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THE**NEW TIMES****"CATARRHEX"**

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C. Stomachic.**

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Vol. 5. No. 35

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1939.

Every Friday, 3d

CRISIS IN AUSTRALIA**Vital Issue Between People
And Government****WHEATGROWERS STAND FIRM ON
NATIONAL QUESTION**

The Conference of State Premiers and the Prime Minister, held in Melbourne on Monday, to consider stabilisation of the wheat industry failed to come to any definite conclusions. The Federal proposals sponsored by Mr. Menzies were opposed by the Victorian Premier and the Tasmanian representative, and, in consequence, the conference was abandoned. The matter will now have to be brought up in the Federal House for discussion.

Delegates to the Australian Wheatgrowers' Federation met in Melbourne on Monday, when conference passed the following resolutions:

(1) "That the federation commits itself to take the necessary action to displace any Federal member who is not prepared to support the stabilisation proposals of the federation."

(2) "That we call on the Country Party to use the power which they undoubtedly possess, by sitting on the cross benches, to give effect, though the Commonwealth Parliament, to the stabilisation of wheat prices on the lines laid down by the federation."

(3) "This federation urges the Federal Government to make payments out of the home-consumption price fund as soon as possible to the estimated final payment."

(4) "That we, the wheatgrowers of Australia, work to mobilise our fighting strength to demand that the Commonwealth Bank, without increasing debt or taxation, provide enough money to stabilise the price of wheat at the price agreed on by the federation (3/10, ports), which is sufficient to maintain the solvency of the industry. We believe the Commonwealth Parliament can, and should, be compelled to take control of financial policy to serve the national need by this action."

As we anticipated, the innocent question of a stabilised price for wheat has developed into an issue the settlement of which will decide whether Australia climbs to the sunlight of prosperity or sinks further into the shadows of serfdom. The failure of the Premiers' Conference is tantamount to throwing down the gauntlet between Finance, as represented by Government, and the People. The flagrant disregard of the wishes of practically every individual (wheat-grower, businessman, professional, worker) of the Australian wheat-growing community is a betrayal of, not only these people, but of the whole Australian people. There can be no plea of not knowing the wishes of this large section of the community, in face of the resolutions passed at innumerable mass meetings in all wheat-growing districts throughout the Commonwealth. The Prime Minister's endeavour to pass the responsibility of stabilising the industry on to the States is a measure of his sincerity and sympathy for the depressed economic state of Australia, for he must know that, if the farmer cannot pay his costs, the economic flow of the nation stagnates. The support given to him by certain Premiers place them in a line with the Prime Minister— unless they profess ignorance unfitting them for their position; which is inexcusable considering the matters given publicity in support of the resolutions forwarded for their consideration.

Ranting about law, and perturbation over a scarcity of money is unbecoming in a man who refuses to give cognizance to the sovereign laws of the nation. Section 51 of the Commonwealth Constitution proclaims Mr. Menzies a humbug on both counts, and, as such, an enemy of the people. He is accepting the pay of a trusting people while serving interests inimical to the common weal.

The stand taken by the people of the wheat-producing areas of Australia has roused the forces (Continued on page 8.)

**S. M. BRUCE ON "DEMOCRACY
AND EFFICIENCY"**

This was the title of an address given by the Right Hon. S. M. Bruce, High Commissioner for Australia, at a small meeting of the Association for Education in Citizenship, at Bedford College, England, on July 10. It was interesting to note how nearly Mr. Bruce approached reality, and how far and how smoothly he slid away from it again.

Remarking that democracy does not mean liberty of action, since in society no one is completely free he said that it only means "the individual has a voice in the measure and type of interference he is going to be subject to."

Then the speech took a hopeful turn. We have a good moral case for democracy, he said; have we not failed on the material side? What are the intangible benefits

of freedom of speech, etc., to the unemployed man? The outstanding defect in our system is the absence of a COMMON OBJECTIVE.

The warmth of agreement which rises to greet this point is doomed to sink back gloomily, however, for Mr. Bruce thinks that "we" should present the common objective, dished up as attractively

(Continued on page 6.)

**VITAL ISSUES UNDERSTOOD IN
CANADA****Party Politics and High Finance
Denounced in Remarkable Speech****PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT PREPARES FOR ACTION**

In Canada preparations are afoot to wage a battle on a Dominion-wide front under a new banner at the forthcoming Federal elections—the New Democracy.

Reports from Quebec, Toronto and Saskatchewan are inspiring, for they show new ideas in social dynamics actually in the first stages of operation.

It would be difficult to exaggerate the importance of this preparation, for it has no parallel in Europe anywhere.

In Europe men are being regimented in camps and barracks, and factories are booming with orders for aeroplanes, bombs, tanks and guns; in a fashion they are preparing—for something—along the old, old lines.

In Canada, a new preparation is being made, along new lines, a preparation of the people to obtain control over their own Government.

This movement, led by Hon. W. D. Herridge, will fight under the banner of the New Democracy. The electorate is not being regimented to use guns, but is to be organised to use their votes for what they want instead.

Constituents are advised to select their own candidates instead of accepting the old-time "party" nominees, who, in the past, have always had the approval and the bridle of those reactionary interests who finance largely all the political party machines.

REVOLT

Said Herridge in his Toronto broadcast:

"The people are in revolt against the present condition of life in Canada..."

"This movement began when we first knew that we could have security. It grew stronger when we knew that reaction opposed security; stronger when we knew there never would be security until there was a Parliament free to serve the people; stronger when we knew that there never would be a free Parliament until

we got rid of the old Liberal and Conservative Parties.

PARTIES ARE BOUGHT

"A party that takes money from reaction, must serve reaction. A party that serves reaction cannot serve you.

"The Liberal and Conservative Parties have not served you, these last twenty years and more. Because they have taken money from reaction.

"Poverty in the midst of plenty is the consequence.

"We instinctively felt before we actually knew, that high finance, the vested interests, special privilege, were denying us prosperity. Yet they had to wreck us before we would believe it.

"Up to this time, when the liberals failed us, we turned them out and put the conservatives in. When the conservatives failed us, we put the liberals in. When they failed again, we put the conservatives back. When they failed again, we put the liberals back.

"ALL THAT IS FINISHED"

"Now all that is finished. We mean to put *both* parties out. We have been patient and forgiving, slow to anger and deliberate in action. But at last we see these parties in their true light. Campaign funds make a lurid light. We know now that these old parties *have betrayed us*. The hopeless record of this last helpless Parliament is the final proof of that.

"The judgment of this country has been long preparing. It is rendered now. The old Conservative and Liberal Parties have by a just and patient people been condemned.

"DEMOCRACY MARCHES"

"The time of waiting and of wanting has gone by. The first

(Continued on page 3.)

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.)

Of course, from the viewpoint of national self-preservation and national honour, they seem to me to be quite justified in their present act of aggression. Over many years, their nationals engaged in peaceful business in China have been insulted and outraged by the warlords' armies. If a China had eventuated under Russian influence, aggressive to Japan, with an unattackable degree of power and defence, then for all time the active, virile, modern and efficient race of Japan would have been effectively bottled up, geographically and economically, and in a few years would have become a hopelessly vulnerable target for attack by a modernised China. In fact, under such conditions, Japan could be blown to bits. Hence, with China developing an anti-Japanese regime, it was eminently reasonable and sane for Japan to get in first.

