The Government was to find two-thirds of the capital, but was to have no voice whatever in the control of the bank; it was to give the bank a monopoly of all its "money, remittance, exchange and banking transactions," but the bank was not required to give the Government any accommodation at all. It could do so, if it wished, but it need not give sixpence.

The bank was to control the note issue, and the trading banks were required to keep deposits with the Reserve Bank, enabling the latter to control the volume of credit that they gave to their customers. *New Zealand Government securities, for the first time, ceased to be a basis for the issue of money. New Zealand legal tender money could only be issued against gold or sterling. This "Reserves" provision debarred any independent monetary policy being pursued by any New Zealand Government, and the provision still remains unchanged.* The Act was passed in 1933, and the bank was established in the following year, the deputy chief cashier of the Bank of England being installed as Governor.

ENTER SAVAGE & CO.

New Zealand voted for a Labour Government in 1935, not because it wanted Socialism, but because it wanted prosperity, and it had given up all hope of getting prosperity through any action of the Government then in power. The Savage Administration bought up the shares held by the overseas bondholders in the Reserve Bank at a premium of 25 per cent, and it paid for them, not in New Zealand currency, which the bondholders would not accept, but in interest-bearing debentures, which were added to the National Debt. Partly owing to its having possession of the Reserve Bank, and partly owing to the fact that a rise of nearly 40 per cent, in the price of exported produce had taken place, the Savage Administration was enabled to stop the deflationist policy pursued by the former Government in regard to public works and social services, and also to put an end to the vicious practice of reducing wages and salaries by either the Government or by private employers. By means of a guaranteed price the dairy industry was put upon its feet again, and a general measure of moderate prosperity, for the time being, secured.

THAT OVERSEAS LOAN

Very soon, however, an overseas loan for 17 million pounds (repayable in gold) fell due. International finance (having cornered the world's gold supply) showed its teeth, and refused to renew the loan except on its own terms. These were, apparently—although there were probably others that have not been disclosed—

1. The Reserve Provision of the Reserve Bank Act (which tied New Zealand currency to gold or sterling) must not be repealed.
2. Two and a half million pounds must be raised by additional taxation. (As this money was to be used in redemption of overseas debt, this meant that the purchasing power in New Zealand would be reduced by that amount.)

The Savage Administration could have replied to these terms in the following manner:—

"Gentlemen, you will either renew this loan at a reasonable rate

of interest, or allow us to pay you either in goods or in New Zealand currency. You won't! Very well, we will default, and let the Fascist countries have our primary produce (which they are in crying need of) in return for the manufactured goods, which we cannot at present produce ourselves. These manufactured goods will include guns and ammunition, so that we will be in a position to discourage any attempt of yours to replace our Constitution by a Commission representing yourselves, as you have already done in the case of Newfoundland."

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Had they taken up this stand, there can be little doubt that the outcry in England against the financiers of the City would have reached such alarming proportions, that, in view of the present international situation, they would have been forced to yield. Yet, apparently, the Savage Administration has accepted the financiers' terms, and the question arises, Why did they do so? There appears to have been more than one reason:—

1. To the members of the Labour Party, a Fascist country is a sort of hell, peopled exclusively by bloodthirsty devils, who delight in torturing and shooting people. (The fact that all the shootings, etc., that he objects to in Germany and Italy have also been done on a far larger scale in Russia, the Labour man either denies or conveniently forgets.) The Savage Administration probably feared it would lose the support of its own party if it sided economically with the Fascist powers.

2. Labour people have peculiar ideas about the incidence of taxation, and think that it is quite possible under our present economic system to tax the rich in order to help the poor. The fact that all taxation imposed upon the rich is ultimately passed on, either in the form of prices, rents, or decreased earning power, until it finally rests upon the shoulders of the wage and salary earner, seems to be unknown even to their representatives in Parliament.

3. As New Zealand's secondary industries must be developed before she can escape from her dependence on imported goods, the Savage Administration probably considered that it was its duty to see that those industries were developed along Socialistic lines, and it was prepared to make financial sacrifices in order to do so. But the building up of large socialistic trading industries in a country subject to reversals of its economic policy by party Governments is a very remote possibility indeed. Even if it were not so, it is rather difficult to understand what benefit a country would derive from goods socialistically produced that it lacked the money to purchase.

C. FORD

The Caterer

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GET THE FACTS!

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BRAVO, WHEATGROWERS!

Wheatgrowers and other citizens of the wheat growing areas of Australia, you have started something, the magnitude of which, perhaps, you have not yet realised.

Providing you stand firm and do not compromise, you will have contributed an inestimable service, not only to Australia, but to mankind. Carry your purpose to fruition and you will have helped to break the unnatural power, which for so long has held the peoples of the world in thralldom.

