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THE

## NEW TIMES

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Vol. 5. No. 41.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13,

Every Friday, 3d

## Soviet Russians Wars of Conquest

## WHY ARE THEY OVERLOOKED?

## Poland Not the Only Victim

By WILLIAM HENRY CHAMBERLIN

(Condensed from the American "Mercury,")

Historical records show that the Soviet Government, since its establishment—besides stirring up countless strikes, riots, and general disorders abroad through the instrumentality of its subsidised, affiliated Communist parties—has fought a round dozen wars of conquest and aggression, some of which violated in the most cynical way engagements which the Soviet regime had voluntarily assumed and principles to which the Communist Party was pledged. More than one of these wars resulted in larger casualties, both for the Soviet armies and for the forces of the invaded countries, than the Japanese occupation of Manchuria or the Italian conquest of Ethiopia. From the almost-forgotten civil class-war in Finland in 1918 to the Spanish conflict (and the Polish invasion today—Ed.), the Kremlin has displayed an incorrigible tendency to interfere in disturbances outside its own borders.

The Soviet Government has proved itself a past master in every old trick of imperialistic conquest, and has added a few original new ones on its own account. A favourite device has been formally to recognise the independence of a State, then to create disorder through Communist agents within the country in question, and to complete the process by sending in the Red Army to help the local Communist rebels. The creation of "independent" States, which are completely controlled from Moscow, and the waging of war without declaring it, are two other favourite Soviet methods of procedure.

The Soviet trail of bloody conquest and outright aggression stretches from Finland, in the far northwest of the former Czarist Empire, to the Caucasian States in the southeast, and to the rolling steppes and deserts of Mongolia and Manchuria.

**FINLAND**

One may begin to cite chapter and verse with the violent civil war, which broke out in Finland early in the year 1918. The prelude to this civil war was a situation quite similar to that which led to the recent conflict in Spain: increasingly bitter class-antagonism, combined with a fairly even division of popular sentiment, so far as may be judged from election returns. The non-Socialist groups in the Finnish Diet, which was elected in the summer of 1917, had a slight majority, and organised a Government headed by Svinhufud. The independence of Finland under this Government was formally recognised by the Soviet Government on December 31, 1917.

A few weeks later the Finnish Reds, showing as little respect for parliamentary voting as the Spanish Comrades have displayed more recently, drove the Svinhufud Cabinet from Helsingfors by means of a general strike and an uprising of Red Guards. Despite its previous recognition of Finland's independence, the Soviet Government intervened in the subsequent civil war to the best of its ability, supporting the Red regime with land and naval units. Even after some of these were withdrawn under German diplomatic pressure, aid continued in the form of volunteers and munitions. Ultimately, Finland, with help from Germany, rid itself of the invading Red legions from its "peace-loving" neighbour, and settled down to the placid, well-fed existence of a peasant democracy.

**LATVIA, ETC.**

During most of 1918 the Soviet

Government lacked resources for the forcible spread of its revolutionary doctrines in other countries.  
(Continued on page 3.)

**OPEN LETTER TO DR. PAUL DANE**

Sir —

*After recovering from the nauseating shock that we experienced by reading your letter to the Melbourne "Argus" of October 3, we immediately made investigations to find out if we were really living in Australia, your remarks gave us the impression that we might be living amongst the barbarians of Borneo. However, we have heard that barbarians can be found amongst civilised people—even in the upper reaches of Collins-street, Melbourne.*

*In case some of our readers did not read your hymn of hate—some of them cannot bring themselves to read the "Argus"—we quote it in full:*

*"We are fighting the German nation; it is ridiculous for politicians, however highly placed they may be, or for any other person, to say we are fighting only Nazism. Whom were we fighting in 1914? To talk of a 'no-hate-peace' is even more ridiculous. There can be no peace with mad, bloodthirsty murderers. Only a violent, unrelenting hate can urge us onward to their complete destruction as a nation. This war should be fought with all the ruthlessness and ferocity that men are capable of; the old law is the only law the German people understand—an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth."*

*No words of ours can adequately*

*ly express our feelings; we would like to tell you just what we think of you, but will have to be satisfied with thinking it. And we are sure that every decent-minded person will be agreeing with us.*

*You and your ilk, sir, have always displayed a tendency to revert to the ape-man from which, the evolutionists assure us, you have evolved just a little upward. You are out of place among present-day Australians, and we would suggest that you immediately remove yourself to a community much more suitable for the acceptance of your ideas—possibly the headhunters of New Guinea would welcome you. At any rate, the less we see or hear of you the better we will feel.*

*Some day, in spite of specimens such as yourself, humanity will struggle out of the present mess, and the German and other peoples will settle down to a life of freedom, friendship and security. God only knows where or how your type will fit into such a world—but we are quite sure that there will be a little more tolerance than you advocate.*

*In the meantime—failing your departure to New Guinea—we would suggest that you confine yourself to the merciful, life-conserving profession, which, by a humorous twist of fate, you are engaged in.*

*Yours faithfully,  
THE NEW TIMES*

## GUATEMALA DEMANDS THE TRUTH

## But, Could We Stand It?

By "THE WALRUS."

Extract from the Rockhampton "Morning Bulletin," dated September 30: "The Foreign Minister for Guatemala (Senor Salazar), in a note to the German Foreign Minister (Herr von Ribbentrop), demanded that action be taken to ensure that German radio broadcasts are the truth."

I have always thought it rather a bloomer ever to have admitted Guatemala to the counsel of civilised nations. What can you do in a diplomatic sense—or in a commercial sense, for the matter of that—with a nation so naive in its outlook as to ask for the truth from anybody, let alone Hitler, and expect to get it?

When you think of the elaborate arrangements of censorship with the sole object of preventing the truth from leaking out, and of the careful hand-picking of professors and politicians with the same civilised objective in view, you just can't keep your patience with the sort of fiddle that is now coming from Guatemala; and, anyway, why pick on Hitler, the man who has been truthful enough to advocate in "Mein Kampf" the bigger and better lie?

Guatemala may be a long way from Washington, but it is a jolly sight nearer than we are, and you'd think the Guatemalans would have been as much struck as anybody else with the isolation achieved by George Washington, in history, through telling the truth.

**NOT AFRAID?**

I suppose they'd like us to believe they're not afraid of the

truth, and d'you know, I resent that, because I'm ready to bet they're as windy as anybody else of the truth. As far as I am concerned, I haven't forgotten the shock I got when an acquaintance once rushed up to me and said: "I say, old man, so-and-so's been saying the most awful things about you!"

I paled beneath the tan, and licked ashen lips.

"Yes," my acquaintance went eagerly on, "he's been spreading the most terrible lies."

Of course, my colour came back again, but he had given me a nasty turn. I really did think for a moment that gossip had been spreading the truth about me.

And, anyway, suppose everybody did start telling the truth, a nice mess we'd be in. It wouldn't work. Instead of saying: "How do, Old Thing? You simply must come over some time, and bring Mrs. Old Thing with you," you would probably say: "Look here, you! If I ever have to choose between you and a boil on the neck, it'll be me for the boil every time; and, as for your missus, why, everybody knows she's the sort that makes things like ordeal-by-fire look attractive."

Then fancy anybody in business having the crust to say: "See here feller! I get a profit out of what I'm doing, and, when, all's said and done, I'm giving you as lousy a deal as I've a nerve to." I don't think we'd stand for it. What we want to hear is that, man and boy, for thirty years, he's been making a loss on every article sold, and next week he's going to file his petition and then shoot himself. We understand him when he talks like that, because it's what we've been brought up to.

**WE INSIST**

We insist on being told lies, not only in private and commercial life, but in our Government. We

(Continued on page 4.)

## ARE YOU AN ACTIONIST?

## Propaganda and Practice

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

There appears to be a considerable amount of confusion of thought in the ranks of reformers at the present time in connection with the essential nature of political agitation. This confusion seems to arise from the failure to understand two essentially different aspects to which agitation may conform.