The point we have to consider is, "What will the developments in the East mean to Australia (1) if Japan wins out and gets control of China; (2) if Japan does not, and China comes under Bolshevik Russian control? Are we sufficiently far-seeing in our present attitude to this Eastern question?" I feel that Japan is a nation that would not let down a staunch friend, nor ever forget being let down by a friend. I think a lot of what is called Japan's unreasonableness, in outlook and attitude in the East, is due to the fact that she does not know exactly where she stands in relation to Britain and Australia. There are a number of "thinking" English people who know the East, who also cannot quite follow this British policy, if it really is "British," which a lot of them doubt.

The same doubt exists in regard to the diplomacy in the recent Czechoslovakian position, where Britain presented to Germany what I am credibly informed was a most wonderful replica of the French Maginot Line, to capture which would have cost Germany, according to one of her own officers' statements, 800,000 to 1,000,000 men. The Line was ready, it was manned, and then given away, and the patriotic Czech soldiers who had left work and homes to man the Line, had brokenheartedly to walk to their homes, if they could find them. Concentration camps, humiliation, hopelessness, and unbelievable cruelty became their lot, and as they later cried, in despair, "It would have been better to have fought alone and lost." One German youth told me that had the Czech Maginot Line put up a stout resistance, and if Hitler lost a good number of men, there surely would have been an internal disruption in Germany itself. It is felt that Germany now has the secrets of the French Maginot Line, and Britain has delayed but piled up the agony to come from this quarter, and it may be that she is doing the same in the East.

It was probably Japan's knowledge of Britain's dilemma with Germany that led her to use that time as opportune to launch the South China offensive.

SEEKS OUR FRIENDSHIP

Japan seeks our friendship now while it is ours to give. If Japan gets control of China, and has a breather of a few years to develop it, then she will be getting to the stage of nigh invincibility, when she will not need our friendship, nor have any friendship to repay. Of course, Japan has not yet got control of China. She controls the large towns, but the countryside is not at all safe to the Japanese. But, at present, she is concentrating on obliterating once and for all the Chiang-Kai-Shek and his Soong banker's army, with their Bolshevistic leanings. If she effects this, I should think she would soon pacify the guerilla areas. The high-up Japanese have no doubt or worry about this aspect.

There are a lot of people in Australia who cannot realise

that this incident is Japan's effort for national self-preservation; after having for years tried pacific diplomacy without effect in China. These same people, if their next-door neighbours were noisy, and threatening occasionally, would most likely call in the police—i.e., use force to get the noisy, objectionable neighbours removed or subdued. They would use force for a mere nuisance, and yet would castigate Japan for using force for vital national self-preservation. For the Chinese in China proper are not at all like the peaceful Chinese we have been used to in Australia, and they have been practising their ancient debauching, torturing and massacring of little groups of Japanese settlers and traders in China for many years.

ECONOMICS

I have already touched on the internal economic condition in Japan, where everyone can only purchase and use shoddy or "dai-yo-hin"—i.e., substitute—goods. This is a wise move on the part of the central regime, who realise the true relative position of money in economics, and who know that it is not money that wins wars, but men, food, iron, and nitrates.

They now know enough about money not to be worried about International Financial Mesmerism. They also realise that, at the same time, without a raw material supply-nation as an ally, they have to conserve Foreign Credits for the purchase of war material in contradistinction to personal goods, such as wool, cotton, etc. The military Government is also playing about with new financial methods in that it proposes to grant special credits to small manufacturers who can obtain foreign contracts; so that the absence of financial capital will be no bar to a reputable manufacturer obtaining and fulfilling a foreign order for goods. If the foreign order is for wool, cotton or other goods not permitted for home consumption, a permit is granted.

Nevertheless, although they should know better, the central regime is permitting the Government to perpetrate the orthodox taxing of the people for money with which to carry on the war, and is slow in making some effort towards preventing the monopolies from getting all

the rewards of war. Nevertheless, Clause 11 of the National Mobilisation Bill gives them this power, and recently they have commenced to apply the Act, being strenuously opposed by the banking and monopoly interests, and by the Finance Minister, Ikeda, whom, I now see, they have put out of office.

THE MONOPOLIES

Mr. Kazuo Kitakawa, economic expert, writing in the "Nippon Hozon" (a magazine devoted to social, political, and economic questions), says: "An ever-increasing stream of gold is pouring into the coffers of Japan's War Industrialists, but the 'little fellow' is being left out in the cold, while the powerful Mitsui, Mitsubishi, and Sumitomo interests get the plums."

These monopolies, as is the practice in other countries, run their own banks or credit factories. Mr. Kitakawa, quoting figures of the Industrial Bank of Japan, says that, "War industries made profits 38 per cent, greater in the first half of 1938 than in the same period of 1937." However, he notes, the profits actually are probably larger even than that, "for it is an easy matter for private firms to hush up parts of their profits by either over-estimating their fixed assets or under-estimating their floating assets." Profits of companies controlling hemp, coal, chemicals, and metals of all kinds have skyrocketed. The Nippon Aluminium Company made seven

times as much in the first six months of 1938 as it did in 1937, while the "Nichi-Man" (Japan-Manchuko) Aluminium Company doubled its income. These skyrocketing profits, however, are not distributed over a wide front, but are seemingly confined to the small and powerful business clique. Of Japan's total coal output—

Mitsui monopolies 25 per cent, (of copper, 31 per cent; of lead, 79 per cent; of zinc, 81.5 per cent; of gold mines, 14 per cent).

Mitsubishi monopolises 15 per cent, (of tin, 96 per cent; of gold mines, 11 per cent).

Sumitomo monopolises 4 per cent, (of copper, 15 per cent).

Mr. Kitakawa concludes: "It is impossible to say exactly how much these gigantic firms have been making from the war."

So it would seem that the "Dai Nippon," for which all the millions of Japanese are so patriotically sacrificing themselves, consists in the ultimate analysis of three main family groups. I was surprised at the Military Central Regime, who do, and should know better, allowing these commercial groups to absorb all the benefits of the national efforts. But the application of Section 11 is their first step against this exploitation, and has probably been the cause of the recent Cabinet changes, as Finance Minister Ikeda was on the side of the commercial and financial interests.

"SAVE THE PEOPLE'S BANK," CAMPAIGN

Vital to Farmers and Traders

For the first time in the history of Australia, the majority of wheatgrowers and their business people are in line, and demanding that the Commonwealth Bank be made to function as it was meant to. No greater compliment can be paid to these, and to other primary producers who are demonstrating their sympathy with them, than that they are at last hitting the nail on the head in their demand for real credits instead of artificial debits, says the Victorian Committee of the above campaign.

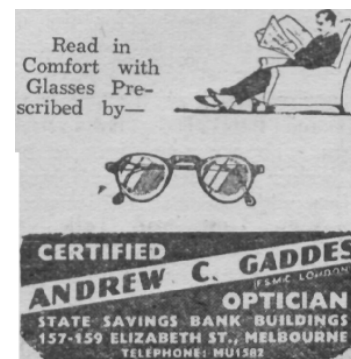
It was most fortunate, they continue, that the debate on the Bank Bill was temporarily held up last session, and that actionists throughout Australia have been given more time in which to arouse public opinion. Had the Bill been passed, it is certain that the plight of the farmers would have been even more lastingly critical. As it is, their only way out lies in the power of the Commonwealth Bank and every farmer must be brought to realise this fundamental fact.

Whilst mass meetings are still being held, the least that can be done is to assist country people to take action through their Parliamentary representatives. We therefore appeal to all country "contacts" to see that letterforms are made available before this great opportunity has passed. There is no need to repeat that the control of the Commonwealth Bank is today, as never before, the most vital issue before the Australian people. The object of the Bank Bill has been proved to be the pawing of the People's Bank. If we are to retain hope for the future of this country—

THE BANK BILL MUST BE BLOCKED

The signing of a letterform is the individual elector's pledge to oppose constitutionally this dangerous measure, amounting to a stranglehold by vested interests. Its despatch to Federal Members is a warning that if the will of the electors is not respected in this all-important matter, then the electors will take direct democratic action in voting such misrepresentatives OUT of Parliament.