The power which you are up against and which you have to overcome is that of Finance. It is only very recently that the majority of you have learned that this power is in the hands of private institutions, contrary to the Commonwealth Constitution, and contrary to all reason and justice. It is remarkable that in the past most efforts for reform have not been directed at the fundamental cause of the modern world's troubles. They have been applied to branches of the evil and not to the root, with the result that pruning has only produced a more vigorous growth of that which was intended to be cut away and killed. Having learned what is the fundamental cause of your troubles, you can direct your efforts so as to effect a permanent cure, and not merely a palliative for temporary relief. Your task is the easier because you know your opposition. It has been mostly ignorance of the fundamental cause, which has frustrated many attempts at reform. Another reason why the money power has been able to retain its hold is that the money monopolists have purposely divided the people into sections. When any move is made against their oppression the money monopolists set their propaganda organs going and set section against section, fighting over things that don't matter, and the fundamental issue is not touched. It is the devilish old principle of "Divide and Rule." So it is vitally important that you do not allow yourselves to be divided over minor matters in connection with your objective. It is well to set out the situation clearly, so that there will be no confusion of thought or action among you:

(1) The Constitution of the nation is that document which proclaims the SOVEREIGN laws of the nation. No Constitutional law can be amended or annulled without the permission of the people of the nation.

(2) One law of the Commonwealth Constitution is (Chapter 1, Part V., Section 51): "The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth with respect to: (xii.) Currency, coinage, and legal tender; (xiii.) banking, other than State banking; also State banking extending beyond the limit of the State concerned."

(3) The Commonwealth Bank has been established to function in respect to No. 2.

(4) Parliament exists to make the WILL of the people prevail—that is, to bring into effect that which the people want.

(5) Members of Parliament are paid by the electors for the service of re-presenting to Parliament that which the electors want Parliament to bring into effect.

Those points should be definite enough, but it will do no harm to run over them again:

No. (1) is clear enough.

No. (2): It is the nation's job to control the money and credit of the country.

No. (3): Whatever the people tell Parliament to do, providing it is within the bounds of possibility, Parliament must do.

No. (4): What the majority of electors of an electorate tell their member they want, the member must re-present to Parliament, irrespective of his personal opinions on the matter. If the member fails to carry out his instructions, he will be accepting pay dishonestly and must be removed and replaced by an honest representative.

If you act in accordance with those fundamental principles of democracy you cannot fail to master the Money Power and to attain your objective.

You are telling your members of Parliament what you want per medium of letters and resolutions passed at meetings. Be careful to make your orders clear and precise. Don't vary them and thus confuse the members, so that they will have the excuse to introduce their own opinion. Keep to the simple issue of what you want, which is a price for wheat, which will cover all costs, plus a thundering good return for the years of privation passed through. Don't fool round stipulating any specific price or any

details. It would be well to adopt a formula-resolution to be put at all meetings; also a uniform letterform for individuals to sign and forward to their members. Both could be framed somewhat as follows: "I (we) wish you, as my (our) Parliamentary representative, to re-present to Parliament my (our) WILL that the price of wheat shall be made such as to cover all costs, plus an adequate return for the service of producing it. Also, knowing that it is the prerogative of Parliament to control the money and credit supplies of the nation, and that the Commonwealth Bank is available for the purpose of implementing and managing the country's monetary and credit needs, I wish Parliament to arrange what finance may be necessary in this matter, though the Commonwealth Bank, so that the community will not be penalised to provide money for the increase in the return to the grower of wheat, but shall benefit by the increased money put in circulation." Wheat growers and other citizens of the wheat growing districts of Australia, you have started something and must see it through. Keep to the right constitutional lines and you cannot fail.

"BRITAIN NEEDS MORE GOOD BANKRUPTCIES"

Under this caption the City Editor of the *Evening Standard*, May 31, 1939, said *inter alia* that it was a pity the recent Northern Ireland loan (the terms of which were regarded in the market as "attractive") was primarily to bolster up the position of the Northern Ireland Transport Board. He went on to say that, had this transport organisation been a private enterprise, it would have been "allowed" to go bankrupt. But, being in the nature of a Government concern, it must need be supported by further borrowing. There was, he said, a great danger that in several other directions the easy path of borrowing may be adopted, "instead of permitting the healthy process of bankruptcy. We need many more bankruptcies."

But why this discrimination against the Irish Board when recently London Transport has been "permitted" to raise the fares on both trains and bus? By the method of loan, of course, the burden is shared by able editors, the City and the general public through taxation. By the method of increased fares, ensuring the payment of dividends on "gilt-edged" transport stock, the silly public has to foot the bill. Does our City Editor, therefore, squeal because the Irish have not been given a similar dose to that which the Londoners have had to swallow?

His calling for "many more bankruptcies" indicates his indifference to the human factor in the social structure, and his distorted idea of the importance of the fundamentally minor financial factor.

It is not often that a City Editor makes such a barefaced admission of the City's attitude to private enterprise. No matter, he implies if a private enterprise or a one-man business go phut, it would be "the healthy process of bankruptcy" in operation. Quite another pair of shoes pinching, however, when London Transport "C" Stock, for example, is not able to pay its full tribute of 6 per cent, to the City. Clap another 5 per cent, on fares, which the public must pay willy-nilly.

The psychological insight of a Freud is not needed for complet-

ing the symphony left unfinished by our City Editor when he trumpeted: "We need many more bankruptcies."

"We need many more bankruptcies" in order to get still more private enterprises, and, therefore, many more private individuals under the thumb of the City. When we have "got them where we want them," then we shall own England, a nation of slaves.

—William Bell.

U.E.A. MEETING

The U.E.A. meeting, held on Wednesday night, August 9, was fully attended. The evening was devoted to considering the wheat issue. Head office is in communication with the Wheatgrowers' Union by letter and by delegates, with a view to ascertaining what action can be taken to supplement the good work being done by the union.