The first is the effort to convert and mould public opinion, while the second is to attain a specific objective. The present critical period necessitates that as many people as possible should clearly understand the nature and the strategy of the campaign we are endeavouring to get the public to accept.

Dealing first with the matter of propaganda, there is an abundance of evidence, which indicates that our propaganda over the past years has been considerably successful. It has, to a large extent, performed the essential, initial task of modifying and leavening public opinion, and on all sides are heard expressions, which were originally coined by New Economists. However, mere propaganda and opinions are useless unless they give rise to action.

Heine was once asked how it was that the nineteenth century produced no Gothic cathedrals. He is said to have replied that the nineteenth century was an age of opinions, and that it took something more than mere opinions to produce Gothic cathedrals. It took convictions.

If Electoral Campaigners in Australia are to see the realisation of their ideals and objectives, it will require more of the type of conviction that produced Gothic cathedrals—or, for that matter, any of the great achievements of man.

## ACTION

Society has now reached a stage in the economic and political sphere like that reached in the scientific sphere at the time of Bacon in the 16th century. Prior to that period many elaborate systems of thought had been built up, many speculations had been made about the nature of things, but nothing very practical had been achieved. Bacon was one of the first of a great army of thinkers and experimentalists who condescended to come down from their lofty philosophical pedestals and actually grapple with the common things of life. Tinkering with pulleys, levers, etc., was not a very grandiose pursuit for a philosopher, but upon this basis of experimental ACTION modern science has been built.

And so in the political sciences. Wonderful political schools of thought have been built up. But we now need *action*. The Electoral Campaigner has got to go out and experiment with the public. It is certainly not a very cosy or spectacular job, but it is the only effective method by which humanity can be saved. We have got to find out what the people want and help them to get it. We have got to work through the public and canalise any demand, which may arise. But the degree of success depends upon the amount and intensity of ACTION. This campaign is not a pleasant hobby to provide ourselves with relief from the boredom of the world in general. The practical problem is to perfect the mechanism through which the people can *get what they want*. Any adherence or mere lip service, which does not assist to that end, is of no serious consequence.

## SOME POINTS TO BEAR IN MIND

There are certain fundamental points, which those who are assisting to perfect the democratic machine might always keep in

mind. Some of these were classified as follows by the Electoral Campaign Secretariat in England:

"(1) Unity cannot be achieved by mere discussion or verbal agreement. The only unity, which is of the least use comes with ACTION, and out of ACTION.

"(2) Your object is not to convert people to a social philosophy, or any theories of economics and finance. Your object is to show people how they may "cash in" on some particular objective. (This action will, in succeeding stages, give substance and reality to both philosophy and theories.)

"(3) Refuse to have any part or lot in Party Politics. Their effect is to undermine the sovereignty of the people.

"(4) Refuse to conduct the business of your Demand Association by Committee management. Elect your Campaign Manager, etc., by the equal vote of those

## STOP PRESS

We have received a report of a further striking speech by Mr. Macgillivray, the South Australian Member of Parliament. Unfortunately, it was received just too late for inclusion in this issue, but will be published next week.

who WORK; no other qualification. When elected, give to your officers full power of decision as to the conduct and tactics of the campaign.

"(5) It is the personal initiative of the public and of your workers that you are organising, therefore give it room to expand."

## PERSONAL INITIATIVE

When democracy, as we understand it, becomes a reality, it will do so because of the untiring efforts of INDIVIDUALS — not committees, groups or organisations. The philosophy of the Electoral Campaign comes right back to the individual. He has got to move. No group or committee can move for him.

At the moment, the urgent issue confronting this nation is whether the comparatively few who understand the principles of real democratic government can get the electors as a whole to take control of their political institutions before it is too late. As pointed out before, mere opinions and theories are useless. If several million electors take action by each sending a demand letter to his or her parliamentary representative, along the lines suggested in the *New Times* of late, then we will see a democratic revolution in this country.

The reader might ask *himself* if he is urging friends and associates to sign a demand form—or merely expounding theories and expressing opinions. Personal ACTION is wanted—NOW.

## COST OF THE LAST WORLD WAR

The war lasted 4 years 3 months and 14 days—from July 28, 1914, until November 11, 1918, when the armistice between the Allies and Germany was signed. Strictly accurate figures in regard to the total casualties have never been published, as several countries did not compile complete records. According to an official statement laid on the table of the British House of Commons in May, 1921, the casualties among the chief belligerents were as follow:—

This gives a total of 7,067,308 killed, of whom 3,415,618 were Allied soldiers and sailors, and 3,651,690 enemy dead. But the table does not include Russia, whose casualties were subsequently given as approximately 1,700,000 killed, 1,450,000 disabled, 3,500,000 wounded, and 2,500,000 taken prisoner. In 1923 the British War Office published a large volume of war statistics consisting of 880 pages, which gave the total casualties of the twelve chief belligerent countries as 42,119,273, and the death roll as 8,246,471. Great Britain's death roll reached 1,069,825, and her wounded exceeded 2,250,000.

The expenditure of Great Britain in the war reached a daily average of over £7,440,000 towards its close; but in the early months of the war the expenditure was much less. The total war expenditure of Great Britain amounted to £7,066,000,000, exclusive of £1,739,000,000 lent to her Allies and the overseas Dominions. France's total war expenditure was £4,754,000,000, and that of the United States £3,525,000,000.

German armies were in occupation of French territory for four years, and most of the great destructive battles were fought out on French soil. The following details are taken from the French official summary of direct damage suffered during the war:

## BRITISH EMPIRE.

	Dead.	Wounded.
Great Britain .....	743,702	1,693,262
India .....	61,398	70,859
Australia .....	59,330	152,171
Canada .....	56,625	149,732
New Zealand .....	16,136	40,729
South Africa, Newfoundland and other Colonies .....	8,832	15,153

## ALLIED AND ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES

	Dead.	Wounded.
France .....	1,385,300	No record
Belgium .....	38,172	44,686
Italy .....	460,000	947,000
Portugal .....	7,222	13,751
Roumania .....	335,706	No record
Serbia .....	127,535	133,148
United States .....	115,660	205,690

## ENEMY COUNTRIES.

	Dead.	Wounded.
Germany .....	2,050,466	4,202,028
Austria-Hungary .....	1,200,000	3,620,000
Bulgaria .....	101,224	152,400
Turkey .....	300,000	570,000

## PROPERTY DESTROYED.

Towns and villages entirely or partially destroyed.. ..	3,720
Population driven out and rendered homeless.....	2,712,000
Houses entirely destroyed.....	319,269
Houses partially destroyed.....	313,675
Bridges, viaducts, etc., destroyed .....	4,785
Railways destroyed (miles).....	3,460
Canals destroyed (miles).....	997
Roads destroyed (miles).....	24,375
Arable land rendered useless (acres).....	7,200,000
Factories and manufacturing plant destroyed.....	11,500
Cattle carried off .....	2,000,000

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NOTES

From Electoral Campaign Headquarters, 17 Waymouth Street, Adelaide.

The following advertisement has been inserted in the *Advertiser* and the *News*:

"DEFENCE WITHOUT DEBT.

"Oppose by lawful means all attempts to finance the war by Debt and Taxation. Demand that increased expenses must be met with free-issues of non-interest-bearing money by the Commonwealth Bank. There is no inflation when money is backed by goods. Call or send for a demand form. United Democrats, 17 Waymouth Street, Adelaide."

As a result, many enquiries have been made at Headquarters, and signatures have been obtained. The "Tenth Legion" hopes, before long, to erect its tables again in one of the suburbs of the city. In the meantime, it trusts that all members who cannot, for one reason or another, serve at the tables, will do a little canvassing on their own account. If they cannot, it is suggested that they leave forms with some local shopkeeper, and call from time to time to collect any signatures obtained.

An offer has been made to Premier Aberhart, of Alberta, to establish a Tourist and Commercial Agency for his Government in South Australia. Looking back, it is considered that this should have been done long since—but better late than never.