The issue is clear. Members can claim to truly represent the people, only if they vote AGAINST the Bank Bill proposals. HOW THEY WILL VOTE RESTS WITH THE ELECTORS, and there is NO TIME TO LOSE. Letter-forms, addressed to M.H.R. and to Senators, are available at 1/2 per hundred, posted, as are special "Hands Off the People's Bank" broadsheets at 8d per dozen, posted, from "Save the People's Bank Campaign," Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne.



PARLIAMENT, AND YOU

What Democracy Really Means

By ERIC D. BUTLER in "The Queensland Producer"

In these days, when the technique of modern propaganda has reached the stage where it is practically impossible for anyone to escape its influence, the necessity for a clear conception of what democracy implies is becoming painfully obvious.

One leading scientist has stated, "that definition is the breath of science." In the realm of the political science, the necessity of defining democracy has been long overdue. Although possibly the most used word in discussing national or international affairs at the present time, no word has been more loosely used or is more misunderstood.

In a democracy the source of power should reside with the electors. One might therefore ask why the electors are not using that power to get what they want. The reason is, of course, the fact that the function of an elector has been entirely misunderstood. He is forced to take his choice between three or more abstract, technical party programmes foisted upon him at varying intervals. In other words, he is an arbitrator.

Now, in this aspect, "one man one vote" seems obviously absurd, it is quite ridiculous to agree that a typical waitress or a professor of Greek, can ably sum up the pros and cons of such things as "quotas," "nationalisation," or, for that matter, upon the technique of how the present obsolete money system **should** function.

But, as any dictionary will indicate, democracy is the root of power, not judgment. It is power, which should be drawn from the elector's will, not judgment from his intellect. That is the common ground upon which all men can meet. All of us, whether professor or waitress, businessman or farmer, want the same results. We want the security and freedom, which we know the modern world could easily give us.

THE PARTY SYSTEM AND THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM

That the party system has failed is generally agreed. As pointed out, the parties frame technical proposals, which the electors are forced to choose between. They hopelessly divide the people, while the futility of the electors ever passing a correct opinion upon a technical scheme which will solve the glaring paradox of poverty amidst plenty, will be quickly appreciated, when we realise that there are at least 24 major schools of reform at the present time.

The job of deciding and administering the correct technique is obviously the function of an economic expert. He is paid to be familiar with these things. Through our members of Parliament, we should demand the results, which we all want. If we desire that sufficient purchasing power be created for the purpose of allowing the people access to the actual or potential plenty of this country, without further debt or taxation, then we must demand it by forwarding a signed demand form to our Member of Parliament.

We all know that it is stupid to talk about a shortage of money. Money can always be found for war. It can also be found for peace.

Of course, this will oppose the policy of those vested interests who use the financial system for their own ends to the detriment of the people. That the party system is their method of keeping control of the people, is most graphically portrayed in the following extract from the U.S.A. Bankers' Magazine, of August 26, 1924.

But, as any dictionary will indicate, democracy is the root of power, not judgment. It is power, which should be drawn from the elector's will, not judgment from his intellect. That is the common ground upon which all men can meet. All of us, whether professor or waitress, businessman or farmer, want the same results. We want the security and freedom, which we know the modern world could easily give us.

"Capital must protect itself in every possible way, both by combination and legislation. Debts must be collected. Mortgages must be foreclosed as rapidly as possible. When through a process of law the common people lose their homes, they will become more docile and more easily governed through the strong arm of government applied by a central power of wealth under leading financiers . . . By dividing the people through the party system, we can get them to expend their energies in fighting for questions of no importance. It is thus by discreet action, we can secure for ourselves that which has been so well planned and so successfully accomplished."

This tyranny will continue, just [so long as members of Parliament are controlled by a party, instead of by their electors.

THE FUNCTION OF PARLIAMENT AND ITS MEMBERS

We have seen the futility of the electors concerning themselves with the technical administration of our economic system. When the investigation along these lines is taken a little further and applied to our political system, we begin to see how Parliament has been perverted from its original purpose. As to why Parliament exists, there appears to be the utmost confusion of thought at the present time.

The same applies to members of Parliament; and, contrary to the true conception of democracy, we now find Parliament imposing its will upon the electors instead of the electors imposing their will upon it.

The original idea of Parliament was a meeting place for the populace, and possibly the nearest approach to this was the old Greek idea of a free, deliberative assembly. However, it is obviously ridiculous for several million Australians to meet at Canberra. We therefore send along members of Parliament to represent our wishes and our desires. At least, that is the theory of government by the people; although, as we have seen, it is not an actuality at the present time.

It will be readily seen that the duty of a Member of Parliament is purely functional. If his own views, or the views of his party, are contrary to those expressed by a majority of his electors, he

must be prepared to advocate the views of his electors or resign. He is the paid servant of the people, and must realise that his job is to represent the views of those who pay him.

However, if he is expected to represent the demands of his electors, it is quite obvious that his electors must inform him clearly what results they want, and also show that they are prepared to support him, irrespective of party labels, if he continually presses for those results.

The responsibility lies with the people, and, a study of the great reforms in history clearly indicates that Parliament never initiates a reform. It only puts its name to it after the people demand it.

AN ANALOGY

As a further illustration of the ridiculous manner in which the nation is governed at the present time, possibly the best analogy that can be utilised is to briefly look at the manner in which the running of an ordinary trading company is conducted.

The company is owned by its shareholders who, by their votes, elect periodically a number of deputies or representatives to run the company and get results. These directors are not chosen so much for their technical knowledge of the company's manufacturing process, as for their reputation for integrity, common sense, and general business ability. The directors then proceed to appoint sectional managers—works manager, sales manager, etc.—who in turn select the technical staffs for their various departments - - engineers, accountants, salesmen, and so on.

The business is now run on a basis of getting results. The principle involved is one of individual responsibility, resting ultimately with the responsibility of the directors to the shareholders. And the shareholders are interested in one thing, and one thing only, and that is results. If the directors fail to get results the shareholders remove them.

The same procedure should take place in our national affairs. Let us consider ourselves as shareholders in Australia Unlimited. We have our national board of directors—members of Parliament. But, from a common sense and business viewpoint, how futile is the administration of the affairs of the nation.

FRANTIC FOLLY

We elect a board of directors who are openly pledged to oppose each other on every major issue, who tell the shareholders that they know what will be best for them. Furthermore, under the present ideas of administration, they are also supposed to be technical experts, with results, which are leading to chaos.

Could we possibly imagine any business company running satisfactorily if the directors openly opposed each other, imposed their will upon the shareholders, and started entering the factory and telling the experts that the machinery should be running 2000 revolutions faster per minute; or, that the formula of the head chemist was wrong?

Still further, can we imagine the shareholders voting at shareholders' meetings on the technical manner in which the company should be run? The whole idea would be absurd, and the company would soon be in a chaotic state.

Well, that is exactly what we have been doing in our national affairs, and it is hard to visualise anything more chaotic than our present conditions. And there is every sign that this state of affairs is going to become still further chaotic, unless we decide that

VITAL ISSUES UNDERSTOOD IN CANADA

(Continued from page 1.)

stage of this great movement is concluded. The second stage begins. *The time for action has come.*

"Democracy marches; not the old democracy with the heel mark of reaction on its neck, but the New Democracy, which means to govern . . .