SAME VOICE

Portion of a report in the *Argus* of August 16, of proceedings in the Victorian Parliament, reads:

"The *New Times* and the *Argus* spoke with the same voice in this regard, said Mr. Slater, referring to a passage in which the use of credits to aid industry had been advocated."

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DEMOCRACY UNDER WORLDWIDE ATTACK

(Continued from page 1.)

presents a further warning to us of the organised attacks which are being made on democracy throughout the world. Daily events increasingly emphasise that the fight is on in earnest and that it is the greatest political issue of all time. Democracy is the people and Dictatorship is Finance. One aims at increasing freedom and the other at restricting it; and though many may not think so, democracy as we have had it is actually losing ground because financial puppets are white anting it.

A CALCULATED LIE

Democracy and popular parliaments are insidiously being discredited. Newspapers, visiting "celebrities" of all descriptions, the unemployed knights who live on dividends from monopolies, bank directors, and hosts of the lesser fry, are telling us that the troubles in the industrial countries are due to government interference. This lie is circulated throughout the world per medium of the news distributing organisations owned by the financiers. That may be why greater prominence is given in our own press to the proposals put forward by the Federal Government seeking the concentration of power in their hands to facilitate the further regimentation of the people. The views of the States are of secondary publicity value! Have we not seen repeatedly, even here in Australia, specially prepared articles pointing to the chaotic conditions in industry and discussing a change of Government from Democracy to Fascism, Rationalism, or a Planned Economy? And have we not noticed that most of this stuff has been prepared by hirelings? These different forms of government, including also the form of Socialism we see in New Zealand, are fundamentally similar because all of them impose the policy of the financiers—all of them are controlled by High Finance to suit the varying psychologies of the different races, but in each case the PEOPLE are completely subordinated.

CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES

In order to grasp the true implications of the developments of the day, it is most important to keep the theory of our Constitution prominently before our minds. The theory is that the armed forces of the Crown exist to ensure that the will of the PEOPLE shall prevail, and it is the control of these armed forces, which the PEOPLE have placed in the hands of the Federal Government that gives it the power to govern. Under the Constitution as now administered, therefore, the armed forces are controlled by the PEOPLE, who have only to express their will to have it carried into effect.

WHAT COULD HAPPEN

With this in mind, now see what could easily happen. Assume that these attacks on Democracy are continued that a few ardent actionists take the law into their own hands and do foolish things; and that a majority of the PEOPLE accepts the suggestion (though it is quite a false one), that our troubles are the result of political interference in industry. When the press of the financiers, deliberately turning our minds from the real guilt of their own masters see that we have fallen for it.

they will claim that the only remedy is a dictatorship, and that "public opinion" demanded it. This will be broadcast for the benefit of the people in other parts of the globe to help facilitate their surrender also. We will be encouraged to feel that things could not be much worse under a dictator (especially a "benevolent" one!) while there is a great chance of their being much better, and it is probable that we will raise no audible objection. Under those influences we would quickly find ourselves under the dictatorship of the type flourishing elsewhere, which would mean that the control of the armed forces had been transferred from the PEOPLE to the direct representatives of finance, and in consequence, our subjection would be complete. These selfsame financiers nearly tricked the people of England into having Messrs. Churchill and Eden foisted on them quite recently, and this was done through the simple process of using their newspapers to produce the right atmosphere.

"PUBLIC OPINION"

Finance directs practically the whole of the press; the press claims to represent "public opinion"; and the dictator would naturally dance to the tune of the manufactured public opinion. Even in our own alleged Democracy public opinion is quoted to us as the contents of leading articles in the servile press. "Britain's" views are concocted in a newspaper office. The PEOPLE of Britain are never consulted! Up to now we Australians have not become quite so slave driven, but the difference is nothing to "skite" about. It is quite clear to me therefore, as I feel sure it is equally clear to you, Mr. Editor, that the driving force behind these moves to establish dictatorships is the desire of the international financiers to employ the forces of the State to impose their financial policy, with monopolistic industry, on the general population. Take a good look at the position in other countries and reason the thing out for yourself.

Wherever dictatorship has been put into open practice, the outstanding fact is that the controllers of credit are the real rulers. Dictators, or Chancellors, or Prime Ministers are merely the mouthpieces of the Central Banks, and these are a world-wide monopoly, under the control of the Bank for International Settlements with headquarters in Switzerland. Confirmation of this was afforded only a few weeks ago in connection with the transfer of the Czech gold to Germany. This was done with the knowledge and concurrence of the Bank of England, and the British Government admitted that it was powerless to intervene! This, unfortunately, is no fantasy, and we must all realise that these private institutions are the creators and destroyers of the world's MONEY; that the creators and destroyers of money are the creators and destroyer of OWNERSHIP; and that, as a matter of cold fact, these banks or credit manufacturers really own the several countries. That is precisely why millions and millions of human beings are in need of bread at the very time when the puppets of these international gangsters are trying to

have wheat destroyed. Our own Central Bank falls into line with the orders of these foreigners quartered in Switzerland, and in their interests is "advising" OUR Governments to keep up short of money! Please read this paragraph again. It is far too important to skip over hurriedly. Your own personal freedom, and more so the freedom of your children, may eventually depend upon an understanding of this vital truth.