Mr. Macgillivray, the member for Chaffey, was expected to deliver another speech in the House during the last few days—this time upon the budget. It is hoped that it will cause as much of a sensation, both within and without Parliament, as his last one.

## ACTION!

Yarra Bank Meeting, Sunday, October 15, 3 p.m.

Next Sunday afternoon Eric Butler and other speakers will conduct another meeting on the Yarra Bank. Demand forms and a table for signing them on will be there. Helpers are wanted to sell *New Times* and other literature, and thus capitalise the meeting.

## SOVIET RUSSIA'S WARS OF CONQUEST

(Continued from page 1.)

tries, because it was occupied in a life-and-death struggle for existence against widespread internal revolts. Toward the end of the year, however, the victories of the Red Army on the Volga, combined with the collapse of Germany, opened up opportunities for foreign crusading, which were seized promptly. Trotsky, on October 30, 1918, declared:

"Free Latvia, free Poland and Lithuania, free Finland, and, on the other side, free Ukrainia, will be not a wedge, but a uniting link between Soviet Russia and the future Soviet Germany and Austria-Hungary. This is the beginning of a European Communist federation—a union of the proletarian republics of Europe."

Trotsky's fit of apocalyptic prophecy was soaring high in those days; on another occasion he envisaged a united Soviet Europe as sending forth an invincible armada to conquer the last refuge of capitalism, the United States. While this remained an unrealised fantasy, the Soviet armies did move westward in the winter of 1918-1919, intent on a self-determining job for the Poles, Letts, and Estonians. This drive for the forcible incorporation of non-Russian peoples into the Soviet Union was most successful—temporarily—in Latvia. Almost all its territory, including the capital, Riga, was occupied by the Soviet invaders. Riga lived through the customary Red regime of short rations and mass executions. The final failure of this "revolutionary offensive" was attributable not to any belated recognition of the right of the Letts, Estonians and Poles to settle their own affairs, but to the rise of formidable anti-Bolshevik movements in Russia, under Admiral Kolchak in the east, and General Denikine in the south. This made it impossible to spare enough troops and executioners to turn the inhabitants of Russia's former border provinces into loyal, peace-loving Soviet citizens.

### POLAND, 1920

The Soviet-Polish War of 1920 was another demonstration of Communist inability to preserve moderation in the moment of military success, and to refrain from using the sword as an instrument of conversion to the gospel according to St. Marx. The initial responsibility for this conflict rests mainly with Poland, which broke a prolonged lull on the Soviet-Polish front to advance into the Ukraine, lured by the dream of a federation of non-Russian nationalities under Polish hegemony. The Polish offensive was repulsed, and, by July, the Soviet armies were approaching territory that was indisputably Polish by racial composition. Here would have been an excellent opportunity to have halted hostilities on the very favourable terms which Poland was willing to offer, and thereby to give convincing proof that the Soviet Government desired only to defend its own territory.

But Lenin and his associates were sure that revolution was just around the corner in Poland. "We shall break the crust of Polish bourgeois resistance with the bayonets of the Red Army," Lenin orated. Repeated Polish peace overtures were ignored or sabotaged as the future heroes of the American League Against War and Fascism swept forward toward Warsaw, trampling the country under the iron military heel. The Soviet peace terms, which were proposed on August 10, when the military outlook was still very favourable to the invad-

ing Red Army, amounted virtually to the annexation of Poland as a Soviet State. Not only was the Polish Army to be limited to 50,000 men, but an armed militia was to be created, consisting entirely of urban industrial workers, "under the control of the Labour organisations of Russia, Poland, and Norway." At the same time the Polish war industry was to be demolished and surplus munitions were to be handed over to Russia and the Ukraine to help them in "peace-loving" operations on other defenceless neighbours.

The attempt to present Sovietism to Poland on the bayonets of the Red Army proved a fiasco. The Polish forces rallied in the very shadow of Warsaw, and delivered a smashing counter-attack. The final terms of peace were less favourable than those, which the invading Soviet army could have obtained earlier if it had not been obsessed with the idea of Sovietising Poland.

So Poland, like Finland, Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania, had an enlightening experience of the promise, so often voiced by the Communists and duly incorporated in the new Soviet Constitution, that the non-Russian nationalities of the former Czarist Empire enjoy full self-determination, including the right of separation. It is most instructive to recall, in this connection, that not a single national subdivision of pre-war Russia was able to quit its association with Russia under the Soviets peacefully. The right to contract out of the brotherly Union has been effective only when fought for.

Before considering Soviet wars of conquest in former Russian territory, two points should be noted. First, pre-war Russia was a patchwork of nationalities, many of which were imperfectly reconciled to Russian rule. Even after Poland and the Baltic States acquired independence, Russians constituted only a little more than half the population of the Soviet Union. Somewhat over one-fifth consisted of Ukrainians, living in the fertile southern provinces of European Russia (the Ukrainian language is so different from the Russian that special courses of instruction are necessary for Russian Communists who occupy permanent posts in the Ukrainian Administration). The remainder of the population is divided among scores of nationalities, ranging from peoples with ancient histories and a clear sense of nationhood, such as Georgians and Armenians, to primitive aborigines. Second, the Communist Party, under Lenin's leadership, repeatedly pronounced itself in favour of the most sweeping national self-determination.

### THE UKRAINE

It is in the light of this latter professed principle that one must judge the military operations of the rapacious Soviet armies in non-Russian parts of the former Russian Empire. The largest of these non-Russian regions was the Ukraine. Even before the Bolshevik seized power in Petrograd and Moscow, a strong Nationalist movement, the product of racial discrimination and oppression, had manifested itself there. At the time the Soviet regime was established in Northern and Central Russia, Ukrainian Nationalist Government was set up in Kiev. While it was very difficult in those turbulent days to hold plebiscites, the majority of the peasants, much the largest class in the population, favoured a Nationalist

Government, rather than rule by Russians, whether Red or White. The best proof of this was the active guerrilla war, which these peasants carried on for years both against the Communist dictatorship and against the restorationist efforts of Denikine, who occupied the Ukraine for a time in 1919.

No Soviet regime would have stood a chance in the Ukraine if that country had been left to itself. Yet three times it was overrun and conquered by "peace-loving" Soviet troops. The Red Government in the Ukraine was one of constant and pitiless terror, largely directed against the Nationalists, who were trying to assert their "constitutional" right of self-determination. The records of the Cheka (the original name of the political police, which was subsequently renamed the OGPU) show that during the year 1920, executions took 3879 lives in the Ukraine. How many thousands more there were, no one will ever know.

Two decades of Soviet dictatorship have not banished the anxiety of the rulers in the Kremlin as regards the loyalty of the Ukraine. Here, more than anywhere else, purges of the Communist Party are merciless; and officials who are suspected of the faintest traces of Nationalist feeling are summarily removed. One of the oldest Ukrainian Communist leaders, Skripnik, committed suicide in 1933 as a result of the persecution to which he was subjected by Stalin's personal agents.

The constant accusation today that this, that, or the other group of proscribed Soviet citizens has plotted to hand over the Ukraine to Germany are ridiculous from a factual standpoint. But they reflect the concern of Stalin and his associates as to how the Ukraine would act if a large war should break out. The terrible famine of 1932-1933, when millions of Ukrainian peasants were left to starve while the Soviet Government was selling grain abroad, has hardly been a cementing force for loyalty.

### GEORGIA

Georgia is another nationalist entity within the Soviet Union, where self-determination received a peculiar interpretation. This mountainous, picturesque, little country on the southern side of the main Caucasus range has its old distinctive language and culture. It formally seceded from Russia in 1918, when the Bolshevik were too concerned with nearer fronts of civil war to pay much attention to what was happening in the remote Caucasus. It set up a Nationalist Government, in which Georgian moderate Socialists played a leading part.