"The first act of the New Democracy is to get a Parliament free to serve the people . . .

"At the next general election, in every constituency in Canada, there must be a candidate pledged to the principles and programme of the New Democracy."

"You will elect your candidates. Then there will be a Parliament free to serve you.

REPRESENTATIVES IN FACT

"For each member thus elected will be, *in fact*, your representative. *You will not ask them what they mean to do. You will tell them what to do.*

"Your representatives have never represented you. They have represented the party machine. The party machine has represented reaction. Reaction has been the boss. Campaign funds saw to that.

"The New Democracy has no such campaign funds. You are the boss. Act as if you were one. Set up at once a committee of citizens in every constituency. See that it fairly represents the people of that constituency and their progressive economic views. With its guidance, choose your candidate. There must be many women candidates elected to the next Parliament. We need their vision. Where there is no vision the people perish.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

"This all sounds simple. And it is simple. If you mean business, nothing can stop you.

"Don't wait for leadership in your constituency. *Give it.* Let each one act as if salvation depended on his own endeavour. As indeed it does. *Democracy is the individual multiplied just as Fascism is the individual nullified.*

"Be what you were meant to be: free men and women. Accept the obligations of that sovereign state."

the present system of administration of the nation is wrong.

WHAT WE MUST DO

What we immediately have got to do, is to start demanding results from our national directors, and hold them responsible for getting results or getting out. They in turn, have got to call in the necessary experts; and in turn, hold them responsible for getting results. To sum the position up—experts must be removed by Parliament if they fail or refuse to get the results, which the people want. Failure of the members of Parliament to get results will also mean their removal, while failure of the electors to demand the results they want will also hasten their removal — either through poverty or war, which are products of the system, which we tolerate.

So, in the final analysis, there will be no move towards reform until the electors themselves move. They are democracy. Theirs is the responsibility. If they desire economic democracy and a better society, they must accept their responsibility and assert their sovereignty over their paid servants. They must immediately demand those results, which they all know to be perfectly feasible, possible and desirable.

ACTIONISTS! THAT BANK BILL!

Save Time and Talk. Sell Them a Penny Broadsheet. Obtainable at 8d per doz. (posted) from "Save the People's Bank" Campaign, Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne.

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.

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

Vol. 5. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1939. No. 35.

STUPIDITY HAS ITS RICHES

A Prime Minister's Service to the Nation

The gratitude of the community is due to Mr. Menzies for his ridiculous proposals brought forward as a panacea for the wheatgrowers' troubles. They have proved to be valuable, in focusing public attention on a vital national industry, with the result that the city has gained a better understanding of the countryman's position, and how it directly affects the commercial life of the city. That this is not merely supposition can be gathered from the suggestion to hold a meeting of representatives of city business concerns to support the movement for an adequate stabilised price for wheat. The city has taken its cue from country business and professional men who have recognised their dependence on the price of wheat for their income, and have rallied, with the farmer, to demand a price which will enable the producer to distribute his costs and to retain an adequate return for the service of production.

When it is considered that primary production is, to a large extent, the initial distributing point from which the economy of the nation flows, it is difficult to understand why there should be any opposition to arranging for an adequate price which will allow all costs to travel their full course. If it can easily be seen that if the producer cannot obtain sufficient in price to pay his commitments to store, transport, machinery, petrol, and oil, artificial manure, etc., etc., there is very little prospect of the community generally becoming prosperous. It is in making this position clear that Mr. Menzies' stupidity has been an unintended service to the community. On the other hand, his efforts appear to be to assist the industry to the extent of enabling it to pay its interest charges to the Banks. Perhaps some readers consider such an assertion as ranting, but, if the disgraceful manipulations of the Farmers' Debt Adjustments are remembered, when the Banks secured protection to the amount of twenty shillings in the pound and unsecured creditors could whistle for what they could get, there is some foundation for suspicion. Mr. Menzies is being ably assisted by the Melbourne "Herald" and "The Watchman," who are using their subtlety in an endeavour to pit city against country. The "Herald" is persistent in its charge against Mr. Dunstan, and reiterates the fable that the other wheat-growing States are in full accord with the Federal proposals. It does not iterate the voice of the wheat growing communities, which certain Premiers are traitorously misrepresenting. It studiously reminds the city that it will be required to find the money for stabilising the price, and avoids emphasising the fact that the wheat growing communities require Federal Government to provide the money through the Commonwealth Bank, the nation's bank, and not to obtain it by taxation or by any way which will take from the already-inadequate supply of money in the community.

Mr. Menzies has added another blunder to his blundering administration in gerrymandering with the wheat industry. He has a determined farming community to deal with, and also, no doubt to his surprise, a powerful business community. Servants sometimes realise that the duty is to serve, not dictate, **only offer they have been sacked.**

THAT EXTRA THOUSAND COPIES!

A Little More Still Required

Donations Still URGENTLY Needed

Have YOU "Done Your Bit" Yet?

STATISTICAL TRENDS

By "DYNAMICS"

Summaries, brought up to the year ended June 1938, are available as yet from the Commonwealth Statistical Department for 22 industries of the factory type, out of the 29 for which similar records are published.

Generally speaking, the money figures of output show a marked increase since the year 1930-31, and in every case there is an increase in the number of men employed in the same period.

The amounts of money distributed as wages and salaries are given; and in the year 1937-38 the total of such amounts was less than 17 per cent, of the total of wholesale prices of the goods.

These figures alone prove nothing with exactitude because many sums, which are debited to prices, go in payments for material, power, etc., and a portion of these in turn is released as wages, etc. Dividends do not come within the scope of the tabulated material, and these, of course, reach the public as purchasing power; but even allowing for all the possibilities in these directions one would need a very lively imagination to suppose that 83 per cent, of the prices could be distributed in these unrecorded ways.

Factories producing butter, cheese and condensed milk dis-

tribute only about 5 per cent, as wages, etc., while establishments making bricks, pottery, etc., distribute about 43 per cent. One reason for discrepancies of this kind is that probably brickyards win their raw materials largely from their own properties, thus employing men direct, whereas a butter factory buys most of its milk from the farmers.

One hears the cry sometimes that we want more *business men* in Parliament, but what are we to think of our captains of industry when they are ignoring the significance of the figures, which they compile and send to an official to tabulate. One has to display but a small amount of nous to see that through lack of purchasing power our commercial structure would cease to function if enormous amounts of new *debt* money were not being continuously released and spent in public works and capital expansion generally. We are therefore confronted with the untenable situation that, under our present financial regime, we can only prosper by going at an accelerated rate deeper and deeper into debt.

As far as the present writer can judge, war is the only expedient, which makes excuses for new piles of debt quickly enough to keep us "prosperous."

—Reprinted from "Builder," Adelaide, June 8, 1939.

FOOTSCRAY RATEPAYERS UP IN ARMS

Demands Made on Councillors to Build Hall for Paralysis Clinic

Local papers curtly reported a vital meeting of Footscray citizens as "a lively meeting." The *New Times* gives the story of how the ratepayers, realising their responsibility to themselves, are demanding that the councillors build a hall for a paralysis clinic.

This is the beginning of real democracy in Footscray.

Nineteen months ago the Scouts offered their hall to the paralysis auxiliary for six months, while the council made other arrangements. Fourteen months later the council promised to build a hall. Then, a month ago, Mr. McVilley, secretary of the Charities Board, suggested to the council not to build the hall, as the children in splints who could walk would have the splints taken from them, this against the advice of the expert Dr. Box, and be sent to school. The other children would be sent to institutions, such as Hampton.

