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45 Brunswick Street,
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Vol. 6. No. 10.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1940.

Every Friday, 3d.

Sovietisation In Australia!

APPLE AND PEAR GROWERS IN DESPERATE PLIGHT

We have constantly warned readers of this paper that subtle mores were afoot to sovietise the primary producers of this country along lines similar to those adopted under Communism in Russia and New Dealism in America. In Britain it is called Planning. No matter what it is called, it means an attack by Finance upon a section of the community, which has always been very independent in outlook. It is an attack upon private enterprise and individual liberty.

Public opinion is mounting in connection with one of the most disgraceful moves in Australian history. We refer to the new powers of the Apple and Pear Board, which threaten to reduce the apple and pear growers to mere serfs. The new plan started to operate last Saturday morning at the Victoria Market, Melbourne, when apple growers were told, upon arrival at the market, to hand over their apples to the Board. Apparently the spirit of independence is not dead in this country yet, with the result that several growers refused to accede to the Board's request, and were even prepared to defend themselves should force be used.

We understood that the growers intended to arrive in force with their apples at the market last morning, and made arrangements to have a reporter there at daybreak. His report of his investigations and observations reads as follows:

"BACK TO RUSSIA"

"Getting up at 4 o'clock in the morning is not a job which I relish, but after spending several hours at the Victoria Market last Tuesday morning, I considered it well worth while. There was a keen air of anticipation in connection with the proposed stand by the apple growers against the acquisition of their fruit by the Board. As is usually the case with these things, the majority of the growers did not turn up with their fruit, with the result that it was left to a comparative few to make their stand. There was no mistaking the public feeling on the matter. Anticipating trouble, police and detectives were present, although, apparently, the sympathy of some of the detectives was such that several of the growers were actively engaged in defying the Board before the lights went on at 5 a.m. by selling their fruit to eager buyers. One grower in particular impressed me as a man with the sort of determination which, constitutionally applied, will get the Australian people out of the present mess into which they have drifted. He defied the Board and started to sell his apples to very willing buyers. The Board representatives immediately appeared and demanded that he hand over his fruit. This he declined to do. He said that he had grown it, and that it was his. However, the Board representatives persisted. The fruit was taken, although the grower caused a bit of a sensation by attempting to tip one case over one representative of the Board. He also tipped several cases of fruit on the ground, and said that if the Board wanted his fruit it could pick it up.

"By this time a big crowd had gathered around, comprised of buyers as well as growers. If Mr. Menzies and his Government could have only heard some of the expressions, uttered in very plain Australian, they would realise that there is a storm brewing. One man in particular summed up the latest effort to introduce super-bureaucracy into Australia by shouting "Back to Russia! Back to Russia!"

"WORSE THAN HITLER"

"Several wanted to know what sort of pass things were coming to when the Government can seize people's goods. Another person in this particular crowd said that Menzies was worse than Hitler.

(Continued on page 8.)

ARE BUSINESSMEN WAKING UP?

Trade Journal Says They Are

We reprint hereunder the greater part of an editorial, which appeared in the "Australasian Confectioner" for February. It was headed "Economic Mysticism," and, in its own words, "would have been sheer heresy a few short years ago":

Watching events in the world of finance since the war broke out, and following—or trying to find some partially - coherent means of following!—the arguments and explanations of the Governmental "experts," the disputing economists and the condescending bankers, the ordinary businessman trained in logical thinking is not to be blamed if he comes to the conclusion that none of them knows what he is talking about, or is deliberately hiding the truth.

Sir Frederick Stewart, always vigorous if not always right, has coined a phrase so aptly expressive of Australians' feelings on this subject that even army boot makers can scarce forbear to cheer—"mystic financial formula." It is a phrase that deserves to go down

in history with Andrew Fisher's "last man and last shilling," ironically symbolical of the alteration of outlook in 25 years!

We have the phenomenon of millions becoming available in some mysterious manner for the prosecution of war in a community, which, though it has undergone no change of economic structure, could barely find as many thousands for the works of peace! We are told, in the same breath, that "the creation of credit" is a snare and a delusion, leading inevitably to inflation and the devaluation of money, and that "the production of wealth is being hampered by lack of sufficient internal currency."

Somewhere deep beneath the mountain of words lies the ab-

(Continued on page 8.)

COBURG RATEPAYERS IN REVOLT

Increase in Rates Opposed

MASS MEETING THREATENS TO REMOVE COUNCILLORS

Last Monday evening, at one of the most lively meetings ever seen in Coburg (Vic.), ratepayers expressed in no uncertain manner their hostility to any further increase in rates. They also passed a resolution demanding that the Council demand of the Government that the Commonwealth Bank be used to provide finance as referred to at the end of Paragraph 504 of the Banking Commission's Report. Further, they also demanded that the Council immediately rescind its decision to increase the rates, and that any councillor refusing to support this action be removed from office. A further meeting is to take place in about six weeks' time, at which the councillors will be called upon to say what they have done in connection with these clearly expressed demands. This is the principle of real democracy in action.

It has been obvious for some time that practically every council throughout Australia has been steadily getting into a chaotic financial position under the present debt system. The feeling on increased rates reached such a pitch in Coburg that, when the Coburg Ratepayers' Defence Association decided to take action, they were given enthusiastic support by the ratepayers as a whole. Long before the meeting began last Monday night seating accommodation was overtaxed at the Town Hall, while at 8 o'clock even standing room was not available. Many had to remain outside. The meeting was called to discuss the financial position of the council in relation to the increase in rates. Cr. Hos-

ken, as Chairman of the Finance Committee, spoke on behalf of the council, and explained the position which had led to the increase. Mr. F. C. Paice spoke on behalf of the Ratepayers' Defence Association, and expressed views, which are familiar to readers of this paper.

Mr. Eric Butler, who was chairman, said, in opening the meeting, that as a result of events which would be explained later, he had been asked to take the chair as an impartial outsider, not being a ratepayer of Coburg. He said that the tremendous interest in the matter under discussion was manifested by the big attendance. "At a time when the menace of dictatorship is growing everywhere it is pleasing to know that we can meet in a free atmosphere to discuss our problems and complaints," he said.

CR. HOSKEN EXPLAINS.

It was obvious right from the beginning that the huge crowd was in a very indignant frame of mind. Interjections took place regularly and Cr. Hosken had a very unenviable task. However, from an orthodox viewpoint, he could do no more than explain the position as it existed, although it was obvious from the figures presented that the big stumbling block in the council's finances was the increasing amount having to be met to pay loan charges to the private banking system. It was quite obvious that, while the present orthodox policy of debt finance was adhered to, there was no other option, but to increase the rates.

MR. PAICE GIVES REAL POSITION

Mr. Paice, in explaining the history of events leading up to the meeting, said that over 150 ratepayers had petitioned the Mayor to call a public meeting to discuss this question of increased rates. He pointed out that the Mayor had promised to not only convene the meeting, but to make a hall available, to advertise the meeting and

(Continued on page 6.)

YOUTH AND WAR

What a Young Australian Thinks

A CHALLENGE TO YOUNG AND OLD

The following personal narrative and confession is no fiction. Nor is it merely "written up" from a few secondhand "human-interest" cases. It tells of flesh-and-blood men and women, and its sole and unprompted author is very much alive. This thoughtful and observant young Australian writes:

Australia has been at war for several months and the young manhood of Australia is being subjected to a recruiting campaign based upon big-business methods of advertising.