THE ONLY PROBLEM

Make no mistake. Finance, and Finance alone, is the only aspect of our community organisation, which is failing us, and it will continue to fail so long as we allow it to remain under private control. Even the State Premiers, with one notable exception, have again capitulated ignominiously to the monetary dictators, and it is for all of us to let them know in plain lan-

THE "INDEPENDENT" PRESS

Finance controls the Press today in one or many ways. First through advertising revenues. Department stores buy up acres of space in our great dailies in the course of a year and this source of revenue can hardly be risked by unwise editorial comment. One never sees a frank criticism of the banking system or an editorial uppercut at the way in which big business is carried on in the editorial columns of a daily which is depending for its profits on these self-same institutions. You would hardly expect it. Why kill the goose that lays the golden eggs? Not that any agreement is ever signed. That is not necessary. The bribe is indirect, but it is nevertheless an understood thing that nothing should occur in the editorial sanctum, which would be reflected in the dividends declared at the end of the year. Money talks, and nowhere does it speak more convincingly than in the precincts of the press.

—"Today and Tomorrow"

citizens are advocating the former, and the only problem is the distribution of purchasing power to take the place of the cancelled wages; and that is really no problem at all.

PEOPLE MUST BE SUPPLIED WITH MONEY

Under the present system, which permits national finance to be privately controlled, the only money the people in general have is what they get for "working"; and, as everyone knows, the people in general are getting less and less money because the machine is doing more and more of the work. There is, therefore, no escape from this position: Higher wages increase unemployment by stimulating mechanical inventions to lessen labour, and lower wages also increase unemployment by reducing the people's purchasing power, thus leaving the industrial machine choked with unsaleable goods. We may scrap machinery and make further inventions illegal, or alter the present financial control so that the people will be provided with money with which to BUY. What does common-sense dictate?

There is a hidden hand influencing world politics, and there is a definite plan for world domination. This plan is by the control and manipulation of money; by loading the nations and individuals with debt; by control of the press, cinema, and radio; and by sowing dissension between nations, classes, and individuals, thus paralysing thought or action against the money power. "Want" and "Opinion" are the two agents, which make the mob act. Cause poverty and govern the opinions, and you can do almost as you wish. One of the Rothschilds actually said: "Permit me to issue and control the money of a country and I care not who makes its laws!" The Commonwealth Bank Board has the power to issue and control Australian money for the Australian people and that is where the responsibility for our difficulties must be placed. *Let your member of the Federal Parliament know.* — Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H BROWN

WHEAT PRODUCTION CONTROL AND MARKETS

(Continued from page 1.)

and the economy of Australia will crash."

"Then you think it is a national, or Commonwealth, responsibility?"

"Yes! Emphatically. Only the Commonwealth has access to the necessary finance which must be procured without taxing the community."

"Meaning?"

"Through the Commonwealth Bank, or, as economists say: Central Bank credit expansion."

"Have you any ideas on marketing?"

"I am strongly of the opinion that the Commonwealth Bank should make credits available to countries which have intimated that they want our wheat."

"Does not that statement savour of heresy?"

"Perhaps so; but if London and New York can make credits available, I can see no reason why Australia can't."

"You intend to back up the wheatgrowers in the House?"

"I consider this the most vital issue ever before the Australian Parliament, and every effort that is in me will be expended to safeguard the wheat industry and to place it on a payable basis."

guage that politically we shall hold them personally to account for it. We must demand an immediate and true economic solution of the difficulty. The first step is to make up our minds whether we want an economic system that will provide goods and services for everyone, or whether we want an economic system that will provide WORK and more work. It cannot do both satisfactorily. In this age of advancing machinery and scientific development, the perfect machine is the one that will give work to as few humans as possible, and logically the most efficient country is the one that produces the most goods with the fewest labourers. Despite this, our Governments are trying to "tell us that the best system is the one that gives work to the greatest number of men. The most elementary principles of reasoning in this latter case require that the invention of new labour-saving devices shall be made an offence. Sensible people, of course, will laugh at such an idea. Well, what are we to do? Machines produce more goods, but distribute less money for the people. Sooner or later society must decide whether the economic aim is more goods and more freedom, or more work and more compulsion. Intelligent

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(Continued on page 7.)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

FACTS REVEALED BY NEW ZEALAND BUDGET

Sir, —Despite the great controversy that has been centring around the Labour Government of New Zealand, and more especially around the unorthodox views expressed by its leader concerning the financial system, I think that the Budget brought forward by Mr. Savage this month should settle beyond all doubt the policy that he intends to pursue.

Early during the year, Mr. Nash, Minister for Finance, made a remarkable statement, to the effect that taxation would increase the people's purchasing power. I for one find it difficult to believe that it is possible to increase what we have by taking some of it away. If such were the case, however, I would be the first to welcome the day when the Government took everything I earned in taxes. But, unfortunately, we know that any form of taxation must reduce the amount of money the people have to spend, and must therefore have its effect on the producer in the form of unsold goods in his warehouses and shops. We can only raise our standard of living by abolishing, or at least reducing, taxation. When the Government does this, it will have taken one of the many steps to enabling us to enjoy to the full the abundance that this country can produce. It is remarks such as these which show the complete incompetence of these men elected to represent the people, particularly on the question of finance; or else show us quite clearly from whom they take their orders.