Indignant parents of the children and the paralysis auxiliary called a public meeting when they saw that the council had no intention of building, to devise means to bring pressure on the councillors to build" immediately, as the Scouts required their hall by September 1. At a very "lively" meeting three motions were passed:

1. Demanding that a hall be built immediately.
2. If that motion was not successful, a deputation would be arranged.
3. If not successful a monster deputation, led by Mr. Mullins, M.L.A., to the Minister for Health would be arranged.

And, further, the electoral campaign method was suggested and adopted, that letters be drawn up to be signed by the ratepayers, de-

manding of the councillors that, under threat of expulsion, they do the job. A copy of the demand-letter adopted is printed below:

Cr.-----

Dear Sir, —

As I am of the opinion that a clinic should be built for the paralysis sufferers, and, realising that there is a sufficiency of land, material, and men, and that finance can be obtained if required free of any charge from the Commonwealth Bank (vide Report of Monetary Commission, paragraph 504), I hereby demand that you, as my representative, use your best endeavour to compel the council to immediately proceed with the erection of the clinic and assist us in our fight to preserve the existing conditions under which the children are being treated.—Yours faithfully,

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Special Rally to Discuss
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"NOT ONLY WILL NOT, BUT CANNOT"

(2)

The Voice of Jacob, But the Hand of Esau!

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir, —Following what was written last week regarding the manner in which our Prime Minister shows himself merely to be the echo of the financiers' demands, it is interesting to observe how the other "leading public men" also reveal themselves as the re-echo of the echo; and, strange as it may seem, political parties make no difference—the voice is the same throughout, but the directing black hand is carefully camouflaged.

For example, Mr. Dunstan, the Country Party Premier of Victoria, has just delivered what is called a "Budget," and in the course of his "Budget Speech" said this: "It would be easy to liberalise conditions and present an unbalanced budget, but Governments, like individuals, must live within their means." That is to say, the necessity for balancing the budget prevents his Government from giving the people what they desire to have. Well, who has imposed the necessity for balancing the budget, and why? It means that expenditure must be kept within income, but who controls the volume of income; and what is meant by the term, "means"? If it means wealth, then we have the wherewithal to raise the standard of living almost beyond recognition and for Governments to give whatever is physically possible; but, if it means money, then we have not the wherewithal to meet even our current debts, to say nothing of the vast pile heaped up against us by our forbears. If individuals and Governments must live within their means of money, then who should control what those means shall be? Anyhow, the point at the moment is that the Country Party is enslaved to the budget-balancing fraud, just as all other political parties are similarly enslaved.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S PREMIER

Mr. Playford, the Conservative Premier of South Australia, recently opposed a motion in the State House calling upon the Federal Government to utilise the credit of the nation for the defence of the nation and for the well being of the people of the nation. He went so far as to say that the Governor and the Governor-General should throw such a resolution into the waste-paper basket. He also said that the needs of the wheatgrowers should be dealt with on the basis of the finance available and that we must live within our means! In regard to finance, his words are the same as those of the leader of a supposedly different political party altogether, and it is finance that controls everything. We therefore, see that in non-essentials they put themselves into different camps, but in the essential thing they all take their orders from the same point! And these orders are accepted just as slaves accept orders from their masters, without the slightest regard for the welfare of the general community. Yet this is the man who sent a special message to the Moral Rearmament Assembly at San Francisco as follows: "I know of nothing that would strengthen democracy more than a general acceptance of the principles of moral rearmament"!!

QUEENSLAND'S PREMIER

Mr. Forgan Smith, Labor Premier of the State of Queensland, has praised himself over and over again for his "wonderful" work in balancing the budget—that is to say, in not allowing the people of Queensland to have the benefit of spending-power greater than has been dictated by the private credit monopoly. In this respect he has spinelessly taken orders from precisely the same interests whose agents give orders to non-Labor Governments, and in keeping the people of Queensland trussed up in that fashion he has been directly serving their worst enemies. Eric Butler's recent article was an eye-opener, and it reminded me of my own political folly in the years gone by, when I ignorantly resented criticism of a certain party. The Labor Premier of Western Aus-

tralia is not much different where finance is concerned, and he, too, almost with reverent obedience, is trying to impose a balanced budget on his people. The political colour of the "party" makes no difference. They all screw the people down within the limit of financial figures dictated by the private monopoly controlling the supply of money.

HOW PRESS ASSISTS

Needless to say, similar nonsense is preached as gospel by the servile press. For example, the Melbourne *Argus* of August 24 in its editorial said this: "Due regard has also been given to the necessity for balancing the budget, for Governments, like individuals, cannot continue to spend more than they receive without having ultimately to face unpleasant consequences. It is, therefore, gratifying that Mr. Dunstan, in his estimates for the current year, has been able to budget for a surplus of £4000 . . ." That is to say, we should applaud a Government, which is there to help us, for taking some thousands of pounds more from our pockets than it pays out to us, to say nothing of the fact that all the time it has been landing us further and further into someone's debt. Who is that someone—presumably the person who would impose "the unpleasant consequences" if we did not balance the budget?

WHO CALLS THE TUNE?

Here we have the whole of the political parties all saying the same thing, but what they are saying has never been dictated by the sovereign PEOPLE, and is actually against the interests of the people. In the light of this, it is as clear as the daylight that whoever arranges the supply of finance calls the tune in all Government activities; irrespective of the way we have been casting our votes as political partisans. This makes it increasingly important that we should give more careful thought to the utterances and actions of the men we have permitted to secure the highest offices in public life. At the moment, Robert Gordon Menzies, P.C., K.C., Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, and ex-director of several finance companies, is the prin-

cipal of these. When he speaks he speaks ostensibly for the Federal Government, but actually for the controllers of finance, just as all the other leading politicians have been doing.

THE BANK RATE MANIPULATION

We have already seen that his public statements follow the lines of the statements given out by financiers' spokesmen, and that there has been a significant synchronisation between the two. That we are in for a bad time, as predicted last week, unless we take immediate steps to circumvent the effects of the steps already instituted, has now been confirmed by the official report that the Bank of England has increased the bank from 2 per cent, to 4 per cent. This is more important than all the "news" about the several crises, and the implications of it are clearly explained in paragraph 93 of the Report of the Monetary and Banking Commission, recently presided over by Mr. Justice Napier, of Adelaide. If you can spare the space, Mr. Editor, I think it would be wise to quote Section 93 of that report in full, as follows:

"The Bank of England has developed a technique of credit contraction and expansion which enabled it to keep England on the gold standard. The guide followed was the movement in the exchange rate. If, for example, the sterling-dollar rate went to the gold export point, and a drain of gold was threatened, the Bank endeavoured to check it by initiating a credit contraction. This was usually brought about by raising the Bank rate—i.e., the minimum rate at which the Bank was prepared to discount first-class bills of exchange. The Bank sometimes supplemented this action by the sale of securities on the open market. The result of such measures was a rise in interest rates, because the banks were accustomed to follow the lead of the Bank of England; a restriction of credit; and a tendency for prices to fall. The higher interest rates tended to encourage foreign investment in England, and any fall in prices to discourage imports; the demand for sterling increased, and the rate moved towards parity. If there were an influx of gold the Bank might lower the Bank rate, and, if necessary, purchase securities, leading to a fall in interest rates, an expansion of credit, a rise in prices, and a movement of the exchange rate back towards parity."