In the spring of 1920, the Soviet Government concluded a treaty with Georgia, explicitly recognising its existence as a separate State. But in February 1921, without provocation, Soviet troops entered Georgia from the north and the east, while the Turks, acting in understanding, invaded the little country from the south. Faced by overwhelmingly superior forces, Georgia was overrun and conquered by the same remorseless power, which is vaunted today as the champion of international goodwill by American "Liberal" apologists.

The Cheka, after the Soviet invasion and conquest, set out to liquidate every Georgian Nationalist. In 1924 an uprising broke out in the Chiatouri region of Georgia; Georgian Soviet officials themselves admitted that its suppression was attended by hundreds of executions. Only recently, twenty people, accused of plotting against Stalin's dictatorship, were shot in Tiflis. Unless one fully

subscribes to the double standard of morals for Russia, it is uncommonly difficult to recognise any distinction between the conquest of Georgia and the more recent acquisitions of Manchuria and Ethiopia.

### DAGHESTAN

Adjoining Georgia to the north-east is the craggy land of Daghestan, inhabited by an extraordinary variety of Oriental tribes, speaking many different languages, but united by Islamic faith. Daghestan had always been a tough nut for Russian military power to crack. Its great national leader, Shamil, led an amazingly long resistance to the Russian occupation in the middle of the nineteenth century; the hero of Tolstoy's story, Hadji Murat, was an historical figure in Daghestan. So the mountaineers of this long strip of rugged Caspian seacoast and hinterland were only acting naturally when they displayed equal aversion to White and Red brands of Russian rule. An insurrection in Daghestan was a factor in bringing about the defeat of General Denikine. When Soviet troops occupied the country in the spring of 1920, their violent requisitions and outrages to the religious feeling of the people soon provoked another insurrection. If the Daghestan mountaineers had only been Moroccans fighting France or Spain, or Pathans taking pot shots at the British, or Ethiopians on the warpath against Italy, their exploits would have been glorified by all the proletarian editors, authors, and rhymesters of New York. But they had the bad taste to object to Soviet rule. So that, instead of being recipients of sympathy and funds from a "Committee in Defence of Daghestan Democracy," the unfortunate inhabitants received only a merciless punitive expedition, which reduced Daghestan to subjection, after 5000 Russian soldiers lost their lives. The casualties among the rebel mountaineers were probably much greater; more than one rocky *aul*, or mountain village, was the scene of an unchronicled "Massacre of Guernica."

### BOKHARA, ETC.

Self-determination also received rough Soviet treatment in the picturesque regions of desert and legendary towns, such as Bokhara and Samarkand, which lie beyond the Caspian Sea. Mikhail Frunze, commander of the Soviet forces in Central Asia, on August 25, 1920, issued an order to the Red Army to "co-operate" with the Bokharan revolutionaries. The purpose of this military activity was described as "revolutionary fraternal help to the Bokharan people in its struggle with the despotism of the Bokharan autocrat." This struggle existed chiefly in the revolutionary imagination of Comrade Frunze; and what occurred was an old-fashioned imperialistic invasion of the ancient Emirate of Bokhara. The city of Bokhara was stormed after three days of fighting by the peace-loving Red Army.

The conquest of Bokhara was followed by a protracted period of colonial warfare in this part of Asia. Except for revolutionary slogans, there was no difference between the campaigns to reduce this part of Asia to complete subjection and the expeditions against recalcitrant "natives" which are such a familiar feature of the history of imperialism. The help, which was received from Central Asians who sympathised with the Soviet regime, was very slight, less than that which the Italians obtained from native auxiliaries in their Ethiopian campaign. Russian troops were always used in

(Continued on page 6.)

## The New Times

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### PEACE CONFERENCE — NOW OR AFTER?

At the time of writing there is a lull in the European conflict while leaders of the various countries conduct a diplomatic war. The outcome of this diplomacy may, to a large extent, depend upon public opinion, particularly in Great Britain and France. In spite of the screaming daily-press headlines, there are hopeful indications from many quarters that the people of the world are strongly desirous of an immediate International Conference **before** the real carnage starts. Nothing can be lost by holding such a conference, at which all Powers could be represented, while, on the other hand, civilisation might be saved. Even if the "leaders" of the nations are so keen on wrecking European civilisation, at the behest of the International Money group, surely a matter of a few weeks one way or the other will not matter very much.

The situation, insofar as Poland is concerned, is briefly this: In spite of the fact that Britain and France promised to support Poland, they were materially unable to do so, and Poland has been overrun and carved up by Germany and Russia. Every decent person must feel nauseated by this brutal war, culminating in the treachery of Russia. Tens of thousands of lives have been lost. Poland's independence has been destroyed. Everyone agrees that "Hitlerism"—whether it be in Germany, Russia, or any other country—must be removed; but we cannot bring ourselves to believe that the deaths of millions of people will really remove it. Neither will it bring life to those who have already died. War has a cause, just as Hitlerism has a cause. Both can be removed by attacking the cause, and, in view of the present opportunity, a drive for a Peace Conference should be launched immediately.

Of course, the daily press has been trying to make us believe that public opinion in Great Britain has completely turned down any suggestion of a Peace Conference. Apart from the fact that such intellectuals as Aldous Huxley, Bertrand Russell, and Dr. C. E. M. Joad have big followings on the question of war, there have been several reports, even in the daily press, which indicate that there is a big body of opinion in favour of negotiation. In the Melbourne "Herald" of Monday, October 9, a report in connection with Mr. Lloyd George's statement in the House of Commons last week, reads thus: "Mr. Lloyd George, interviewed by the 'News-Chronicle,' again urged careful consideration of the idea of an international conference. He pointed out that, while Munich had proved Hitler's bad faith, it was not at present a matter of conferring with Hitler alone, but all the great Powers must be invited. Their honour would be involved in guaranteeing any terms reached. Mr. Lloyd George added that the real issue was whether it was not better to have a world conference before the real struggle began, or to wait until the combatants were exhausted, and the world was horrified by three years' slaughter of men, women, and children. **Mr. Lloyd George said he had received hundreds of letters from people of all parties approving his speech in the Commons.**"

In the same issue of the "Herald" there also appeared the following statement by Mr. Holloway, M.H.R.: "No real peace settlement can ever be reached without a conference. If we are to save the world from future wars, peace by negotiations is the only way. We should agree to an international conference at the earliest moment, and out of the present international, 'cul-de-sac' may come that real collective security that the League of Nations failed to give us. All international students agree upon one thing: There must not be another Versailles type of peace treatment."

Although the "Herald's" editorial comment on this statement was another scream of hysteria, the mere fact that it even referred to the statement is sufficient to indicate that it senses a body of public opinion which favours a cessation of hostilities and a discussion.

At such a conference, the first thing to be discussed should be the clearly stated aims of the various nations. The question of raw materials and international trade must arise, and upon this issue the possibility of a permanent peace would finally be decided—if this were satisfactorily settled it would mean that the "democracies" could cut the ground from under Hitler's feet by an agreement to allow the German people access to raw materials in exchange for manufactured goods. Hitler would no longer have an underlying economic reason for acts of violence and aggression.

We suspect that even at this late hour the truth about the causes of war is permeating places where most people would have hardly thought it possible a few years ago. Even Lloyd George seems

### Guatemala Demands the Truth

(Continued from page 1.)

like a politician who tells us that the farmer is the backbone of the nation, that the artisan is the backbone of the nation, that bank clerks and school teachers are backbones, that shopkeepers and commercial travellers are more backbones, that even the unemployed, if only they'd face up to things and *make* a job for themselves, complete with pay attachment, could be backbones, too, if they weren't so cussed.

We like him better still when he tells us how prosperous we are, compared with the inhabitants of the guano islands—poor gulls that they are—and we light our pipes with demand notes and final notices as we have it made clear to us what a blessing a drought is, since the road to poverty lies through abundance, and that the reason we can't have anything is that there is too much of everything; and we clear our throats and burst into song when he crowns his performance by thanking us for an intelligent hearing. In these circumstances, can you imagine any reason why he should commit political suicide by bothering about anything so unsettling as the truth?