In view of this extremely orthodox opinion of Mr. Nash's, it is with little surprise that we hear that a further burden of £2,500,000 is to be imposed on the people of New Zealand to enable the Government to maintain its policy of spending, though how robbing Peter to pay Paul will solve the problem is yet to be answered. And is it merely chance that the reason given by Mr. Savage is that hoary excuse, used by every Government since the introduction of party politics to New Zealand, especially our more conservative "National" Governments—namely, defence! Perhaps, too, it is only coincidence that the £1,000,000 increase for "Defence" reasons exactly equals the *increase* in the expenditure on public works from revenue, despite the unemployed we understood had been absorbed into industry. It is also difficult to find the necessity for £2,900,000 for Employment Promotion, if, as Mr. Savage states, "... there is no unemployment today."

Even that fallacious idea of taxing the rich to give to the poor is upheld by Mr. Savage, through the practical method of increasing the taxes on companies' profits from 1/- to 2/- in the £. With industry already complaining of its increased costs, any further increase must be passed on to the consumer, and will be reflected in higher prices on all commodities. So, in the end, it is the man on the breadline, already crushed down with taxes, who shoulders the burden, and who has to go without an extra loaf of bread, or a little less sugar in his tea. But such complicated proceedings are, apparently, too difficult for the simple minds of our politicians to follow.

But let us delve a little deeper into this Budget penny-dip, and see what else we can pull out.

A quick glance through the Public Works programme shows that, far from solving the unemployed problem, the Government has only succeeded in sinking the country deeper into debt. The expenditure in that department—£23,000,000, the largest in New Zealand's history—seems to bear out numerous assertions by monetary reformers, that these works are the keystone to New Zealand's prosperity, and that any cessation of them would bring the entire structure collapsing about our ears—would burst the Second "South Seas Bubble." So long as this huge expenditure on non-consumable capital goods can continue, the unemployed question is apparently solved, while the purchasing power so released will enable industry to carry on without its periodical breakdowns.

A little more digging reveals the amazing fact that these works were maintained at the cost of a fresh DEBT of £16,748,986, and this year's expenditure will involve a FURTHER DEBT of £19,062,000. *And yet this was the Government that was going to remove the necessity for borrowing.* This disclosure is hardly in keeping with Mr. Savage's statement, that borrowing meant debt in perpetuity, and therefore he would change the monetary system that made this necessary. But now he delivers us a further blow. "DEBT CHARGES," he tells us "show an INCREASE OF £741,000, including provision for interest for a FULL YEAR ON NEW BORROWING." Apparently, Mr. Savage's utterances from the platform are in no manner to be connected with his financial policy in fact. Otherwise, such a complete *volte-face* is bewildering, and difficult to follow. Despite, too, the various statements by Mr. Savage and Mr. Nash, that all loans from the Reserve Bank are at only 1¼ per cent., the increase in debt charges representing nearly 4 per cent, of the £16,748,000 borrowed this year, apparently substantiates a claim that the Reserve Bank "loans" actually represent the debentures on that institution, sold at 3¼ per cent., and the proceeds made available to the Government at 4 per cent, and 4½ per cent. Which in no manner could be interpreted as using the Public credit or even the Reserve Bank credit. Nor can a £46,000,000 increase to the National Debt, by Mr. Savage, be termed an alteration from the old debt system of financing Government expenditure.

Viewing the course pursued by the Labour Government even in the most conceding manner, it is impossible to come to any other conclusion but that the people of New Zealand have been badly let down, and Mr. Savage HAD NO INTENTION OF MAKING ANY CHANGE IN THE MONETARY SYSTEM at the last elections. Their re-affirmed statements to free New Zealand from the chains of *debt*, which held it down, were merely empty phases, catch-cries to snare votes and ensure them another three years' tenure in office. Despite their vows to carry on the fight, they have swiftly retreated before the advances of our financial racketeers, and, within the last few months, capitulated, and accepted their demands. They have accepted defeat and bound New Zealand tighter still to the leg of the banker's chair and his ledger. Under a system of debt finance, the Government of this country must eventually find themselves unable to continue this temporary

ERIC BUTLER'S QUEENSLAND TOUR

After his last meeting in the Cairns district Eric Butler started his tour South. His first meeting was at Tully on Tuesday, August 8, where a small but enthusiastic group listened with attention. This centre has been a strong money reform town in the past, and Eric is very confident that his meeting will do a lot to revive interest again. Demand forms were taken, even the Communists being very impressed with the address, and desirous of helping.

Eric's next meeting was at Townsville on Thursday, August 10. Although not as large a meeting as was expected, there was no mistaking the great interest. Eric was at his top, and many who came to criticise were openly enthusiastic with the address, while the few questions raised were dealt with in a manner which evoked applause from the audience. It is becoming obvious that Eric's impression on the rank and file of the Unions and the Labor supporters is causing some concern in certain quarters, while it is more than significant that a tour for J. B. Miles, of the Communist Party, has been arranged to follow Eric South. However, it will take quite a lot to convince the people that parties, whatever their label, can get them what they want.

Eric expected to address a Union meeting at Townsville last Monday, before moving south to Ayr.

and "artificial" prosperity, and commence the bitter task of retrenchment. They have already started along the long, stony path downwards, along which every party Government has gone that incurs the displeasure of our financial magnates—the road that leads to economy, and trade recessions, and financial "blizzards," depression and poverty, and, for some, oblivion. Every once in a while that downward path must be trodden, and New Zealand's time is long overdue. The throwing off of the yoke would have removed that necessity, but, unfortunately, we have but climbed up, to slip back again, like the snail climbing the greasy pole.