And I, just one of the hundreds of thousands of the youths of this Australia, ask you to come with me awhile through the past few years.

We are being exhorted to make the world safe for democracy, freedom, individual liberties, justice and everything that we hold dear. To give our lives in defence of these things—said to exist in Australia, the British Empire and the "democracies." To make a stand against bestial barbarity, suppression, curtailment of even the smallest of privileges.

PROBLEMS

And now, I ask you to traverse the path of the past few years.

But first I must ask a few questions.

What purpose will writing in this strain serve?

Where will it get me? Will it solve any problems?

The only answer I can see is that it may help to record the feelings which young people have, but have not the opportunity to express.

I am sensitive, in a sort of a way, to the lives and living of other people; and reality is, to me, the happenings which affect me and other people around me, everyday experiences—life, and, from the experiences, the resultant mental wanderings which are very much a part of reality.

It seems that in youth one is faced with a book of problems of life, but unfortunately—or maybe fortunately—a set of answers is not provided; unfortunate, because people who can guide to the correct solutions are rare indeed.

In 1930-31, and later, my first conscious problem arose. Along with thousands of others my father lost his job. I did not understand why. Neither did my mother or father, I realise now. The press howled business depression and blamed too-high living in the previous few years; but that did not dispel the tragedy that stalked our household and thousands of others. Enforced idleness was my father's lot his resources dwindled. My mother heard her children ask, "Will daddy ever get another job, mummy?" And the answer came, "I hope so," revealing uncertainty, doubt, and mental torment. I realise now that thousands of other mothers suffered that same fear and suspense.

IN THE COUNTRY

I reached the end of my school career, and spent the next few years in the country. After a year I became friendly with a wanderer, who taught me to question things. Then, from a period of blind wondering, I entered a period of questioning, which occasioned greater mental torment.

I had a friend whose golden-haired wife was partly crippled, while in the prime of life, through a complaint that could

have been checked; but no, his financial resources were limited, non-existent; he could not afford treatment and every day I saw that woman undergo terrible physical suffering, as she bravely carried on, isolated, sixteen miles from the nearest doctor. My friend suffered mental tortures; he aged. Though only in my early teens, I perceived the suffering and knew in a vague sort of a way that it was not necessary. I smile, mirthlessly, now, at the screaming headlines, which denounce Nazi brutality.

Then there was the little returned soldier "closer-settler," who worked and strove for his family of five youngsters. He had a wonderful record in good years with the Closer Settlement Board, but when depression was forced upon us, he was hounded by semi-government officials, threatened with eviction, as he and his wife carried on the unequal struggle. That man suffered, insecurity threatened his youngsters, and he was still carrying on a losing battle when I returned to Melbourne. I never heard how he fared eventually.

Then there were dozens of others smashed by the financial institutions. One man had three thousand pounds when he came to the district; after nine years of struggle he left, an embittered man, not understanding, with only his household effects, and meagre at that.

I will not tell of the others, they recall too many unpleasant memories—realities that hurt—of suffering and insecurity.

IN THE CITY

Things became financially easier with myself, so I entered a seat of higher learning some three years ago.

I came into contact with many and varied people. One, a quiet man, short, with somewhat sharp features, and a soft reassuring voice, a professional man, he often explained away my difficulties, was tolerant with my youthful exuberance, a lovable person.

He disappeared one day. Months later his body was found. Financial worries. Unnecessary. I charge society, so-called democracy, with the murder of that man.

A serious-faced returned soldier, with a large family, known to some readers of this paper. I talked with him. He slaved and struggled, but still his family starved.

Even the late J. A. Lyons said he could do nothing for him.

Tragedy stalked the lines of that man's face, he talked of a quick ending, he who had fought in the Great War to make the world a safe place to live in, he who had knowingly offered his life on the altar of democracy. Yes, he had retained freedom, the freedom to stand by and helplessly watch his children starve. He had probably dreamt dreams about what he would do for those children, just as all parents do, but no, he was crushed; until slowly, vision after vision faded

away, and only the thought of obtaining just sufficient food and clothing remained.

There are many others, known personally, cases of frustrated desires, dreams and ambitions.

ESCAPE FROM REALITY

I know of the two million unemployed in Great Britain, of the Black Districts, of the mining country of Wales, I know of the hundreds of thousands in Australia starving, yes, starving; of farmers ruined, their spirit broken.

All this grew around me like a menacing wall (for science had shown me it is unnecessary), hammering, until I sought frantically for means of escape, from this reality of suffering amidst plenty.

It became embittering. I wanted to escape from warping, for there are many things that I like and have learnt to love, and in peace and quiet.

Now, I found that study, science, biology, was the greatest escape of all, as long as it was not applied to the teeming thousands who exist outside this search for knowledge. With increasing interest in the search for knowledge, I taught myself to regard other people's suffering in an abstract sort of a way.

I have lost something; it has been taken away from me, something that cannot be replaced, forced upon me, by these same men who exhort me to give my life for my country.

"LAND FIT FOR HEROES"

The men who fought in the last war were to come back to a land fit for heroes. The daily press said so; our leaders said so. The same hymn is being sung again. I know it is not

true. When those who are left come back, they will again, some of them, take their own lives. Others will again see the dreams they had for their children fade away, the dreams that kept them going, on and on, through that hell called war, dreams which they hoped they would realise in times of peace.

No, frustration will be their lot.

There is no other alternative under the present financial system.

Am I to give my life for this; am I to be conscripted to defend this, this "home" that I have shown you? Nazi brutality seems remote and almost fades into insignificance beside the unnecessary mental and physical torment. Australian people suffer—those who have not had their nerves deadened by the incessant battering of the modern press, radio, some pulpits and the screen, to move like automats.

Am I to fight for this? The answer?

It lies with you.

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YOU MUST MAKE THE DECISION

MOSCOW'S MARIONETTES

Ex-Communist Speaks Out

A remarkable article appeared in the "Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate" of January 30, 1940. It was written by Mr. J. N. Rawling, B.A., who was for fifteen years a member of the Australian Communist Party and one of its most effective writers. In the article he tells of his disillusionment with Russian Communism in these words:

Friday, December 15, 1939, was a momentous day in my life. I saw the termination of nearly fifteen years' association with the Communist Party of Australia. I had joined the party in Newcastle early in 1925, attracted to it by my hatred of war. I thought I saw in the Communist International a means of abolishing war. I was wrong.

I had seen some of my best friends shot down by my side in France, and efforts to prevent that sort of thing happening again had become a more than academic interest to me.

BETRAYED

How cruelly I and millions of others all over the world have been betrayed is indicated by the fact that I was expelled from the party for protesting against the invasion of Finland and the bombing of Helsinki. That invasion and that bombing, however, were merely the last straw.

Four months before I had been rudely awakened from a long nightmare when the Stalin-Hitler Pact was signed. Then quickly followed the German invasion of Poland, and the bullying of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

These first bombs on Helsinki destroyed more than the buildings and lives in that unhappy city.

From the standpoint of Lenin, who founded the Russian Communist Party and established the Soviet State, and on the basis of the teachings of Karl Marx (Lenin's teacher and founder of the modern Socialist movement), let alone any considerations of humanity of which Communist propagandists tell us Communism is the highest expression, the invasion of Finland must be condemned. I, as a former member of the Communist Party of Australia, want to condemn it in as public a manner as possible, in the hope that my voice, to which members of that party have listened attentively in the past, will cause others to think, assert their manhood, and leave the party that has become a deadly incubus on the Labour movement of this country.