EXPLAINS A LOT

That shows us clearly why prices rise and fall, why the so-called "law" of supply and demand is so much moonshine, why we have the absurdity of being ON the gold standard and OFF it at the same time, why the system of "Central" banks was extended to every country to facilitate the imposition of the bankers' will, why we hear of the "inexorable" requirements of SOUND FINANCE, why our financial arrangements are dictated by foreigners, why millions go underfed in the midst of abundance, why interest rates are deliberately manipulated AGAINST the people, why Governments are so impotent to meet the desires and needs of the citizens they are supposed to be serving—in fact, why things are always bad when they ought always to be good. It also explains why the selling pressure on the Stock Exchanges is again in evidence, why credit is being contracted, why prices have fallen and will continue to fall, and why we shall be in for it properly unless we stir ourselves. When we get a vision of the truth about the money business we shall

have no hesitation in telling our representatives in Parliament what we want and in letting them know that if they do not do as we wish them to do, then they will be removed and replaced by better men.

OH, FOR A LINCOLN!

Mr. Menzies has said that the Commonwealth Government not only will not, but cannot, provide finance equal to the needs of the Australian people. It WILL not, because the bankers have told it not to, and it CANNOT because it accepts the bankers' dictum and is not permitted to. Mr. Menzies does not run any personal risk for that, but, of course, cannot be compared for knowledge and courage with Abraham Lincoln, who was assassinated soon after refusing to betray his people to the finance controllers. This is what Lincoln said: "Money is the creature of law, and the creation of the original issue of money should be maintained as an exclusive monopoly of National Government. Government, possessing the power to create and issue currency and credit as money and enjoying the right to withdraw both currency and credit from circulation by taxation and otherwise, need not, and should not, borrow capital at interest as the means of financing Governmental work and public enterprise. The Government should create, issue, and circulate all the currency and credit needed to satisfy the spending power of the Government and the buying power of consumers. The privilege of creating and issuing money is not only the supreme prerogative of government, but it is the Government's greatest creative opportunity. By the adoption of these principles, the long-felt want for a uniform medium will be satisfied. The taxpayers will be saved immense sums in interest, discounts, and exchanges. The financing of all public enterprise, the maintenance of stable government and ordered progress, and the conduct of the Treasury will become matters of practical administration. The people can, and will, be furnished with a currency as safe as their own Government. Money will cease to master and become the servant of humanity. Democracy will rise superior to the money power." No wonder he was assassinated! He was far too great a menace to the satanic financial influences, which had the people under their thumb. Could we imagine our present Prime Minister speaking out for the people in that fashion? What a statesman he could be if he would!

A LETTER TO MR. MENZIES

Unfortunately, I am afraid there is little prospect of that. He prefers to dodge the question. I quote below a copy of a letter addressed to him by myself on July 4 last. It speaks for itself:

"Dear Mr. Menzies, —In this morning's issue of the Adelaide *Advertiser* you are reported to have spoken to a gathering of women's organisations in Sydney yesterday in the following terms:

'I am old-fashioned enough to believe that the money the Government provides must be provided by the people. If, as one or two people suggest, money could be provided free of interest for carrying on all social services and works and for private incomes, then the millennium has arrived.' This is so remarkable a statement for our Prime Minister to make that I write to ask whether the *Advertiser* has given a correct report of what you said. If you were not correctly reported, perhaps you will oblige me with a statement of the words you did use. I ask this question because I, as one of the (Continued on next page.)

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(Continued on page 7.)

S. M. BRUCE ON "DEMOCRACY AND EFFICIENCY"

(Continued from page 1.)

as possible to the people! He does not believe, as we do, that the initiative must come from the people themselves, to be democratic. He used the people's acquiescence to the present armament programme as a proof that "we can get the people to forget their own immediate needs and desires (as in the dictatorships) and unite, when they are made to see the necessity." If they can do this for defence, they could do the same for a "policy of peace," "if the picture were painted for them."

(As Mr. Bruce was emphasising our failure on the material side, one would have thought he would agree with us that the people would do well to remember rather than forget their own immediate needs and desires!)

Australians, he said, have seen the necessity for a common objective—to increase the population in order to protect the continent from invasion. The new population can only be absorbed by the development of primary, and notably secondary industries, and these can only be developed by an extra standard of "efficiency." A "great efficiency drive" has resulted. This, too, he thought a fine example of what democracy can rise to.

We were on common ground with him when, telling of the Economic Conference of 1933, deciding that all that could be done was to limit production, Mr. Bruce thanked God that Australia was the country which "screamed" at this pronouncement. NO ONE, he said, believes this today. We know there is only one thing to do, to increase CONSUMPTION.

Everyone knows too much now, he said, to put up with the present state of affairs. "We" should, therefore, draw up an attractive picture of an objective, which would appeal to all, "something that's going to induce your people to make sacrifices and give up privileges!"

Mr. Bruce obviously admires the dictatorships in so far as they induce their people to make sacrifices for a common objective; this seems to indicate that he regards the State as a whole as being more important than the individual members, so that when he ended his speech on a cry for leadership, one could not help feeling that a lender of the dictatorial type was the kind who would be able to paint for the people the picture he would wish painted.

"NOT ONLY WILL NOT, BUT CANNOT"

(Continued from page 5.)

people, have never provided, or attempted to provide, money. I have always obtained it after someone else had provided it. Hitherto I have been too frightened to try my hand at money production, because of the probability, if not the certainty, of finding myself in gaol for doing it. May I also put one other question? It is this: Why should we pay interest on money when we never pay interest on wealth? No reply has yet reached me. Not even an acknowledgment! Are the questions too difficult or has he been instructed to talk about other and less-important things? Apparently it would be dangerous to expose the dirty black hand of the sinister monster persecuting the children of God.—Yours faithfully,
BRUCE H. BROWN.

COMEDY OF ERRORS

The Dilemma in Public Finance

By ARTHUR BRENTON, in "Reality"

"What the Government could not get by taxing the people and borrowing their savings, it got by restricting their consumption through the indirect means of inflation."

"We do not mean that for equilibrium to be maintained, the expenditure of the public authorities must at all times be fully covered by their current revenue . . . but that the public authorities should be able to cover their budgetary deficits out of resources provided from the accumulating savings of the people, and yet leave enough of those savings available to meet the needs of more or less urgent capital construction. This requires, in turn, that the Government's demands in the form of revenue shall not be so large or so unskillfully levied as to result in persistent unwillingness either to save or to put savings at the disposal of the capital market. If these expedients, often difficult to reconcile, cannot be fulfilled, then expedients have to be adopted which must result in monetary inflation."

"In the years of which we are speaking (1935 to 1938) the increasing resort to the practice of hoarding, in preference to making deposits in savings banks or buying Government securities, was rejected in the note issue of the Bank of France for the increase in notes outstanding was largely concentrated upon those of higher denominations."

These quotations are from the Midland Bank *Monthly Review*, dated June-July, 1939, which surveys the situation in France during the period 1929 to 1938. The writer begins by recording that during the deflationary period 1929-1935 the cost of living fell by less than one-fifth while the wholesale price index fell by nearly one half. Then, from 1936, when inflationary correctives were tried, the prices of finished goods rose disproportionately to the rise in primary prices.

The dilemma disclosed by the above facts and observations is, of course, present, not in France alone, but in all countries.

CAUSE OF THE DILEMMA

It arises from the fact . . . that collective Cost is not wholly recoverable from collective Income. The deficiency constitutes the root-dilemma of which the dilemma described by the Midland Bank Review is one of the fruits. Notice that our incomes are implicitly presumed by the writer to be sufficient in the aggregate to do the following things at the same time:—(a) buy us the means of life; (b) pay taxes; (c) accumulate savings temporarily, to be appropriated finally by industry and the Government as loan-investments. These are the three main channels of confiscation through which we are dispossessed of our total monetary resources. In practice the channels intersect: e.g., under (a) we pay some item belonging to (b); and under both (a) and (b) items belonging to (c). But that does not affect the arithmetical result that when all our money is confiscated its sum is insufficient to meet all three purposes.