Only by the people uniting and DEMANDING can they stop this mad merry-go-round. Let us hope that the electors of this country realise before it is too late that they have been duped again, and that a single political party, with its few vacillating leaders, is too weak to tackle this job alone. Only the united will of the people, demanding persistently and determinedly with one voice, can prevail against this financial autocracy that is crushing us down.

When the people have UNITED and DEMANDED that this insane financial system of ours be changed, then New Zealand will at last have got her feet firmly planted on the bottom rung of the ladder that will lead us "Onward and Upward."—Yours, etc.,

A. FAWCETT.

Auckland, N.Z.

ACTIONISTS! THAT BANK BILL!

Save Time and Talk. Sell Them a Penny Broadsheet. Obtainable at 3d per doz. (posted) from "Save the People's Bank" Campaign, Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne.

"Save the People's Bank" Campaign

The following letter from the Victorian section of the (above campaign has been sent to all members of the House of Representatives and Senators in this State

"Commonwealth Bank Act Amendment Bill 1938.

"Dear Sir, —I am instructed by the committee representing this organisation to inform you that no amendments to the above Bill will be acceptable to the organisation that provides for the borrowing of capital by the Commonwealth Bank for any purpose and under any conditions whatsoever.

"Will you please accept this decision as final?"

A similar letter has been sent by "Save the Bank" campaigns in the other States to their respective M.'s H.R. and Senators. There can be no compromise. Throughout Australia, an already serious state of economic affairs, aggravated by the "borrow and tax" policy, has brought the people to the present critical position, from which there can be NO escape, except by way of utilising the power of the People's Bank, backed as it is by the real wealth of the nation. To suggest that it is necessary to raise capital by the issue of debentures and inscribed stock is to deliberately ignore three vital factors:

- (1) The Constitution of the Commonwealth (Section 51);
- (2) The Report of the Royal Commission on Banking (Par. 504, etc.);
- (3) The sovereign Will of the People.

A study of 1 and 2 provides conclusive evidence that there is NO NEED for the borrowing of capital, as proposed, and a true interpretation of the iniquitous Bank Bill indicates to what extent the people's interests will be jeopardised if the proposals are allowed to come into effect.

The only power that can, and MUST, be used to prevent the adoption of the proposals is a practical and determined expression of the third factor. The only constitutional, legal, and democratic reply to those who sponsored, and those who may support, the Bank Bill, is NO DEBENTURES AND NO INSCRIBED STOCK!

The pressure of public opinion is growing rapidly in every State, but to ensure a successful conclusion to this campaign a supreme

effort is being made to cover all parts of Australia. Have the people in YOUR DISTRICT been given the opportunity of expressing THEIR will? If not, please do your utmost to see that an overwhelming majority of the electors sign and send a letterform to their M.P. immediately. Time is now very limited.

Letter-forms, addressed to M.'s H.R. or to Senators are obtainable at 1/2 per 100, 7d for 50, or 4d for 25, posted to any address. Special broadsheets of invaluable educational value, which also include a detachable letterform, are available at 8d per dozen, posted.

All enquiries to "Save the People's Bank" Campaign, Box 1226, G.P.O. Melbourne.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NOTES Commonwealth Bank Campaign

The day appointed for the assault upon Glenelg was cold and the weather uncertain, but the campaigners, undismayed, had, before 11 a.m., set up their little green tables, laden with stacks of demand forms, at the corner of Mosely Street and Jetty Road. Punctual to the minute the first relay of ladies from the Women's Division arrived and set to work. They were relieved by fresh relays from time to time as the day wore on.

With the coming of evening the men arrived, to be greeted with fierce squalls of rain. They entreated the ladies to go home, but the "Tenth Legion" only laughed and persisted in remaining during the "shopping hour." The work went on till 9 p.m., the last person to sign being a slightly bewildered gentleman, who, catching sight of the names of the various Senators upon the demand forms, said: "Oh, if those fellows are on your committee it's good enough for me," and affixed his signature.

There were, all told, 610 demand forms signed, and the following people took part in the assault: Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Madigan, Mrs. Wood, Miss Gray, Miss Tomkinson, Miss Haese, Mr. Allen, Mr. Harvey, and Mr. Finn. Mr. Currow was in charge of the tables during the day and Mr. Amos in the evening.

THE ONLY FREEDOM THAT MATTERS

We in England are a "self-governing" community; but how many of us enjoy even a small proportion of the advantages, which we should like? The only freedom of any value in the material world is economic freedom, the ability to choose what one wants and to pay for it. Without it all other forms of freedom are useless

A beggar is no less a beggar because he has been granted the franchise. A man is free when he can choose between alternatives—say, that of working in an office or going abroad, without its having any effect upon his economic position.

Those who are not blessed with private incomes are forced today to sell themselves into slavery, in order to keep themselves and their dependants, alive. No stretch of the imagination can call this freedom. A man who is forced to spend the best hours of the best years of his life in a coal mine, a factory or an office is certainly not free.

It matters little, from the point of view of freedom, whether he is forced by the economic necessity of earning money, or by the Communistic State; he is still a slave

The choice, then, lies between economic slavery and freedom; conformity to a preconceived system or complete liberty of choice for the individual.

Public opinion is not likely to tolerate the present anomaly of compromise, whereby the economic system works so badly, that two million men cannot even find opportunities to sell themselves into slavery, and have, therefore, to be grudgingly granted their means of livelihood out of the public purse.