The Communist parties of the world are no longer concerned with the interests of the workers of their respective countries. They are merely the agents of the Russian Foreign Office and the Kremlin, ready to frame or change policies and manufacture "justification" for them on receipt of cabled instructions from Moscow. Stalin decides that they are to go this way or that. Then Dimitrov, Stalin's tame Comintern Secretary (useful because of the reputation he gained by his stand in the Leipzig Court six years ago), opens his office for a few minutes, sends his instructions, closes it again until next time, and returns to listen once more in rapture to the ineffable words of wisdom that ceaselessly fall from the lips of the great Stalin.

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And that is no exceptional rhapsodising. Premier Molotov referred to that speech with approval. And that meant that everybody had to approve.

Is that the land of Socialism? Or are we back four thousand years, when the Pharaohs of Egypt and the kings of Babylonia had similar phrases about themselves inscribed on pyramids and rocks?

What does it betoken? That there is a universal fear. The execution squad, the gaols, the concentration camps, the dreaded secret police have stifled criticism and opposition. People must vie with one another in adulation, out of fear. Mass regimentation and the suppression of individuality—these, not Socialism, are to be found in Russia. But they betoken fear also in the rulers. For a country whose people were happy and content, or saw that any privations they might be undergoing were necessary for the future, there would be no O.G.P.U., nor a cult of a leader. But these and the hideous "purges" of recent years are an index of the fear that grips Stalin and his bureaucracy, and drove them into the arms of Hitler.

WORD THAT IS LAW

Meanwhile a world power is enthroned in the Kremlin. Stalin commands obedience throughout the world. He has satraps to command his legions here and there. What Stalin says is. He says: "We have established Socialism in Russia." At once tens of thousands of propagandists throughout the world proclaim: "There is Socialism in Russia." In a world of newspapers, telegraph, radio, and fast mail services, Stalin can withhold news, facts and ideas from millions—for Communists will not believe anything they are told not to believe. They are inoculated with an anti-toxin that makes them impervious to the truth; that makes them see black as white and white as black. They are sectaries to whom all who contradict the holy writ of Stalin and an expurgated Lenin are agents of the devil.

We are no longer concerned, when we are dealing with the Communist parties of today, with genuine working-class organisations internationally affiliated. We are concerned only with branches of a Russian organisation that exists to carry out the orders of the Kremlin. Principles have ceased to count in Communist argumentation and presentation of policies. What counts is the necessity of presenting a good case to "explain" the latest twist. So, today, we have the ludicrous, if

tragic, spectacle of a platform maintained in the Sydney Domain to "explain" the bombing of Helsinki, the invasion of Finland, and the slaughter of the flower of the Red Army.

DIFFICULT "EXPLANATION"

Recent events and the reactions of the Communist parties to them illustrate all I have said. When a new turn is made, the local leaders simply do nothing or say nothing until they have worked out a "line" to cover the new emergency. Often they make a mess of it, and have to eat their words when still another turn has been made or when a message has been received from Moscow. But turns have been so sudden, numerous and sharp recently that Moscow has been chary about going on record. Then the local "comrades" flounder hopelessly. Let me illustrate.

On August 22 last a Sydney Communist weekly had a leader headed: "No Bargains with the Fascist War makers." It complained that Germany was plotting "to dispose of the body of Poland" as it had with Czechoslovakia.

This would mean that the flood of German Fascist imperialism would engulf all Europe.

While that issue was being sold, the Russo-German Pact was signed! But that was easily swallowed. The next issue ran big headings: "Soviet wins new peace victory—Hitler forced to seek terms." It continued: "Hitler wants Allies to assist in his schemes of conquest. The Soviet Union is a Socialist country without imperialist ambitions. Such an alliance with Hitler is impossible." It was "explained" (not only here, but also in French, English and American Communist papers), that the pact would contain an "escape clause," allowing Russia to repudiate the Pact if Germany acted against Poland. This issue also was unsold before the terms of the Pact were published—and there was no "escape clause!"

Step by step, Communist Party spokesmen were forced backwards, eating their words as they retreated to new position after new position. The next straw they clutched at was the cabled announcement of the decision of the Supreme Soviet to postpone ratification of the Pact. A new Communist paper represented this as "the plainest of warnings to Hit-

ler not to begin war. It is an intimation that, in the event of hostilities, the Soviet Union is free to take what action it thinks fit." Again events were unkind to the Communist Party. Before this issue was sold, the Pact had been ratified on the day that Germany advanced into Poland. That ratification was withheld until Poland was invaded; and the action that the Soviet Union saw fit to take was to invade eastern Poland and divide the country with Hitler.

WHY THEY AGITATE FOR PEACE

Today Communist leaders seek to get over the mass of contradiction I have merely touched on by "admitting" in the Trades and Labour Council that they made a mistake, to the great amusement of all not under their whip. Last August they told you Russia's actions were aimed at preserving peace, and would preserve it. Germany was the aggressor, they told you. Today, however, it is the Allies who are the aggressors, and the local Communists, as elsewhere, demand peace—on Hitler's terms. For today Hitler is Stalin's master, and having gained Poland, he wants peace to digest it.

Again they show their brazen effrontery. Dimitrov awakes again to send out instructions to Stalin's obedient vassals. They are to agitate for peace.

And because they are clothed in revolutionary phrases, those instructions are counted on to fool those Communists who can envisage Socialism carried to Finland by means of bombs. But this has to be remembered: The instructions go only to the Communist Parties of the Allied countries! Stalin's Communist Party in Germany is dead, and the remnants of it are as much opposed to Stalin as to Hitler, for they have been betrayed by both. The Communist Party of Russia is dead, killed by Stalin.

The leaders of the Communist Party of Poland were summoned to Moscow over a year ago, and were "liquidated." When the Communist International sends out a message today to fight against war, it means, in effect: "Communists of Allied countries, unite against war! You have victory to win for Hitler, master and friend of your Great Stalin."

(Continued on page 5.)

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WHAT THE CORIO RESULT MEANS

Once again the great Menzies has been chastened at the hands of the electors. In spite of the fact that Mr. Menzies endeavoured to have the Corio election decided entirely upon the War issue, it is quite apparent that the voting swing in favour of Labor was due to two factors: First, the menace of conscription, which many people suspect the present Government of being likely to introduce by subtle tactics if the opportunity presents itself. Secondly, and very pleasing, was the attitude of the electors in placing their own immediate economic welfare above things happening thousands of miles away. Whether they are likely to have their conditions improved by Labor is beside the point. It was apparent, even late last week, that there was a strong anti-Menzies feeling. Even the Melbourne "Herald" began to have doubts, while, now that the electors have refused to accept its advice, Mr. Menzies is being openly castigated. His immediate position is particularly difficult, and it will be interesting to see how he attempts to weather the political storm. Already Mr. Cameron is looming rather large on the political horizon.

However, Mr. Menzies is the type who will attempt to brazen his way through. No sooner was he rebuffed by the electors of Corio than he made the amazing statement that the Government, "so far from being behind public opinion in relationship to the war, is ahead of it. . . . I think that it is a function of democratic government to give leadership, and leadership must be given from the front and not from the rear." If this means anything at all, it means that Mr. Menzies will decide our destinies, no matter what we may think or what opposition we may offer. We have had far too much of this leadership philosophy. Members of Parliament exist for the sole function of representing, not leading public opinion. As Mr. Menzies is so enthusiastic about Australia's war effort, it could be suggested that if he immediately jumped into uniform he would have ample opportunities of leadership. Perhaps in this regard he prefers the leadership given "from the rear."