Observe how strikingly the reviewer corroborates this proposition without appearing to know it, in the above quotations. They visually tell us that the problem of Public Finance is that of preventing the confiscation under any of the three heads (a), (b), (c) from obstructing the confiscation under either or both of the others. For example, we need not, he says, pay so much in taxes as the Government spends, so long as we lend the Government the balance. (The reader will see other examples for himself.) He could have gone further and said that we need not pay any taxes nor lend any money to the Government at all provided that we spend all our money with Industry at Industry's chosen prices: for in that event Industry could accumulate huge reserves of money out of which to finance itself and the Government as well.

TRISECTING A BUBBLE

Briefly, it does not matter through which channel we are dispossessed of money, because all three conduct it into the banking system, where it could be divided up into the amounts required for the three purposes. The problem of Public Finance would not appear to be one of widening or narrowing any confiscatory channel were it not for the fact that the total money in our possession to start with is less than the total required to be confiscated. But once recognise that there is an initial aggregate deficiency, and it is easy to see why there is a "channel" problem for financial administrators; for they have to see that each channel takes a proportion of the deficiency—a job something like trisecting a bubble in a water main supplying three pipes. Neither the administrators nor the people understand this situation, but it is dealt with on the above lines all the same, because the people themselves demand it, insisting on a just balance between methods of screwing money out of them. This suits the bankers because if there were only one channel of confiscation the deficiency of money would reveal itself.

Next time you watch a game of musical chairs, and note the performance when the music stops, remember that you are seeing a working model of revolution and war in the making. What the missing chair does to the players at the party, such does missing money do to groups and nations in the world at large.

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ERIC BUTLER STIRS QUEENSLAND AUDIENCES

Southern Tour Yields Excellent Results

Eric Butler continues to maintain an output of energy, which has manifested itself in stirring addresses practically every night of the week and a never-ending flow of material from his pen. Meetings, interviews with leading citizens, press reports, material for the local papers, apart from ordinary articles, are keeping him moving in a whirl of activity.

His clash with the Labor Party has electrified many centres, and the public is beginning to grasp the tremendous power of pressure politics. This seems to be worrying Mr. Forgan-Smith, who was reported by the Brisbane press last week as stating that pressure politics meant that "if a Government yielded to that form of policy it ceased to be a Government, and became merely a creature of circumstances." Eric has made good use of this and had some drastic criticism to offer at Mackay, which is Mr. Smith's centre.

After finishing up in Townsville and leaving the nucleus of a group, which should rapidly permeate this big centre, Eric travelled still further south to Ayr. Some great work has been done here on pressure politics in connection with local objectives. Eric speaks very highly of the firm grasp of the Campaign, which the supporters have in this area. On Wednesday, August 16, Eric briefly addressed a group of the local supporters, and outlined to them the progress being made all over Australia. Arrangements for Eric's stay in the district were then discussed.

RADIO ADDRESS

Eric opened his campaign in this area with a radio talk over the Ayr station. A particularly vigorous address gave the district the first taste of what was to come. Many people for miles around expressed great interest as a result of this address.

AYR OPEN AIR MEETING

On Saturday evening, before the pictures, he addressed a big crowd of well over 200 people at an open-air meeting. There was no mistaking the enthusiasm. Even when it was time to start going to the pictures there were very few who drifted away. Everybody was interested and delighted with his challenge to a gentleman, representing the Labor Party, who attacked him through the local press before his arrival. It transpired afterwards that the gentleman mentioned had been present. Apparently, after hearing Eric speak he thought, like others

before him, that silence was the best policy.

HOME HILL MEETING

The following night, Sunday, August 20, Eric visited Home Hill, and was again given a particularly good hearing. Many questions were asked, and quite a quantity of literature disposed of.

GIRU MEETING

On the Monday night he travelled to the small centre of Giru, and although the open-air meeting was not as large as expected, the results were of the same quality as elsewhere. Everybody was anxious to help in some way.

BIG AYR RALLY

At his final meeting in the Ayr district Eric at last had the pleasure of getting a Labor Party supporter on to the platform. A big audience attended the Ayr meeting on Tuesday, August 22, and heard Eric more than maintain his reputation in a two-hour address, which had everybody in an enthusiastic mood. After his address he asked the Labor Party supporter to answer his case as briefly as possible. After he had finished, Eric proceeded to deal with this gentleman and the Labor Party in a manner described by one person as "a massacre." The audience was delighted, and showed its undoubted hostility to the continuance of the party ramp. Eric was kept to a late hour answering questions. Like other centres, the supporters in Ayr would like to see him again

as soon as he can revisit the State.

PROSERPINE MEETING

After a few hours sleep he caught a goods train south, and after eight hours of what he describes as "mechanised hell," arrived in Bowen. This left him still forty miles from Proserpine, where he had to speak that night. After making several contacts in Bowen, he was driven twenty miles of the way by a supporter over what he says "must be the worst road in Australia." He was met half way by a taxi, and after four hours from the time he left Bowen arrived in Proserpine in time to take the platform without even changing or having tea. Although the audience was not large it was enthusiastic. Eric was kept until a late hour, and after another few hours sleep caught a train south to Mackay, where he arrived at 6.30 a.m. on Thursday, August 24.

MACKAY MEETING

Although not as well attended as the local supporters expected, the meeting in Mackay was a great success. Although his throat is feeling the effects of constant use, Eric had the audience in a very enthusiastic mood. A large quantity of literature was disposed of after the meeting. After a discussion with local supporters, he got a few hours rest before catching a train for the trip 200 miles south to Rockhampton, where he spoke last Friday night. Further reports will appear next week.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NOTES

Commonwealth Bank Campaign

Last week the "Tenth Legion" was engaged at Mount Barker (Tuesday, 22nd), and at Gawler (Friday, 25th), permission having been received from the local authorities to erect tables and chairs in their main thoroughfares.

Every effort is being made to secure permission to erect a tent in the Annual Showground, and so contact country people, both for the purpose of obtaining signatures to demand forms, and for the purpose of selling literature.

Annual Convention

The Annual Convention of the United Democrats will take place this Saturday, September 2, when the chairman and directors of the Secretariat will submit themselves for re-election. There is a large and very important programme to be considered, and members are requested to make every effort to be present. Tea will be provided.

PROCRASTINATION IS THE THIEF OF TIME

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

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 6.)

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MEETINGS IN WHEAT AREAS

John Hogan's Campaign

Leaving Sydney on Tuesday of last week, accompanied by his brother, and with an amplifying equipment attached to his car, John drove 300 miles to Junee through stormy weather to address a public meeting in the council chambers, over which the Mayor, Cr. Weaver, presided. Owing to flooded roads in the Riverina, the attendance was practically confined to townspeople, but enthusiasm was very high, and the proposal for expanding the country's credit through the Commonwealth Bank to finance wheat stabilisation was carried with absolute unanimity. The usual resolutions were forwarded on to Mr. Nock, M.H.R.; Mr. Menzies, and the Premier of Victoria.

Realising that under the road and weather conditions, the 400-mile trip to Ouyen would be completed with difficulty before the following night, they then left immediately on what John describes as the most terrific and grueling drive he has ever experienced in his hundreds of thousands of miles of campaigning throughout Australia. After driving through floodwaters to Wagga, they were informed that every road to Albury was closed and impassable, and that it was equally impossible for any vehicle to get through the bottomless mud of the inland plains. Deep water being out of the question, it was a case of choosing the mud. Through to Narrandra was not difficult, but once on the plains to Jerilderie and Finley, with rain still pouring down and lights and windscreen obscured with gluey mud, they realised what they were in for. At dawn, after six hours hard driving and digging out of bogs every now and again, they had covered forty miles, and it was three o'clock in the afternoon before they finally finished ploughing through what are locally regarded as absolutely impassable mud, slush and floods, and reached the Victorian border, still nearly 300 miles from the meeting at which John was due at 8 p.m.