People who tell the truth nearly always come to a sticky end. Society won't tolerate the truth at any price, and there never was a time when it would. All sorts of ingenious and painful tortures have been invented to turn people with truthful tendencies back into liars once again. The rack, the thumb-screw, and the stake were never needed for liars.

#### TO WHAT AVAIL

But, to get back to our Guatemalans. I should like to know what they're going to do with the truth when they've got it from Hitler. You have to be snappy nowadays, as the difference between the lie and the truth can be measured by a week or two. For instance, when Hitler says he has no more territorial ambitions we know it won't be very long before he's restoring the rights of some outraged minority by peaceful penetration of someone or other with eighty-odd mechanised divisions.

But suppose Adolf said: "Right-o, Guatemala! I am about to avenge the indescribable wrongs perpetrated on a long-suffering minority, consisting of two German waiters in Piccadilly. Failing the adoption of the Nazi regime by Mr. Chamberlain, it is my intention to annex Piccadilly, and possibly Pall Mall, to the Third Reich, or the next Reich after that anyhow, even if I have to take the British Isles to do it."

So what? Presumably the Guatemalans will say in indignant chorus: "Lo! It is his intention to annex Piccadilly, and possibly Pall Mall," etc., etc.

to have learnt a lot since the Versailles Treaty. Also Mr. Chamberlain agrees to give Lloyd George's suggestion of a conference serious consideration. This is all very hopeful, if inconclusive, and may be an indication that public opinion is rising.

And what of Australia? We have sufficient evidence to indicate that even Mr. Menzies is moving very carefully. He realises that there is a big section of public opinion, which does not agree with him. Now is the time for all Australians to crystallise that opinion into a concrete demand that will force Mr. Menzies and the Federal Government to vigorously support any move for a Peace Conference.

Several hundred thousand-demand letters to members of Parliament at the present juncture would be an inestimable contribution to world peace. Let us do it before the situation slips too far. It is a matter of life and death; and once death takes control there will be no talk of another conference until millions have been slaughtered. After that there may not be very much left to bother having a conference about.

Well, for those who prefer opera to drama, this may be considered as an improvement, but, if there is anything else to it, I must have missed it somehow.

#### STRANGE REQUEST

It seems an extraordinary request to me anyhow. If I know a man is a liar, and has powerful reasons for remaining one, I might ask him for a match, or possibly an autograph, with a reasonable expectation of getting what I ask for, but I don't think it would occur to me to ask him for the truth or anything else I knew he didn't possess.

I only hope that Guatemala will not have cause to regret its naiveté. If ever it gets about that there are people in the world with a faith in liars so great that they believe the truth can be obtained from them, the passenger receipts from bagmen embarking for Guatemala will soon hit the high spots.

Well, anyhow, that will make the Guatemalans more careful next time, and, of course, that will be all to the good. For you simply can't run a world of collective security and individual insecurity with people sauntering around the outskirts, mumbling about truth.

#### MR. STEVENS SEEING THE LIGHT?

Although we have been very critical of Mr. B. S. B. Stevens, former Premier of N.S.W., in the past, it would appear from several of his recently-reported utterances that he has been learning something about finance. Apparently our efforts have not been altogether in vain. The following report, which appeared in the Melbourne *Sun* of October 9, speaks for itself:

"ADELAIDE, Sunday. — Substantial expansion of credit was a cure for the financial ills of war-time and the elimination of unemployment, said Mr. B. S. B. Stevens, former Premier of New South Wales, when he arrived in Adelaide today on a brief visit.

"Costs of a war could not be deferred, but had to be met as they fought, he said, expanding his statement in Sydney on Thursday that an immediate expansion of credit was necessary to finance the war.

"It was an illusion that they could make posterity pay for wars, borrowing now and repaying later.

"The actual cost is the using of resources, and that must be done mainly in our time," he said. "The fear of inflation is only an illusion, as financial expansion is justifiable up to the point where every able-bodied man is fully employed and kept in employment. It is inflation beyond that point."



## THE INFLATION BOGEY

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

Because too much water will drown us, is that any reason why we should nor have a bath?

Because too much food is bad for our health/is that any reason for going hungry?

Because too much money may cause inflation, is that any reason why we should not have enough?

### NO, OF COURSE NOT!

Yet, of all the bogeys that are being used to keep mankind submissive to the small group of International Financiers who, behind all the different forms of Government, are ruling the world today, none is doing such potent service as the Bogey of Inflation. For fear of the ruin that it may cause, people are submitting to present ruin and to a continued existence of poverty or utter subservience—often both. Such a life cannot be lived for any length of time without entailing the loss of all our self-respect—and self-respect is the honesty of man and the virtue of woman without it there are no men and women, only a rabble, clad either in rags or purple, who, provided that they are paid, will do any dirty work that their masters desire of them.

### THE TWO ESSENTIALS

Our economic system produces two things: (1) *Commodities* (goods and services), and (2) *Money* (claims to these commodities). Without money you cannot get either the goods or the services you require, for, though money is not itself wealth, under our present system it is the only key which will give access to the storeroom in which the wealth of the community is stacked, and without it you will starve. It is, therefore, essential that the people should have both goods in their storehouses and enough money at their disposal to purchase them. When you have this state of things, you have neither inflation nor deflation, but equation, which means prosperity for the entire community.

### INFLATION

Should, however, the claims to goods (money) at the disposal of the people be of greater value than the goods themselves, the purchasing power of the money will be less, or, in other words, the prices of the goods will rise. This is the state of things known as INFLATION, and it means hard times for people who want to buy goods, but temporary prosperity for those who want to sell them. If, however, claims to goods (money) are continually being issued, for which no goods exist, then a time will soon come when the sellers of goods will not accept money in payment for their goods, and all classes of the community will suffer. This was what happened in Germany after the war. Germany paid back the people who had subscribed to her war loans by a fresh issue of claims-to-goods (money). Had she stopped there, the prices of her goods might have had a sharp rise, but what one portion of her people lost the other would have gained; production would have speeded up, and, when the increased supply of money had been equated by an increased supply of goods, the country would have become prosperous.

Unfortunately for all concerned, France, hunting for impossible indemnities, occupied the Ruhr Dis-

trict, where most of Germany's coal and iron came from, and Germany was called upon to pay subsistence wages to her people in the Ruhr, as they refused to work for the French. More and more claims (money) against non-existent goods were created, until, finally, they ceased to have any value at all. Widespread ruin and a fall in the standard of living was the result.

### DEFLATION

Now suppose the claims to goods (money) at the disposal of the people to be of less value than the goods themselves. The purchasing power of the money will rise, or, in other words, the prices of the goods will fall. This is the state of things known as DEFLATION, and it means hard times for people who want to sell goods, but easy circumstances for those who have the money to buy them. If, however, the supply of money is continually decreased in relation to production, the time will soon come when the sellers of goods will not be able to get a sufficient price for them to pay for their production. Production, therefore, will cease or be restricted, and again all classes of the community will suffer. This is what happened in England soon after the war and in Australia a little later. Production had been greatly increased, but the money-lending and financial institutions, from whom the nation had borrowed during the war, ceased to issue, or recalled from circulation, a large number of claims to this production (money). Goods became more plentiful than money, and, therefore, ceased to be produced or were sold at a loss. Businesses went into bankruptcy and were purchased by the money-lords for a mere song; down with a rush came the money value of stocks, shares and securities of all kinds, which the money-lords then bought dirt cheap. Men went into unemployment and poverty or became ill paid and subservient. Whenever the people tried to get these cancelled claims to goods (money) re-issued the money-lords waved the inflation bogey before their

eyes and entreated theft, "for their own sakes," to be careful what they were about.

### EQUATION

The people were not asking for inflation. What they were asking for was *equation* between goods and the claims to them (money), distributed as purchasing power. But they also asked that this equation be brought about, not by the suicidal policy of restricting the production of goods, but by increasing the supply of money. Money being only claims to goods, there is no need for Governments to borrow it or to pay interest upon it to anybody. It can be created through the Commonwealth Bank free of all cost (Report of Australian Banking Commission, Paragraph 504), and issued in a variety of ways, such as bounties to producers; old age, sickness and accident pensions; maternity bonuses, etc. The only limit upon the amount issued is the capacity to produce primary and secondary goods, and that capacity, as far as Australia is concerned, can be accurately determined with very little trouble.