As a general indication, the vote in Corio last Saturday can be regarded with some satisfaction by all democrats. We would suggest that the immediate task now confronting the Corio electors is to bring pressure to bear upon Mr. Dedman to immediately declare war on the **real** enemy—the financial oligarchy that is rapidly reducing the nation to complete servitude. Mr. Dedman is now the representative for Corio, and all electors, whether they voted for Mr. Dedman or not, must use him to have their policy clearly conveyed to the proper authorities. This type of leadership may not appeal to Mr. Menzies, but it is democracy; and democracy can function irrespective of elections.

THE WAR LOAN RACKET

Treachery is in the air again. With much publicity, the daily press launched the first war loan last Friday, and Australia is to be further pawned. The usual impression has been given by the finance-controlled press that the bulk of the money will come from existing supplies. With great relish we were told on Saturday how £9,000,000 had been subscribed within twenty-four hours. We hope that readers noticed how the twin sisters to the private trading banks—the big Insurance Companies—subscribed the entire £9,000,000. Since then a few more hundred thousands have been subscribed by other big financial institutions, either owned or controlled by the private banks. But the matter is now relegated to just a small paragraph in the press. Where will the remaining millions come from? To say that the people can subscribe this amount, no matter how patriotic they may be, is a calculated and deliberate lie. These millions will mostly come from the same source that the bulk of our huge National Debt has come from. It will be created by the bankers for the mere cost of pen and ink; and the backing for this issue of credit money? The assets of Australia, which the people, by the sweat of their brows, have created. Then why don't the people, through their Parliamentary representatives, control the issue of their own credit, backed with their own assets? Because most of them have not yet had the greatest swindle of all time revealed to them. To borrow what is one's own is stupid. To pay toll perpetually for this "privilege" is the very essence of servility. This War Loan racket must be prevented by the same tactics, which the electors used to defeat National Insurance and the Commonwealth Bank Bill.

AFTER LEBENSRAUM-WAR BABIES

By "THE WALRUS."

"Berlin, February 21. —The newspaper, 'Schwarzkorps,' says: 'German women who have stopped having children must get busy in order to populate the colonies that Germany will take from Britain. Every woman should have a 'war baby.' " "

Now, if you were Hitler, wouldn't the necessity for that announcement bore you? As soon as you take your eyes off the people to attend to the extermination of something or other, darned if the supply of babies doesn't show signs of conking out. It would seem that the whole world, the Germans included, is bent on letting Hitler down. No sooner has the cry gone up for space to live, in, than it becomes necessary to send out an S.O.S. for babies with which to populate this space.

Thus, at the time when the most orthodox of observers have at last consented to entertain the notion that the fundamental cause of the baby famine is economic, yet another experiment of dictatorship seems to be imminent, and we are about to be treated to a demonstration whether or not the German matrons may be cajoled or bullied into conception.

This aspect of life in Germany today reminds me of a drawing by an English humorous artist, depicting a harassed parent with a tribe of bawling, unhappy youngsters out for a day's alleged fun on a bank holiday. The caption ran, "You've come out to enjoy yourselves, and you've darn well got to. See?" If there is any seriousness in the report we may take it that this IS going to be a long war.

Maybe the intention is to fool us into the belief that the first phase of the Blitz-krieg is to last for a generation, or maybe it is to afford time to the Nazi staff to work out with whom they are at war. On the mere evidence, there seems to be some uncertainty about this. In the absence of any official utterances on the subject we should be obliged on the evidence of events, to assume that there was no war on land, but that at sea Germany was fighting a desperate coalition composed of Norway, Holland, Denmark and Sweden. As for England, she only comes violently into the picture every time she violates some new interpretation of international law, as she did, for example, in the dastardly liberation of her own nationals from the Altmark.

THE NEW TECHNIQUE

Whatever the way of it is, it would seem we are still an old-fashioned people, and have yet to learn the technique of modern warfare. We have been brought up in the belief that you have to fight the country you are at war with. Apparently it isn't very subtle of us and unless we watch out we might easily land in difficulties. It begins to look suspiciously as though we have been fobbed off with the declaration of a state of war merely to keep us quiet while the real business is in progress. The real danger in this war certainly seems to be that of being compelled to remain neutral, which means, of course, that you have to take any kick from the belligerents while remaining under the sacred obligation, sanctified by international law, of doing nothing about it.

I read somewhere of a fantastic kind of justice meted out to two brothers by an ingenious parent. If one committed a misdemeanour the other was punished for it, the idea being that each would become his brother's keeper. It was supposed to have worked. I couldn't say about that, but it made me regret that I had no brother. The onus of the war is certainly on the non-belligerents so far, and we can only hope that they approve the aims as expressed by both sides.

In this connection one of the brightest spots is that about the only thing we Britishers can be induced to fight for is Freedom, even while freedom is perhaps the least understood and most exploited of abstractions.

OBJECTIVE

During the last war, among the personal effects of a friend, I came on several fragments of poems, only one of which, so far as I know, has ever been published. The following unpublished fragment, with its atmosphere of tropical Australian space, has always intrigued me for its strange perception in so young a man of the illusory nature of freedom:—

"Through tawny day and purple night the message ran for me,
A message brave from Squire and Knave,
From King and every Freedom's slave:
'Come, Ye!' it called.
'Come Ye!'"

Well, there, at any rate, was one man who fought without illusion, but he makes you feel the inevitability, as well as the reluctance, of the call upon his somewhat outraged idealism. Would such a man have fought for such a tawdry thing as Lebensraum, as though the aim of creation were to have its confines threatened by mere multiplicity? Would he not have envisaged such a calamity as he would a plague of grasshoppers or grubs holding up a locomotive?

I feel that he would not have been even interested in exposing the cry for Lebensraum in all its hollowness, and might therefore have missed the ironical picture of the starving Hun assuaging his hunger with aperitifs.

WHEN THEY COME

If I am alive when the German war babies come to populate this country, I know I shall find my new neighbours singularly unattractive. I can say without the slightest hesitation, that the only German product, apart from music, of any value in my eyes is beer. I like neither pumpernickel nor rye bread, because I find the smell of new linoleum obnoxious. I don't like sauerkraut, and I'd as soon drink licorice powder as thick chocolate. I do not approve of morning coats with bowler hats, and I prefer intermediate shapes in women; it would bore me to have to choose between the scrawny and the billowy. As far as male beauty is concerned, I consider that a proportion should be observed between the neck and the cranium—in favour of the cranium. And, perhaps, worst of all, from the Nazi point of view, I like an occasional joke.

Well, we shall see what we shall see, but there is one thing I can promise the Nazis without hardship, and that is to give them all the Lebensraum in my power, if they come near me.

"FEDERAL UNION"

A Talk Broadcast from 7HO, Hobart, on Sunday, March 3, 1940.

By JAMES GUTHRIE, B.Sc.

If you were to ask representative citizens of this country what complaint they had against the Government of their State, it is probable that their generalised answer would be that they and their friends had no power to prevent the Government from doing things they didn't want done, and that they were quite incapable of getting done those things which they and their friends wanted done.