Some see in this a belated admission that employment will never again be reinstated as the sole condition of livelihood, and, also, as an admission that the wealth which civilised man is capable of producing is now more than sufficient to support a leisured community.

It has been argued that leisure is likely to be abused by the uneducated. *The obvious answer is that leisure itself is the only condition in which enough education can be acquired to prevent its abuse.*

— Ronald Ogden in *The Fig Tree*.

Hawthorn U.E.A. Group

A meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Allsop, 78 Power Street, on Thursday, August 24, at 8 p.m. Miss Grace Iggulden, who was to have addressed the previous meeting, but was unable to do so because of unforeseen circumstances, will be the speaker. The subject will be "Youth's Opportunity." All members are urged to be present and to bring as many young folk as possible.



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(Continued from page 6.)

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QUEENSLAND'S FASCISTIC REGIME

(Continued from page 1.)

revenue, instead of keeping it separate under the relief scheme. With an income of £1,332,751 from this source and an expenditure of £1,180,839 from the same fund, it will be seen that £151,912 remained in the Treasury towards catching up the deficit.

Further, railway freights and fares were raised by 5 per cent during the period under review, which would account for an amount estimated at £225,000, or a total of approximately £377,000 additional taxation. Again, £250,000 was taken from the Main Roads Board.

And yet, on top of this *The Worker* has the barefaced audacity to print a cartoon, which portrays Mr. Smith as a waiter presenting a dish worth £14,000 to a diner representing the taxpayer! Surely this is taking the misrepresentation of the swindle a bit too far.

HOW TAXATION HAS GROWN

For Mr. Smith to boast about balancing a budget by increased taxation and misappropriation of public funds calls for the strongest criticism. Mr. Smith did not tell the people about the millions of pounds of further debt by which he has placed them in pawn to the private banks, and the manner in which he is robbing them to pay the interest bill with higher taxation.

Since 1925, when the surplus was £366,968 and tax revenue was £4,107,000; in 1938, with a deficit of £228,492, it has risen to £8,539,000. I obtained these figures from the Taxpayers' Association of Queensland, and, although they have not finished compiling the figures for 1938-39, they expect that the Government will obtain an increase of £1,652,000 from the State Development Tax alone. The more Mr. Smith robs the Queensland taxpayers under all sorts of guises in order to make possible the payments on the interest bills, the more pleased the bankers will feel with the Labor Government.

QUEENSLAND PROSPERITY

While talking about his budget, Mr. Smith took the opportunity of saying quite a lot about the "prosperity" in Queensland. Apparently the Labor Party is the only section enjoying it.

The basic wage has been raised again by 3/-, and loud and eulogistic are the statements by the Labor "leaders." Mr. Fallen, of the A.W.U., says that it will mean £1,500,000 increase in purchasing power. What pitiable ignorance! But, perhaps after all, this is only to be expected from men who don't even know the first thing about the money swindle. It has been shown time and time again that an increase in the basic wage means a rise in the cost of living. As the primary producers, particularly the sugar growers, cannot pass their increased costs on, I can only presume that more of them will go bankrupt or further into the hands of the banks. So much for their "prosperity." As for the community as a whole, it will mean that over a period it will become more under the domination of finance and those who control it. As the banks are the only source, apart from savings, from which money comes for industry, and they only *lend* it, and charge interest upon it, it is hard to see how the workers are going to be any better off. Take the following simple proposition, which even Mr. Smith should be able to follow. A man in industry employs 5 men at £4 each per week. The basic wage rises

4/- per week. This means that the employer now has £1 increased costs per week, so that if he is to remain solvent and maintain his own purchasing power, he must pass on this cost of £1 by an increase in the price of his goods. Of course, he could "sack" some of his men, and try to sweat the others in order to keep going. Many employers have stated that they will have to put hands off since this latest rise. This will mean more unemployment, and will, no doubt, contribute to the great "prosperity."

However, we will suppose that the employer in this analogy keeps his men on. Apart from the increase of £1 per week, which he must pass-on, there is another aspect. The average "capitalist," which the Labor Party loosely talks about, usually has an overdraft. Now he is in the position that he will have to pay his men an increased wage *immediately*, but will not be able to obtain the increased price of his goods until some future date. Unless he is very fortunate, he will have to get an increase in his overdraft from his banker to meet this position. That overdraft will carry an interest bill. So, on top of the one pound for wages, he will have to also make an increase in his prices to recover the interest charges, with the result that in many commodities the worker will find himself *worse* off under the new award. Many workers are beginning to realise that a mere rise in the basic wage is no contribution to their difficulties. And with the increasing costs of living, the 32,000 unemployed relief workers in Queensland, and the thousands who get the magnificent sum of 9/- a week from this Labor Government to live on, will find their already hellish conditions made worse. And this by the party, which is supposed to represent them. Should they criticise the party, then they are likely to be cut off from a relief ticket. This has been done in some cases.

How are the sugar growers faring under this Labor regime? Well, as I pointed out in a recent article in the *New Times*, their position is hopeless. The other industries are in the same position. The following story will give some indication of the attitude of the Labor Party to those primary producers struggling to pioneer the outback of this State. In the Topaz district, on the Atherton Tableland, *real* men and women have been trying to carve a home out of the wilderness for years. As had been the case with primary producers in every part of Australia, their only achievement has been to build assets for the banks. Two years ago the banks took over 40 selections in this area. Cries of indignation rang throughout Queensland, while the Labor member for this part adopted a callously indifferent attitude.