If, for the duration of the present war, money must be issued in excess of this limit, the people must see to it that to the evils of inflation are not added the still greater evils of a crushing load of interest-bearing debt and taxation to pay the interest upon it.

### THREE QUOTATIONS

1. From William Jennings Bryan, American lawyer and statesman: "The money power preys upon the nation in times of peace, and conspires against it in time of adversity. It is more despotic than monarchy, more insolent than autocracy, more selfish than bureau-

cracy. It denounces, as public enemies, all who question its methods or throw light upon its crimes."

2. The Hon. R. McKenna, ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer and Chairman of the Midland Bank in England, addressing the shareholders of the bank on January 25, 1924, said:

"I am afraid the ordinary citizen will not like to be told that the banks can, and do, create and destroy money. The amount of money in existence varies only with the action of the banks in increasing or decreasing deposits and bank purchases. Every loan, overdraft or bank purchase creates a deposit, and every repayment of a loan, overdraft or bank sale destroys a deposit."

3. Sir Denison Miller, first and greatest Governor of the Commonwealth Bank, addressing a deputation to him on July 7, 1921, made the following statement:

"The whole of Australia is at the back of this bank, and, so strong as this continent is, so strong is this Commonwealth Bank. Whatever the Australian people can intelligently conceive in their minds and will loyally support, that can be done."

Let the people of Australia consider the above three quotations, and, having considered them, *let them act—and at once*. Parliament exists to carry out their will. Let each of them write to his or her Member of Parliament and inform him in unmistakable terms that there must be no more financing of Australia's needs or necessities neither by means of interest-bearing debts, nor by impoverishing taxation.

## Parliamentary Notes

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

**Minister for Trades and Customs, John Rawson, evidently intends that, whoever suffers from the price-fixing regulations of his Government, certain big companies shall not.**

In a series of Bills now before Parliament it is proposed to pay the following bounties out of consolidated revenue:

Production of Tractors. . . .	£35,000 per annum
Production of Wire Netting	5,000
Production of Sulphur.....	110,000
Construction of Ships.....	50,000
Production of Cotton.....	130,000

Total.....£330,000

In order that consolidated revenue may stand the strain and assist the companies concerned to pay their usual dividends, a Bill is thoughtfully provided by the Hon. P. C. Spender by which, in accordance with a formula absolutely unintelligible to the ordinary citizen, his (the citizen's) income tax is to be substantially increased.

It would appear that our legislators have never heard of a certain report by the Australian Banking Commission, in which it is definitely stated that the Commonwealth Bank can make money available to Governments or others free of any charge, for there is also a Bill before Parliament authorising the Government to *borrow* (and, presumably, to pay interest thereon for all eternity) the sum of £22,630,000.

A quite extraordinary piece of legislation is provided by a Bill to amend certain Acts which deal with the Flour Tax. By Section 35a of this Bill the validity of any declaration which the Minister has, prior to the commencement of the Section, purported to make, in pursuance of Section 5 of the Act in question, shall not be challenged or called in question in any way or on any ground whatsoever. In short, the Minister shall be

deemed to be infallible, and you had better not forget it! The State is all!! Heil Hitler!!!

\* \* \*

Parliament is now in recess and, therefore, these particular notes will cease until it re-assembles.

### NOTICE

Brochure copies of the speech by Mr. W. MacGillivray, M.L.A., delivered in the South Australian, House of Assembly on August 9, 1939, as reported in the *New Times* of September 22, are available from this office at 3d. per copy or 2/6 per dozen, posted.

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(Continued on page 7.)

## SOVIET RUSSIA'S WARS OF CONQUEST

(Continued from page 3)

the more important operations. It would be pretty hard—even for a Mike Gold or a Heywood Brown—to describe these wars of conquest as "defence of Russian soil against Fascist aggression"—particularly as the "defence" took place in foreign territory some 3000 miles from Moscow.

### FAR EAST

In the Far East, the Soviet Government has three times embarked on military operations outside its own frontiers, which would have evoked the most violent denunciations of Stalin's kept press and of "Liberals" abroad if they had been undertaken by any other power. The first of these forays was in 1921, when Red troops, on the pretext of driving back the raids of the White guerrilla leader, Baron Ungern-Sternberg, marched into Uрга, capital of Outer Mongolia, and stayed there—until the Mongols of that vast land of steppes had been properly "self-determined."

Although the Soviet Government has never formally annexed Outer Mongolia, and this territory is still, theoretically, a part of China, no Chinese official, indeed, no foreign visitor of any nationality, except for all-powerful Soviet military and civilian "advisers," has been permitted to set foot in it for many years. Outer Mongolia is as completely a puppet State of the Soviet Union as Manchoukuo is a dependency of Japan. That this Soviet enterprise in land-grabbing has received so much less attention than its Japanese counterpart is attributable partly to the working of the familiar double standard of morals, partly to the complete exclusion of foreign witnesses from this exhibit of Soviet imperialism, partly to the lesser importance of Outer Mongolia, by contrast with Manchoukuo, as regards population and resources.

Still another occasion when Soviet troops were mustered for service outside the Soviet Union is an equally delicious commentary on the sincerity of Soviet anti-imperialism. It provides convincing proof that the Soviet regime, always ready through its propagandists to urge "oppressed" peoples to seize the "imperialistic" property of other powers, is most ready to defend its own possessions on foreign soil by the most unregenerate means. The occasion was the summer of 1929, when the Chinese Government, bringing allegations of Communist propaganda against the Soviet employees of the Chinese Eastern Railway, which bisects the northern part of Manchuria, and was operated, on a basis of mixed Sino-Soviet management, took over administration of the road. Now the Chinese Eastern Railway, built across Chinese territory with the aid of Russian and other foreign capital before the World War, was just the type of enterprise, which Lenin and other Communist theoreticians had always denounced as imperialist exploitation. The Soviet propagandists who flooded China during the high tide of the Left-Wing Nationalist movement in 1926 and 1927 had been constantly urging the Chinese to "reclaim," by the most forceful means available, all such foreign concessions.

The events of 1929, however, showed that it makes a good deal of difference whose railway is seized. The Soviet Government did not, as some of its more naive foreign admirers might have expected, give back the railway to

the Chinese with apologies for having inadvertently held it so long. On the contrary, it did precisely what it had always, with holier-than-thou self-righteousness, denounced "imperialistic" powers for doing: it resorted to armed force. Large Soviet forces were massed at each end of the railway and, after preliminary skirmishing, Manchuria was invaded, Soviet troops in the western part of the country advancing as far as Hailar. The Chinese, as usual, proved unable to stand up to troops with modern equipment. If one might parody the style, which *Pravda* would have employed if another country had been involved, "imperialism was re-established in its rights after thousands

### AUSTRALIAN PROSPERITY!

**ADELAIDE**, Tuesday — A South Australian mother, aged 46, with her twentieth child in her arms, called on the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Richards) today. She sought assistance in transferring from a four-roomed country home to the metropolitan area, to give greater opportunities of employment for the older children.

The facts, as related by Mr. Richards, are:

Seventeen children living, of whom one daughter is married; Mother, father, and 16 children are living in a four-roomed house;

Twelve children under 18; Ten sons, seven older than 12;

Seven girls, six younger than 12;

Family bought 145 loaves of bread last month; Inclement weather has limited the father's earnings recently to £4 a fortnight; Application for relief was refused, because the husband was employed.

Mr. Richards said: "The mother is not complaining, but feels it would be in the interests of her family to move from the country."

"I intend to bring the case to the notice of the Government."

—Melbourne "Herald," 29/8/39.

of innocent Chinese workers and peasants were slaughtered." Incidentally, this Soviet war with China, which, in the best modern fashion, was undeclared, was the first breach of the Kellogg Pact, signed by the Soviet Government only a year before.