When confronted with an obvious absurdity of policy or equally obvious injustice, and asked what they intend to do about it, the universal and monotonous and pathetic reply is, "I disapprove of it and I hate it, but what can I do?"

The plain fact is that we have not yet learned the secret of controlling our Governments; we are quite unable to protect ourselves against vicious taxation, against the insecurity brought about by the artificial restriction of trade.

The complaint is general, except amongst politicians and the numerous Government officials, that Governments have altogether too much power, and that power is not used for the benefit of the people.

The question with which we are face to face is supremely a question of Power—the Control of Power.

The entire world looks on with abhorrence at the spectacle of a man like Hitler wielding the power of life and death over 80 million people. No man should have that power; no man is entitled to that power; no man is good enough to be entrusted with such power over men and women.

CENTRALISATION MUST BE RESISTED

If the future holds anything for us at all, it must mean the breakdown of this centralisation of power; it must mean the gradual handing over to each small community of the power to control its own destiny, to live its life in its own way.

British democracy is based on local government; no democracy can be based on anything else than local government and local sovereignty. It is not reasonable, and is altogether impossible to govern a State whose boundaries are hundreds of miles away from the seat of Government.

There are many attempts, in spite of the warnings of the past, to destroy Local Government, State Government, and to embody full powers in a central Federal Government. Naturally, such ideas do not come from the people, or from those who are to be governed; these ideas come from those who are going to do the governing, the taxing, and the regimenting.

And, very naturally, such people always desire larger and larger blocks of power; more and more authority; and *no* opposition. Their Utopia represents a world without any army except *their* army; no police force except *theirs*. One super-Government, with no opposition—world domination for a few.

This idea, monstrous though it may seem, is being pushed from high places, and goes under the innocuous name of - "Federal Union." The Federated States of the World.

The idea of Federal Union is being supported by many sincere, but immature, minds, who argue that all wars are fought between States, and if States are eliminated, *Hi-Presto*, war is eliminated!

NAIVE ARGUMENT

This naive argument sounds quite logical; but, remember, it is also quite logical to say that if a man's head is cut off he cannot have the toothache. Nevertheless, most of us would prefer to have the toothache rather than have our heads chopped off. Or, to make a political analogy, most of us object to paying municipal rates. Our Federal Union advocates, with their logical methods, would suggest doing away with municipal government in order to do away with rates; but surely

nobody is going to fall for such childish arguments.

It is a queer type of mind, which thinks that if we fail to do a small job at our own door with our own people, then we will be more successful in tackling a gigantic job 10,000 miles away with strangers and foreigners. Such is the ridiculous state of mind, which grows on men who are always spectators; they get appetites for grandiose and colossal pantomimes, as an escape from reality and failure.

I, personally, hate war, and am willing to make many sacrifices to prevent war; but I am not willing to submit to perpetual servitude on the very doubtful chance of preventing war. And I am not willing to destroy the tremendous powers of Hitler and his party merely to hand over ten times his power to another party, from whose whims there will be no escape.

At present we have the British Navy to protect us; under the Federal Union there will be *no* British Navy. All revolt, all escape, will be impossible.

Brute force may be a poor, inadequate way of settling arguments, but in a world where brute force, or the power to use brute force, settles most arguments, then it is better to have that power in the hands of our own people.

MOST VITAL FACTOR

In all Federations of States the control of money is vested in the Central or Federal Government. That means that the Federal Government decides the pace of development for the entire country—it decides everything of importance. To have that power centralised somewhere 10,000 miles away is not only to lose the sovereignty of your own State, but the sovereignty of your own life.

We are told that trade barriers cause war, and that wars are mostly economic, and that if trade barriers are removed, then war is removed. That sounds very wise. But don't you think it would be much wiser to investigate why we have trade barriers?

People do not refuse to accept the treasures of other nations just for fun. We all like the best of everything as cheaply as we can get it. Why, then, does every nation decide to have dearer and inferior goods by creating trade barriers? That question must be answered, and when it is answered we shall probably be in a position to suggest remedies.

But before we splash in the treacherous seas of foreign politics and international trade, let us ask the very simple question

—though very awkward question: Why Tasmanian people cannot afford to buy Tasmanian apples? Why Queenslanders cannot afford to buy Queensland oranges? And why these two fruits are periodically destroyed in large quantities, or dumped abroad, when so many people in Australia would be glad to have them?

The answer to that is simple and straightforward: The people cannot buy the things they want to buy because they haven't sufficient money for that purpose. And in the attempt to dispose of the so-called surplus production, large sums are spent in advertising and looking for foreign markets.

This scarcity of money produces what is called "over-production," but which should really be called "under-consumption." This means industry has to slow down or shut down. It means chronic unemployment; it means every man must hang jealously on to his job, or starve. It means every man looks upon his neighbour as a competitor and a potential enemy. And, naturally, we all combine to prevent the foreigner stealing our jobs.

And if you remove trade barriers, it means that Australia, New Zealand and Canada, South Africa and America, Holland and Denmark will dump their food on England. Very nice for England.

But how can you expect England to supply her people with money to buy that food when we in Australia refuse to supply Australian people with Australian money to buy Australian food? And how do you think the British people are going to destroy their agricultural population merely to please a few professional economists and international politicians?

Australia has plenty of materials to feed, clothe and house her own population; let her get on with that job. That job has nothing to do with other countries. When Australia and America, with all the resources at their disposal, can give elementary justice to the great mass of their peoples, then, perhaps, the time will be ripe for showing other nations how it is done. We want a little less theorising and a little more practical experiment.

PLAYING INTO THE HANDS OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCE

Finally, it is well to remember that if this war goes on for several years, Great Britain will be in financial bondage to America. America will decide the peace terms. Federal Union is an American idea; it means the financial dictatorship of the world by America, and the automatic removal of the British Navy.

It means a world police state controlled by those who control international finance; and international finance is controlled in New York, not by the American people, but by a few men—the same men who financed the Russian revolution, who financed Japan and Germany.

If you like that kind of thing, then Federal Union is the thing you are looking for; if you dislike it, expose it, bring it out into the light of day—that will kill it, and it needs to be killed.

MOSCOW'S MARIONETTES

(Continued from page 3.)

Workers of Australia, the Communist Party cannot lead you in any direction that is towards progress. In Russia the achievements of twenty years are in danger more from the Stalin regime and its controlled International than from external enemies. We cannot condemn the people of Russia or confound them and their undeniable achievements with the Stalin regime that oppresses them, and sends their sons to destruction. No friend of the Russian people can be a friend of Stalin.

I yield to none in my friendship with and my admiration for the Russian people, but I have become an implacable enemy of the butcher of the Kremlin and his bloodthirsty crew, and of the Communist Party here, whose influence in the Labour movement must be destroyed before it, in turn, imperils the gains that have been won, as Stalin has imperilled those won by the Russians.