CRUEL DRAMA

A climax came last year, when a widow, Mrs. Otte, had the experience of the bank foreclosing on her property. With her sick children she was removed by the bailiffs while rain was working up and light showers were already falling. When the police arrived dozens of bush people had gathered. However, Councillor Turner pointed out to them that the police were there with definite instructions from a Labor Government to evict Mrs. Otte, and that they should not let their feelings run away with them. The following is an extract from the account of an eyewitness: "The strain of this cruel drama had now become

intense. Men stood rigidly, while women were silently weeping. Mrs. Otte refused to move from the home she had carved from the wilderness, so the bailiffs took her and placed her on the road, while cries of 'shame' from the women echoed throughout the scrub. Mrs. Otte sank on the wet grass, a forlorn, weary figure. No woman ever played a more courageous part in a fight to make a home for her little ones."

Mr. Turner, in addressing those present, said: "You have witnessed today one of the cruelest acts that has ever been carried out in the history of Queensland. Never before has a Labor Party used their police to drag a hard-working woman from a home that she has worked so hard to build up, and placed her on the 'road.'"

No wonder that this settler invited the Labor member, Mr. Bruce, to come up and try conclusions with his fists; while a telegram from the district urged Mr. Bruce to do the manly thing and resign. I have seen things which would make your blood boil in some parts of the North, and dozens of cases could be described similar to the one mentioned. And still Mr. Smith and his Labor Government lie, and lie, about prosperity.

POLITICAL CORRUPTION

As mentioned previously, the prospect of Queensland ridding itself of the Labor Fascists seems almost impossible, while *the people pin their faith in the Party-system of government*. I was astounded to learn, that although the Labor Party polled, in the aggregate, 28,000 votes *less than* the Opposition at the last elections, it holds 44 seats while the Opposition only has 17 seats. There is an interesting story behind this. The proper redistribution of the electorates takes place every ten years in Queensland. The last proper redistribution was in 1931, by the Moore Government. However, when, in 1932, the Labor Party was returned, Mr. Forgan-Smith, with that shrewd cunning which is a feature of his political life, did not wait for another ten years. In 1932, redistribution was authorised by *regulation, not* by special act. The manner in which the electorates have been divided in favour of the Labor Party is equal to the worst political corruption we read about in America. On top of this, many have personally informed me that they don't like voting against Labor while ballot papers are numbered. And the dictatorial manner in which Mr. Smith deals with those who oppose him was graphically portrayed when the recently-elected member for East Toowoomba, Mr. Yeates, tackled Mr. Smith in the House at the last session on this matter. With an impatient wave of his hand Mr. Smith asked the Speaker to suspend Mr. Yeates for two weeks, although new members are supposed to be given some consideration. This was done immediately, and Mr. Yeates was given ten minutes to get all his things before being removed by the police.

Did I hear someone say something about "democracy"—or was it, possibly, Germany?

From a close study of the position it is quite evident that the A.W.U. is the dominating body in Queensland today. It has a ruthless grip on the workers. Several hotelkeepers tell me that they are more afraid of A.W.U. officials than the police. No one can get a job without belonging to it, while anyone criticising the Labor regime is likely to be without a job. The worker pays 25/- per year "for the right to work," although some only get a few weeks for the whole year. No one

seems to know just what happens to the thousands of pounds paid into this group by the workers, and although I have challenged A.W.U. executives, at meetings to produce an official balance-sheet, as yet I have not been successful in obtaining one.

In order to show the tactics used against those who oppose the Labor machine, I would like to briefly outline what happened in Mossman. Although the relief money collected in the various shires should obviously be spent in those shires, and the condition of the ratepayers in some parts is becoming almost unbearable, Mr. Smith generously spends most of it in his own electorate in Mackay, or Brisbane, in order to still further consolidate his position. In North Queensland the people have been simmering about this for some time, and the clash came when a big public meeting, of protest was held in Mossman. The Labor representative, Mr. Collins, another Fascist in his outlook and actions, was given a very thorough dressing-down by the Shire Clerk in Mossman, Mr. M. S. Burns, who, in spite of his position, did not mince matters, in exposing the rotten tactics of the Labor Party.

This move looked as if it would have repercussions all over Queensland, so Mr. Forgan-Smith had to rush up to quieten things. Unfortunately, Mr. Burns had a Labor Shire Council, and it was not long before pressure was being brought to bear to have Mr. Burns removed. However, the ratepayers took a hand in the matter, and at the next shire elections they removed all but one of the Labor councillors. Apparently the Labor Party are still worried about these stalwarts in Mossman, for, when Mr. Smith's secretary met Mr. Burns' son recently he suggested that he and his "dad" be careful—"or you might have a receiver put into that council up there."

Again—did I hear someone say anything about democracy?

Much more could be written, but it is not necessary. Mr. Forgan-Smith and the Queensland Labor Party have shown that they are the best party the banks ever had, and the people of Queensland are not going to get anywhere until they decide that they are going to do their *own* dictating in future. A general clean up all round is wanted, and, in spite of the fact that I have been told that my trenchant criticism on these matters might find me in a clash with Mr. Smith and his Labor machine, I am very pleased to say that many workers have come up to me after meetings, and said that "this is just what this State wants."

It certainly is.

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