The Murray Valley Highway was closed and under flood waters, but they went through these, and, after wiring their progress ahead and stopping for five minutes to meet his organiser, Mr. George Trenoweth, at Swan Hill, they finally reached Ouyen at 10 p.m.—after nearly twenty-four hours' of the hardest possible continuous driving, and without having stopped for meal or rest since leaving Sydney the previous morning.

Mr. Alex. Wilson, M.H.R., for Wimmera, had kept the meeting going till John's arrival, and he

was given a great ovation to mark the commencement of his campaign in the Victorian wheat belt. Other executive officers of the Victorian Wheat and Woolgrowers' Association and of the United Country Party were present, and the meeting was unanimously and emphatically behind the stand being taken for the long overdue use of the Commonwealth Bank.

Assisted by Mr. Alex. Wilson, Mr. "Cliff" Everitt, vice-president of the wheatgrowers, and Central Councillor of the Country Party, who has for years been waging a great fight for monetary reform throughout Victoria, and by other leaders of the country people, John has since addressed mass meetings at Donald, Charlton (broadcast over 3CV), Birchip, Murrayville and Patchewollock, the identical resolutions carried against Mr. Thorby's opposition at Wellington, N.S.W., being wholeheartedly endorsed in every case and the active support of the most influential people in all districts thrown behind this splendid campaign.

On Monday night, this week, John spoke at Pinaroo (as a pipe-opener to the South Australian campaign, which will actually commence about a week later), and then returned to Victoria to speak at Rainbow, Tuesday afternoon; Hopetoun, Tuesday night; Warracknabeal, Wednesday afternoon; St. Arnaud, Wednesday night; and then, accompanied by Mr. Everitt, who will attend important conferences in Melbourne, came down to the city on Thursday for a few days before going over into South Australia, and subsequently returning to the Riverina.

Active support is coming from the North-West Traders' Association, who organised the great demonstration at Donald of over 3000 from all parts of Victoria, on August 4, and who are considering a Melbourne Town Hall demonstration, in conjunction with Melbourne Traders, within a few weeks, if no effective steps are taken in the meantime.

The State Premier and the Prime Minister will probably be invited to this meeting, although the latter is not likely to attend, and King O'Malley recognised as (he moving influence in founding the Commonwealth Bank, would also speak.

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Crisis in Australia

(Continued from page 1.)

of Finance against them. The press and radio are at work in an endeavour to estrange city and country.

The gauntlet is down. The wheat issue is a national one. The city and country must be wedded and be one in the fight for their common welfare. Directions as to how the fight is to be fought and won are contained in No. 1 and No. 4 resolutions of the Australian Wheatgrowers' Federation.

Diverge from these directions and the fight might as well not have begun. The wheat-growing districts are well organised. Other districts and the cities require rallying. We are requested by the Victorian Wheatgrowers' Association and the Wheat and Wool Growers' Union of W.A. to publish the following letter-form, with a request that individuals and organisations will play a part by obtaining supplies and distributing them:

..... M.H.R.,
Canberra, A.C.T.
Dear Sir, —

It is my considered opinion that, in the interests of Australia, the price of wheat shall be stabilised at an amount, which will enable all costs to be paid, plus an adequate return to the grower. At present the index value, in Australian money, sets that price to be not less than 3/10 per bushel, f.o.r., ports.

In view of the shortage of money at the disposal of the Australian community, I wish any money, or finance, necessary to establish the price to be provided by the Commonwealth Bank as a new issue, at minimum administrative costs.

As my Parliamentary representative, I hereby request you to represent to Parliament what I have herein expressed, which can be summarised as follows:

- (1) Price of wheat to be established at 3/10, f.o.r., ports.
- (2) Finance provided by Commonwealth Bank at minimum administrative costs.

In relation to the above, please refer to Commonwealth Constitution, Chapter 1. Part V. Section 51; Report of Royal Commission on Banking, etc., Paragraph 504.

Trusting to receive your utmost support in this matter. —Yours, etc,
(Name).....
(Address).....
Fed. Electorate.

Melbourne Youth Section

To discuss the wheat position, the U.E.A. Youth Section convened a public meeting for last Tuesday (29th ult). The meeting, which took place in the Y.S. Rooms, was well attended, despite wintry conditions. The wheat question was examined from many angles, and recommendations, carried unanimously, crystallised the feeling of all-present, after the available facts had been thoroughly discussed. In their recommendations the citizens present urged the U.E.A. Youth Section to organise city support for the wheat-growers in their efforts to secure rehabilitation of the wheat industry by means of debt-free credit from the Commonwealth Bank.

Also recommended was a drive to get the *New Times* into the hands of every wheatgrower. Delegates from the meeting were appointed to attend the U.E.A. meeting the following night. As a gesture of support for the Youth Section,

WHAT WHEAT-FARMERS ARE DEMANDING

Random Examples

Resolution unanimously carried at Neurea, N.S.W.: "We demand that the finance necessary to place the wheat industry on a solvent basis be provided by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, through a special expansion of credit, as stated in Clause 504 of the Report of the Commonwealth's Royal Commission on Banking, which will not involve any additional burden of debt, interest, or taxation on any other section of the Australian community, or interfere with existing State revenues."
* * *

At Ouyen: "This meeting declares that finance for the stabilisation of wheat prices at not less than 3/10 f.o.b. can, and must, be provided through the Commonwealth Bank."
* * *

At a meeting of the Murtoa branch of the Wheatgrowers' Association it was decided to urge a minimum of 3/10 a bushel f.o.r., beginning with this year's crop, for a term of years thereafter.

The growers demanded that the money be provided by the Commonwealth Bank, through a special expansion of credit, which would not involve any additional burden of debt, interest, or taxation on any other section of the Australian people.

The meeting supported the stand taken at the Premiers' Conference by the Victorian Premier (Mr. Dunstan) in opposing the Federal Government wheat plan. —*Argus*.

URGENT

Country Campaign

Preparations have been made for stirring sales and publicity drive, and the distribution of recent numbers of the *New Times* on a mass scale.

Advantage will be taken of the big meetings being held in wheat centres, where possible, so that the principles of the *New Times* and the part it is playing in the fight for the stabilisation of the wheat industry will be brought directly to the notice of the farmers and country business people.

Thousands of copies of the *New Times* containing articles on the wheat growers' position, and the only effective method of financing an adequate stabilisation scheme—through the Commonwealth Bank—are ready for widespread distribution. A car has been offered, and campaigners are ready to start this weekend, if possible. Only sufficient for food and running expenses are now needed to do a great job for the *New Times* and all it stands for. A substantial increase in circulation is expected, and the magnitude of the publicity given will be limited only by the degree of support extended to those who are willing and ready to do the hard work.

This URGENT APPEAL is made to all those who feel that these determined "actionists" are worthy of the support necessary to start them on the road. Please forward donations, however small, IMMEDIATELY, to "Country Campaign, the *New Times*, Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne.

ion, which has signified its readiness to undertake the task outlined, a subscription list was opened, over £4 being contributed on the spot. THE SUBSCRIPTION LIST IS STILL OPEN!

While overseas youth is being mobilised for destruction, it is heartening to see young Australians mobilising themselves for construction!