The most recent Soviet martial adventure (at the time of writing—Ed.), the full details of which have been obscured because of the remoteness of the region and the absence of independent informants, has been in Sinkiang, or Chinese Turkestan, China's far western province. Taking advantage of a civil war which was raging there between the forces of the Chinese Governor, Sheng Shihtsai, and Tungan Mohammedan insurgents, who at one time were besieging the provincial capital, Urumchi, the Soviet Government intervened. Soviet aeroplanes and poison gas turned the tide against the Tungsans. Sheng Shih-tsai became a pliant tool in the hands of his powerful allies. Non-Russian foreigners are now rigidly excluded from the greater part of Chinese Turkestan.

The list of Soviet wars of aggression and conquest, long as it is, is only slightly known abroad. Devoid of incidents to fix them in popular memory outside the countries affected, devoid of spectacular battles, clearly defined fronts, and recognisable manoeuvres, they made little international impression. In its wars, as in its famines and forced-labour camps, the Soviet Union has taken advantage of its little-known vast interior spaces, where countless people can be "liquidated" and considerable military operations can be carried out with little danger that any specific, documented reports will reach the outside world.

Even from the brief and incomplete survey of Soviet wars of aggression contained in this article, it can be seen that the theory, to say nothing of the practice, of Bolshevism, is not imbued with any spirit of international peace and good will. Lenin always emphasised the idea that the Russian Revolution was not national, but international, in scope; that there was a positive obligation on the part of the Russian Communists to help the cause of revolution in other countries. Two of the many excerpts from his writings, which illustrate this point, read as follows:

*The victory of Socialism in the beginning is possible in a few capitalist countries or even in one capitalist country. The victorious proletariat of that country, having expropriated the capitalists and organised Socialist production in its own country, would rise against the remaining capitalist world, attracting to itself the oppressed classes of other countries, arousing them to uprising against the capitalists, coming out, if necessary, even with armed force against the exploiting classes and their States, . . .*

*Down with preachers' sentimental and silly sighs for "peace at any price." Up with the standard of civil war!*

If the Soviet Union, on the basis of its systematic practice of suppressing the self-determination of the minor nationalities, of extending its boundaries and vindicating its alleged rights, wherever feasible, by force of arms, is a champion and exemplar of the higher morality as regards peace and the liberties of small nations, then Genghis Khan was a premature candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize.

### MELBOURNE FORUM

In spite of the very wintry weather, there was a very good attendance at the Melbourne Forum, Unitarian Church, to hear Eric Butler, deliver a very outspoken address, entitled "Youth Pleads For Life." Many gratifying comments have come to hand from people who were present. Early this week one mother who was present, speaking of the address, said: "An eloquent, courageous, and very human appeal for sanity."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**NO NEED FOR WAR AT ANY PRICE**

Sir, —When one takes into account what Poland has done to all her neighbours—Lithuanians, White Russians, Ukrainians, Germans, and, more recently, Czechs and Slovaks—when it has suited her whims and ambitions, since the advent of her resurrected independence, it seems incomprehensible that we should be asked to restore her independence.

It is a negation of the facts to say that it is an honourable duty. It is in no sense different to asking us to liberate aggressors from aggressors.

Poland has got her deserts! In any event, she should have surrendered what was not racially hers when called upon to do so. Now she has lost everything, and been manhandled, in addition, for her stubbornness, which, foolishly enough, has involved others. Consequently, the guarantee to Poland was not morally justified, and, therefore, unworthy of support. Nor are we justified in warring with Hitler on the assumption that we are "to be next." For that hour has not yet come, and is not likely to come, if we give the man the benefit of the doubt, as true Christianity demands that we should do. At least, Hitler is frankly honest in stating his claims, and surely there is more reason in conceding them than not. In fact, not conceding them is an invitation to go beyond specified claims for which he is accused, rather unreasonably, of dishonouring his word. Let us realise the position we are in: Hitler did not want us to be at war with his people. He still does not desire it—now, nor in the future. Having, therefore, regard to Poland's acts of aggression since the inception of her late-found independence, do you not think it is the height of insanity to court further bloodshed and disaster, when it is our bounden duty to repair our mistake by coming to a peaceful solution of the trouble now that we have an opportunity offered us of doing so? We do not want war at any price, even if some do not want peace at any price!

And with this recommendation, as a native-born son of Australia, and as one whose race and forefathers contributed materially to

England's Imperial gains, I respectfully conclude. —Yours, etc.,  
M. S. De SAXE.  
Melbourne.

**WAR AND CHRISTIANITY**

Sir, —Today's [Oct. 6] issue of the *New Times* seems to be one of the best-balanced issues up to now. Particularly is there a fundamental challenge in the "Open Letter to Rev. F. A. Hagenauer."

It follows from what Christianity stands for, that there is no war for conscientious objectors: "If Christianity stands for anything at all, it certainly stands for the rights of the individual, as opposed to the State or any other abstract tyranny."

The task (i.e., what should be a service becomes a task when in a state of war)—the task for reformers is to find the technique by which all the aspirations of a conscience-free people can be implemented in a true Commonwealth of God on Earth.

Instead of emphasising that there be no war-debt, the emphasis should be that there be no war. The alternative to war is one that requires greater courage and a more adventurous spirit even than war. The reconstruction of the whole economic structure will pacify the most ardent militarists and activate the most earnest pacifists. —Yours, etc.,

L. G. DeGARIS.  
Geelong, Vic.

**PACKED HALL HEARS RUSSIAN FOREIGN POLICY DEBATED**

The debate on "Russian Foreign Policy" between individuals of the U.E.A. and the League of Young Democrats can be taken as a very good indication of the interest, which the public is taking in serious matters at present.

Although last Sunday night was particularly cold, the Centenary Hall was packed long before the debate started. Many had to stand. Speakers from both teams spoke well, and the interest taken by the audience was very keen. In spite of some very lively clashes of opinion on many points, there was one thing which all those present appeared to be unanimous about: that was the desirability of an immediate Peace Conference.

**ARE WE CIVILISED?**

**American Writer's Cynical View**

**The Popularity of War**

"There is nothing in all this world that can match war for popularity. It is, to at least nine people out of ten, the supreme circus of circuses; the show beyond compare. It is Hollywood multiplied by ten thousand. It combines all the excitements of a bullfight, a revival, a train wreck, and a lynching. It is a hunt for public enemies with a million Dillingers scattered throughout the woods. It is the dizziest, gaudiest, grandest, damndest sort of bust that the human mind can imagine. High and low alike are all the same when the bands begin to play, and the tramp, tramp, tramp of marching men converts every heart into a cocktail shaker. Everyone knows that the country really stepped into the World of War with shivers of delight, and that nine Americans out of ten had a roaring time until the show was over.

"War, to the typical young fellow, is a colossal release. The problem of making a living in a stupid and unappreciative world departs from his shoulders. He ceases to be a nonentity and becomes a public figure, cheered by his relatives, his friends, and the populace in general. There is someone to clothe him, and someone to tell him what to do. He has a gun in his hands, and feels like a man. His country needs him, and tells him so with many a slap on the back, though in a little while it may forget him. No more lordly life is imaginable. It combines all of the advantages of a sure income, good and racy company, and a job full of thrills. The soldier stands proudly above all the ordinary laws."

—H. L. Mencken, quoted in *Youth Be Damned*, by Beckles Willson (Werner, Laurie).

**CHILDREN EDUCATING TEACHERS?**

**"If I Had Five Minutes With Hitler"**

The second heading above was the title of an essay, which the children at a Melbourne suburban school were asked to write recently. We have much pleasure in printing below an extract from an impromptu effort by a boy of only 12 years. It speaks for itself:

"If I had five minutes with Hitler I would try to convert him to Christian Pacifism—that is to exchange guns for wheat and useful products for the people to use. In doing so, I would be taking away the causes of poverty, which is brought about by the financiers who control the munitions, factories, etc., and, through them, the people."