Easter Tailoring

Frank Devlin, of Elizabeth House, Melbourne, announces a special purchase of the newest and best quality Suiting for Easter wear. The range includes the smart fancy grey and blues in all pure wool worsteds, also the popular indigo dye fine blue twills and herringbone weaves. These suitings are offered readers of the *New Times* at the low price of £5/5/- and £6/6/- for a master hand-tailored suit to measure. This, of course, is only made possible by the elimination of ground floor rents. The unique opportunity comes at a most appropriate time in view of the approach of Easter, and samples will gladly be sent on request. A cordial invitation is extended to clients to visit the workroom, where all work is made under personal supervision, and tailored only by skilled craftsmen. All branches of made-to-measure tailoring are catered for, including Dinner and Evening dress wear, also Ladies' tailored Costumes. Open till 9 on Friday nights, and the telephone number is M 5177. Note address: Frank Devlin, 2nd Floor, Elizabeth House, Cr. Lit. Collins and Elizabeth Streets, Melbourne, C.I.—Advt.

Have You Read It?

The Story of the Commonwealth Bank. By D. J. Aos, F.A.I.S. Price 1/-.

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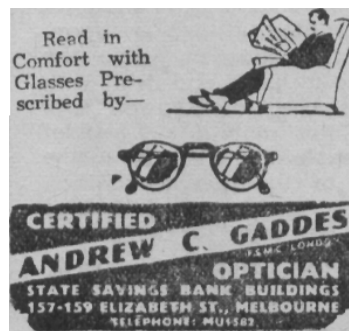
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The above prices do not include postage, which will be one penny on each booklet.

Obtainable from the "New Times," Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne.



DEMOCRATIC ACTION IN VICTORIAN STATE ELECTION

Candidates Asked Where They Stand

Following up their recent statewide campaign to contact the councils in connection with demanding the use of National Credit in the interests of the people as a whole, the United Electors of Australia have followed this up with a big campaign in connection with the forthcoming State election. We are able to inform readers that the first move to contact the councils has caused a big impression.

The following material has been forwarded to every election candidate:

1. The motion passed unanimously by the West Australian Legislative Assembly demanding debt-free money for public purposes.
2. The motion passed by the South Australian legislative Assembly, together with Mr. Macgillivray's speech in proposing same, and his later speech on the budget.
3. The motion passed by the Tasmanian Legislative Assembly.
4. The resolutions passed by the Blaxland Shire Council and 48 other councils in New South Wales.
5. Sections 503 and 504 of the Report of the Royal Commission on Banking.
5. Sections 51 ss. xii. and xiii. of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia.
7. A memo, that one shire council, one municipal council, and 40 public meetings in Victoria have recently passed a resolution demand-

ing debt-free money for public purposes.

8. Leaflet: "Will Australia be Pawned Again?"

Having read this material, there should be no excuse for any candidate expressing ignorance on the most vital issue before the people today.

Apart from this, every candidate has been asked if he, or she, will support a motion similar to the one passed unanimously by the West Australian Assembly.

We will inform readers of the replies of candidates as they come to hand. Mrs. Weber and Messrs. Field and Tunnecliffe have already signified their willingness to do so.

It is hoped that every candidate will be asked the above question on the public platform, and forced, if possible, to give a definite answer thereto.

All those interested in pressure politics should be able to assist in this regard.

Coburg Ratepayers in Revolt

(Continued from page 1.)

to take the chair. Mr. Paice went on to say, "However, sometime later the Mayor got in touch with me and said that he would not advertise the meeting, and that he would not take the chair. He said that there was nothing in the Local Government Act compelling him to advertise the meeting with council funds, and neither did he feel compelled to take the chair. I do not know if this is so or not but I say that, if the ratepayers of this city petition the Mayor to do a certain thing, he, as their representative, is morally obliged to do so." (Loud applause and boos.) "It was, therefore, decided that an independent chairman be appointed, with the result that Mr. Butler is in the chair this evening."

Dealing with what Councillor Hosken had said, Mr. Paice explained that, unless some different policy of finance was utilised before long, the affairs of the council would be taken out of the hands of the councillors, who were, at least, responsible to the people, and placed in the hands of an admin-

istrator representing private banking interests. Mr. Paice then proceeded to briefly outline the case for political and economic democracy, as advocated by this paper. "What right," he said, "have your councillors to mortgage your homes and your assets to the private banks without consulting you in the matter?" (Loud, prolonged applause.) "The time has arrived when we must do something about it." (More applause.) He then outlined what was being done in connection with demanding that the Commonwealth Bank be used, as mentioned in Paragraph 504. He suggested that all those present support the resolution, as a prelude to further action in this matter.

(Question time was particularly lively and the chairman had a big job to maintain order. Unfortunately, many of the questions got away from the main point, and, on the whole, were questions concerning matters of administration. However, when the resolutions were moved, those present were brought back to the main issues.

NOW OUT!

"The Real Objectives of the Second World War"

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

PRICE 6d; POSTED 7d

Readers will be pleased to know that Eric Butler's series of articles on International Finance and its fight for world domination have been reprinted in booklet form. Several aspects have been slightly expanded, while the famous Brierley Basin Scandal is also included and dealt with fully. Considerable interest has been aroused all over Australia by these articles, and this material in booklet form will simply and adequately explain to the man in the street the financial background of the present conflict. Every reader should have at least one copy. Also urge your friends to obtain one. Help the fight for democracy.

Send now for your copy to the "New Times," Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne.

Eric Butler Addresses Mallee Meetings

The three meetings addressed by Eric Butler last week were very indicative of the progress of the ideas, which this paper has been advocating over the past few years. Leaving Melbourne by train on Monday, February 26, Eric addressed a very fine meeting at Minyip that evening. The audience was very representative, and gave the speaker a very attentive hearing, while many questions were asked at question time. This meeting will be the prelude to progressive action at this big wheat centre in the near future. A good report of the meeting appeared in the local paper.

After being driven across to Dimboola by Mr. O. Krelle, the enthusiast mainly responsible for the Minyip meeting, Eric was picked up by a Jeparit supporter. The meeting at Jeparit that night was particularly good. It was mainly the result of the recent work conducted by the United Electors of Australia, in contacting all Shire Councils throughout Victoria. The Shire President took the chair, and the meeting, apart from being very well attended, was one of the most representative ever held at this centre.

Once again great interest was aroused, and the sale of literature was exceptional.

The following night another good meeting took place at Rainbow. Like the other two meetings, it was particularly representative. A very lively time was had at question time, when the audience continued to bombard the speaker with questions until a later hour. Literature was again in very keen demand.

These three meetings show that worthwhile results can be achieved in the country if all supporters will co-operate.

Eric Butler will be visiting the North-West again in two month's time, and, apart from conducting meetings at the above centres, which local supporters feel would now be very well attended by the entire district, he will be speaking at other centres. Supporters in this area are asked to communicate with him immediately.

After returning to Melbourne, Eric addressed a small group of men last Sunday evening at the Northcote Fire Brigade Station. Keen discussion took place, and those present were very interested.

Gems on the Corio Election

The Melbourne *Argus*, in its editorial dealing with the Corio election result, makes one or two observations, which are simply staggering. To quote: "Undoubtedly the outstanding cause has been the failure of the Government to create, even after six months of war, that patriotic psychology which is all-important." So patriotism has to be created! Surely, if the truth concerning a particular cause is stated, the people can make their own decisions without artificially created patriotism. The above admission will do more harm than good to the cause, which the *Argus* so enthusiastically espouses. However, the *Argus* does not favour reasoned judgment, as witnessed by the following extract from the same editorial: "When cold logic usurps the place of burning fervour in the highest quarters, is it any wonder that persons of lesser fibre fail to have their imagination quickened . . .?"

Well, well! The Corio electors apparently committed the crime of using "cold logic" instead of being swamped by the nauseating emotionalism turned on by the *Argus* and other papers.