Perhaps there is hope for an apparently insane world after all.

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**MELBOURNE (Cont.)**

(Continued from page 6.)

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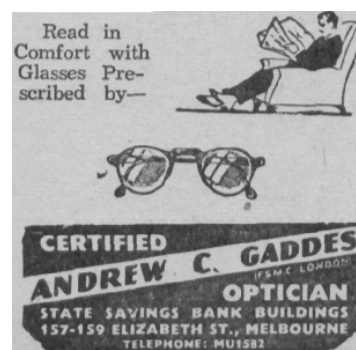
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# AN IRISHMAN LOOKS AT HIS COUNTRY

## Pressure Politics Enunciated by Irish Writer

We have much pleasure in reprinting extracts from an article, which appeared in the 1938 Christmas number of "The Kerryman." This is an Irish paper with a wide circulation, and in the article entitled "An Irishman Looks at His Country," Mr. E. Ua Curnain very lucidly puts forward the case for pressure politics. To quote:

"The responsibility for the present conditions in Ireland ultimately lies with ourselves, the ordinary Irish people. It is no use blaming the politicians. They always act according to their nature in every country. When Irish men and women get it into their consciousness as a living, driving, motive force that Ireland is *Their* country, and that its conditions are *Their* responsibility, and that Ministers, Deputies and all Government officials are *Their Servants*, and *not their masters*, then a definite and effective move will be made to end the unnecessary poverty and emigration that is bringing the nation down to decay and death.

"It is the present Banker-ruled economic system which enforces Irish poverty amidst Irish plenty, which therefore enforces emigration, unemployment, cut-throat competition (between trader and trader

for markets, and between worker and worker for jobs), and which causes the strikes and lockouts that are a breeding ground for the class war. In such a milieu the Christian values have a hard struggle for existence. Money is made the criterion, the measuring rod of man and his works; and measured by money standards the Christian values are all folly. All our activities are commercialised. The possession of money, or the size of one's money income, determines one's place in society. Consequently, everyone strives to get money; and a direct outcome of that striving is that those who control the supply of money are the real rulers.

"We must not blame the politicians—the responsibility is ours. It is solely in the hope of helping to arouse a sense of that responsibility that this article is penned. Let us use Ireland's National Credit to save Ireland."

## WRITE TO YOUR M.P.

Hereunder is the letter, which the Citizens' Anti-Dictatorship League is urging electors to write—and persuade their friends to write. Identical letterforms, which only require signature, etc., are available at 1/6 per hundred. Orders for these, accompanied by remittance, and any enquiries, should be addressed to the League's Hon. Sec., Room 9, 5th Floor, McEwan House, Little Collins Street Melbourne.

To....., M.H.R.,  
Canberra, F.C.T.

Dear Mr.

Nobody doubts the supreme gravity of the situation in Europe, and I desire to take this opportunity of expressing my loyalty to the British Empire and the principles of democratic government. But a danger threatens this country, which may even prove more disastrous than war itself. The most cherished landmarks of our democracy are being endangered, and, if the process continues, unchecked, the outcome must inevitably be open dictatorship.

It is the constitutional duty of every M.P. to represent the will of those who have voted him into office, and the prerogative of the electors to instruct their members as to what they require. It is of vital importance at the present time that the Australian people shall obtain every assurance that their control over their own political institutions shall be regained and retained, in war as well as peace. I would like to express my views on the following matters, as a direction to you as my Federal representative:

- (1) I desire that no curtailment of free speech and assembly take place. I am also alarmed about the practice of government by regulation, and desire that Parliament shall forthwith regain sovereign control in all matters.
- (2) That neither military nor economic conscription be imposed on the Australian people.
- (3) That the private trading banks and allied monopolies shall not profiteer, as in previous wars. All defence measures shall be voluntary, and be financed without Debt and Taxation, as empowered in Section 51A of the Commonwealth Constitution, through the Commonwealth Bank, as indicated in Paragraph 504 of the Royal Commission on Banking.
- (4) That financial security be provided for all Australians, in order that no internal dissension or subversive activities can be fostered by interests alien to our conception of British Democracy.

In conclusion, I desire to inform you that, while you bear the above facts in mind, and take active steps to safeguard all democratic institutions and personal liberties, you will have my active co-operation. In this time of crisis it is essential that the closest co-operation should exist between the electors and their members.

Yours faithfully,

Address .....

Federal Electorate.....

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM HANSARD

## Senator Darcey Shoots Straight

THE SENATE, SEPTEMBER 22.

Senator Darcey: "I am credited with the responsibility of having devised a financial scheme. It is not my scheme, but that recommended by the Royal Commission on Monetary and Banking Systems, appointed by the Lyons Government.

Senator Wilson: "Does the honourable Senator support the whole of the recommendations of that Commission?"

Senator Darcey: "Senator Wilson asks questions so absurd that they almost knock me off my feet. Some time ago I gave the honourable Senator a book on finance, but judging by a question, which he asked me, a few days ago, I believe he is suffering from infantile paralysis of the financial faculty . . . Some of these days, when the system which I have advocated is in operation, there will be no need for grants such as these, because Tasmania will be able to finance its own requirements, just as it did prior to Federation. Without extra taxation, it would be possible to defray the whole of the war expenditure, and the interest saved could be used in providing more generous grants to the smaller States."

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

SEPTEMBER 22.

## Utilisation of Credit (?).

Mr. Makin (Hindmarsh, S.A.): "Has the Government considered the resolution recently passed by the House of Assembly of South Australia dealing with the use of the nation's credit for the purpose of financing Government services, particularly certain war expenditure, which was conveyed to it by the Government of South Australia, though the Governor-General? If so, what are its intentions?"

Mr. Menzies: "All that I can say is that the credit of the nation is, in fact, being used for the purpose of financing our present undertakings, and I have no doubt that we shall continue to use it."

(Although we must agree with Mr. Menzies, that the credit of the nation is, IN A VERY LIMITED FORM, being used at the present time, we still feel it necessary to point out [at least, to new readers] that Australia's credit is being used by PRIVATE FINANCIERS, at the expense of the public—and that makes ALL the difference!)

## UNITED ELECTORS OF AUSTRALIA

At a well-attended meeting of members, held on Tuesday night last, it was decided to push ahead with the present objective, whilst bearing in mind the possibility of an essential alteration in immediate policy, clue to European events.

A "U.E.A." Club is being formed with a view to combining the social and campaign activities of all sections of the Movement, and plans are well in hand for an intense co-operative effort. Will all those willing to join please forward their names and addresses to the U.E.A. Club, c/o Headquarters, at their earliest convenience.

This week's special prize was won by Mr. R. Costin, Caulfield. The next meeting of campaigners will be held at 8 o'clock on Tuesday night, October 17, at the U.E.A. Rooms, 5th Floor, McEwan House, Melbourne.

## HAWTHORN GROUP

The Hawthorn Group of the U.E.A. will meet at 78 Powerstreet, Hawthorn, on Thursday, 19th October, at 8 p.m. The subject to be taken by a prominent speaker will be: "Can Public Opinion Compel a Peace Conference?" Everyone cordially invited.

## CAUSES OF WAR

### Professor's View

The causes of war are discussed in an article in the current *British Medical Journal*, in which there appears a review of an absorbing new publication, *Natural History of Population*, by Professor Pearl.

"Nine nations have 23 per cent, of the world's population, and occupy 14 per cent of its area," says the *Journal*. "Apart from this occupation, however, these few nations control no less than 66 per cent of all the land in the world."

"Such figures as these," quotes the *Journal*, "breed wars, and, biologically speaking, wars contribute nothing to the solution of the world problem, but rather make it more difficult of solution, because of the extravagantly wasteful destruction of real wealth war always causes."

"The present position has come about through man's power to alter the balance of nature in a direction immediately advantageous to him, with the result that there has been in the last 200 years an enormous growth of population entirely disproportionate in magnitude and rapidity."

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