Bendigo League for Monetary Reform

The fortnightly meeting of the Bendigo League for Monetary Reform will be held at the residence of Mr. Tom Crombie 101 Anderson Street, at 2.45 p.m. next Sunday, the 10th. In addition to the usual business and discussion, arrangements are to be made for Mr. Eric Butler's visit at Easter. Eric will probably address an open-air meeting on Easter Sunday evening at 8 p.m. in Bull Street, and possibly again on Easter Tuesday. Bendigo readers who will not be able to take an active part in assisting these meetings, and who desire to make a donation, may do so. Donations may be left for the secretary, J. J. Jordan, c/o Hampton's Bookshop, Mitchell Street, and will be duly acknowledged.

THE "NEW TIMES" IS
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ALL AUTHORISED
NEWSAGENTS

CALLING GIPPSLAND SUPPORTERS!

Another Country Tour to Take Place.

As intimated in our last issue, Eric Butler and Norman Rolls intend to conduct a vigorous country tour throughout Gippsland, starting within the next few weeks. All those who can help in any way whatever—organising meetings, publicity, hospitality—are urged to communicate with Eric Butler, c/o Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne.

The result of the Northern country tour has been a keen awakening of interest, demands for information and literature. Now is the time for country supporters to help get the message to the people.

As a result of the letter from a supporter in our last issue, suggesting a special fund for country tours, several donations have been received. Others who feel that they can specially help the finances for country tours are asked to do so.

Gippsland Supporters, Don't Delay! It is essential that the forward organising of the tour be started NOW.

WHO IS WANG CHING-WEI?

He May Lead a New China

A SHORT BIOGRAPHY

One afternoon in mid-1939, a visitor came to the home of Prince Fumimaro Konoye in Tokyo. He was a Chinese, trim and dapper, with a boyish face. He had come to meet a select group of Japanese statesmen to sound their views on how the hostilities in China might be terminated.

That gentleman was none other than Wang Ching-wei, once the favourite student of Sun Yat-sen, once Chairman of the National Government of China, once Chairman of the Central Political Council, once President of the Executive Yuan, once Deputy Executive of the Kuomintang, once Chairman of the National People's Political Council and now the leader of the peace movement which is said to have spread like wild-fire all over China.

This was not his first visit to Japan. He had been there before. But only a handful of Japanese remember him as a young man of 22 years trying to master the theory of government, constitution, and jurisprudence, all in a short period of two years, along with 20,000 other young Chinese students that filled the capital's student quarters around Kanda. Among those Japanese none knew him better than Giichi Takeuchi, the former dean at Hosei University. Mr. Takeuchi remembers him as a serious and scholarly student, who finished the prescribed courses in one and a half years, and graduated second from the top among 336 classmates. That was in May 1906.

UNIVERSITY CAREER

At that time, the Chinese Government, realising the superior educational facilities Japan possessed, made an agreement with Hosei University and other institutions to offer short, condensed courses in economics and political science for the benefit of large numbers of aspiring Chinese students. In 1903, Wang passed a special examination with flying colours, to be selected as a Government scholar for study in Japan.

In October 1914, he matriculated at Hosei University, together with other boys who had come as a second batch of Kwantung Provincial Government students to get Japanese education. He took courses in economics and political science with the rest, and, without much difficulty, obtained the degree of LL.B. in 1906. For the first two years he devoted himself entirely to his studies, remittances of 30 yen a month being sent by the Chinese authorities.

During the closing years of his academic career, however, he openly joined the revolutionary movement under Dr. Sun Yat-sen, when Dr. Sun suddenly appeared in Tokyo from the United States. Wang soon became a leading member of the Tung-Meng Hui. The Chinese Government, as might be expected, cancelled his scholarship and stopped remittances.

His financial supplies cut off, he now had to depend for his livelihood on writing poorly remunerated translation work from Japanese into Chinese of books concerning political and economic problems to be used as reference material by the Chinese students. In this way, it is said that he earned about 60 yen a month.

OLD DAYS RECALLED

Recalling Wang's trying days in Tokyo, Mr. Takeuchi says that this brilliant youth was in all respects a leader among his men. Wang was then living in a modest five-room Japanese house in the vicinity of the Yasukuni shrine at Kudan. Mr. Takeuchi points out a large ginkgo tree in front of the Kudan post office, and says

that the house, which no longer stands, was right next to it. There was a large round table in the front room, where the Wang family ate and studied.

Those years of study in Japan must have had a decisive influence on the young scholar, according to Mr. Takeuchi, who at one time handled 1200 Chinese students under his personal direction, and 7000 throughout the years he served at Hosei. China's defeats in 1885, 1895 and 1900 had awakened in Wang a sense of patriotism and public responsibility, which only matured with increasing knowledge and experience. Indignant at the sufferings of his people under the tyrannical misrule of a decaying monarchy, and imbued with the liberal and democratic ideals of political thinkers of the West, which he had studied in Japanese translations, he proclaimed his intention to consecrate his life to the cause of the Chinese people, to the creation of a social and political order on the ruins of the old.

BY PLATFORM, PRESS AND PLOT

Among the Sun Yat-sen followers in the Chinese community in Tokyo, Wang soon attained a place of great prominence. He became the principal recruiting officer of the league. At the meetings organised by Chinese students, he spoke, rebutted and attacked, improvising on the historical past, in philosophy and politics, with a magnetic eloquence, full of humour intermingled with passion, sincerely and persuasively. Wang revealed himself as a silver-tongued orator.

Wang expounded his views through the famous monthly *Min Pao* (People's Journal), and was in actuality the head of the editorial board. Despite this strenuous political work, he never failed in his school work, comments Mr. Takeuchi, who goes on to state that the history of that publication is almost a personal history of Wang Ching-wei in Japan.

The *Min Pao* was the principal exponent of the ideas of republican nationalism in China, and its opposition was the Constitutional monarchists, whose organ was the *Hsin Min Tsung Pao* (Journal of the New Nation). In the end, Wang emerged victorious, and the latter ceased publication for lack of readers.

After this, Wang went to China to plot the assassination of the Prince Regent of the Manchu Dynasty. He returned to Japan once more for the purpose of resuming publication of the *Min Pao*, but only two issues came out. He left Tokyo in January 1910, taking with him explosives and several copies of the *Min Pao*, hidden inside the lining of his clothes.

After the unsuccessful attempt to kill the Prince Regent, Wang was caught on April 16 of that

year in Peking. When he was asked why he had tried to take the life of the Prince Regent, he took out the copies of the *Min Pao*, concealed in his clothes, and answered: "Those articles were written with ink; I wanted to translate them into blood!"

MATTER OF HISTORY

From then on Wang's career is a matter of history. He was sentenced to life imprisonment, but was soon freed upon outbreak of the Republican Revolution, which established modern China. After marrying Miss Chen Pi-Chun, he went to France in August 1912, to further pursue his studies. However, at the urgent request of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, he returned to China, and worked with Dr. Sun as confidential secretary until his death on March 12, 1925. He is said to be the real author of Dr. Sun's most important manifestoes and the drafter of his last will.

To a considerable degree the history of China since that time is the history of Wang Ching-wei and Chiang Kai-shek (who also had studied in Japan, but at a much later period). Between the two men, antagonism has always been deep, but they have more than once sunk their differences to carry China through critical periods. But when Wang saw the dangers of Chiang's policy, and found it impossible to work with him, it was time for Wang to part with Chiang. This momentous decision was carried out on December 18, 1938, when Wang Ching-wei suddenly left Chungking and appeared at Kunming, and six days later showed up in Hanoi with his trusted lieutenants. Since then his activities have centred on a movement to conclude peace with Japan—not only peace, but the establishment of a new regime in China based on Dr. Sun's three people's principles.

Since his miraculous escape from Chungking, Wang has issued successive statements clarifying his political outlook, and organised the "Orthodox Kuomintang" in Shanghai. He has broadcast to his people that the war in his country was "futile and meaningless," that peace with Japan was the only bridge spanning the abyss into which the people were plunging against their will. He says that Chiang is merely continuing his resistance at the dictation of the Communists. He knows that Chiang is merely the General for the Soong banking family, which is allied to and under the aegis of Wall St. financiers.

This outwardly quiet but fiery leader has now rolled up his sleeves against the "Strong Man of China," so that the "Good Earth" may be returned to his 400 million countrymen and an end put to the "Scorched Earth" policy of Chiang. Already, thousands of Chinese who studied with him in Tokyo are rallying around the new movement in North China. And Mr. Takeuchi recently brought the news from Peking, where he had been visiting, that one of his former students—San Jun-U—has organised a group of graduates from Tokyo universities to back Wang and his movement. And he himself is looking forward to the day when he will meet his former student, whom many now describe as "the saviour of China."

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 6.)

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Sovietisation in Australia!

(Continued from page 1.)

The audience agreed. Another man said: 'And this is what they want our sons to go and fight for. I would sooner cut my son's b— throat than let him go.' This is the sort of feeling, which, if translated into constructive action, will give the Government a real headache.

"PUBLIC ROBBED— ALSO GROWERS"

"The amazing thing which is such an insult to the growers is the fact that while they are forced to accept less from the Board than they would receive by selling independently, the public will now have to pay more for fruit. I saw several cases of apples, which the Board was selling for 8/6. The same fruit was obtainable from those who attempted to defy the Board from at 5/- to 6/-. This was bad enough, but the Board is only advancing the growers 1/4 a case. Of course, they are supposed to get more later, although most of the growers know what this bureaucratic administration will mean. Several growers whom I met pointed out to me that they would be forced below the breadline by this move. However, as one of those who defied the Board said: 'I might as well go broke fighting as not.' There is no need for this man, or other primary producers, the section responsible for producing Australia's real wealth, to go bankrupt. The public must stand behind the fruit growers against the introduction of dictatorship into this country. It concerns the people as well as the growers. Not only will they be forced to pay more for their fruit, they will be allowing an attack upon cherished liberties to go undefended, with the result that it won't be long before some other section of the community will be subjected to the same treatment.

"HOW THE BOARD TREATS THE GROWERS"

"Talking with several growers while being taken around by one of those who had attempted to defy the Board, I heard several things which are well worth recording. However, before coming

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to this, there was one very interesting point which will interest New Times readers. Upon introducing myself to this man, I said I was from the press, and would like some facts. Taking me for a representative of one of the dailies, he left no doubt in my mind what he thought about them. And I don't blame him. Upon announcing that I was from the New Times his attitude changed remarkably, and he said, 'Now you're talking.' Incidentally, he took a subscription to the paper before I left him.

"One point in connection with this new piece of bureaucracy, which will indicate the sort of tactics used by authorities in this country, was the manner in which, the growers say, they were more or less tricked into registering under the scheme. According to the growers, they were threatened with the National Security Act, although several growers, who obtained legal opinion, have refused to register. Another interesting point mentioned by another grower was in connection with the deputation to see Mr. Mills, of the Fruit Board. This man, after hearing their complaints, is reported as saying that he did not know what they were growling about, because, if they were in Germany, they would be shot. This has caused some bitter feeling, particularly as, I was informed, the bureaucrat in question is a Jew, and apparently takes the same arrogant attitude that Jewish bureaucrats take in Russia, America and Britain, where they are so actively engaged in Sovietising primary industries. As yet, there is no shooting in Australia, and such officials will have to learn that they are the servants of the people in a real democracy. I left the market feeling that here was one of the most vital issues before the people today. Every reader of this paper should throw his best efforts into a united campaign to tell all Parliamentary representatives, whatever their party label, that this sort of thing has got to stop."

ACTION WANTED

The above makes very interesting reading, and is a warning to all democrats to resist any further attacks upon our liberties. This issue concerns every section of the community, and we intend to have some more to say in connection with this matter in our next issue. Action is wanted—something more than mere talk.

Are Businessmen Waking Up?

(Continued from page 1.)

stract truth about finance in a capitalistic world, but the ordinary person engaged in actual production and commerce must suspect dimly that he is a mere marionette dancing to the pull of strings by an undefined group of "international money lords," sinister, cynical and soul-less. He must often think that the orthodox economists who seek to disperse this sombre scepticism are either the dupes or the bribed instruments of these secret controllers of human destiny, just as the red radical declares they are! . . . and that the unanimous condemnation of the fuming radical by a suborned press and sycophantic politicians may be just another aspect of the great plot to cozen and narcotize the working citizen into meek acceptance of his lot as the prototype of the human sheep bred for meat that Wells pictured in his *Time Machine*.

This would have been sheer heresy a few short years ago. Then, the average businessman would have turned away with an oath from any suggestion of such ideas, and would have become choleric about "Bolshevism," "Boloism," "I.W.W.-ism" or something of the kind; but not today. The thing which constantly surprises this journal is the apparent failure of those in power to realise that the businessman is now doing a lot of thinking for himself, and is no longer content to accept the old clichés about finance, relationship of the employer to the employee, and the overwhelming necessity of maintaining reaction in the seat of government. He does not often put his newer beliefs into words, possibly because he has a sense of groping uncertainty for the truth; but his attitude, when he does reveal it, is startlingly "leftish."

To our mind, the most striking social phenomenon of recent years in Australia—and perhaps America—is this change of outlook of the businessman.

He has ceased to be a creature of tradition and habit, smugly virtuous in his grandfather's economic faith, and convinced of the everlasting infallibility of conservative politics, suppression of "the working classes" and a Divinely inspired financial system. It might come as a great shock to bankers, politicians and parasitical financiers if they could get into heart-to-heart conversations with the present-day "captain of industry," which seem to be the peculiar privilege of the business journalist, and find out how pitifully little respect he has for the sociological gods of his fathers that he is popularly supposed still to cherish, and which are retained as the established tribal lore of the State.

If the leaders of the nations wish to obtain the whole-hearted support of the business community, they must be prepared to come much further into the open than they have so far been game, and make a genuine attempt to get to the bottom of this money mystery. Let them admit frankly, if necessary, that they do not understand it, instead of trying to "save face" by gibbering the mumbo-jumbo that has been put into their mouths by "orthodox financiers"; let them plan a policy bold enough to take cognisance of the patent facts about unemployment, spending power, production

value, and so on, instead of the hollow theories, and they will get the enthusiastic cooperation of all classes of business people, anxious to prove that common-sense is a workable substitute for financial mysticism and economic superstition.

* * *

The questions that are asked daily in the highways and byways of Australian business are such as these. —

"Who cares what the theorists argue; do not we KNOW that if we put men to work they produce wealth in some form or another, and that if we give them some token of the wealth they have produced with which to buy goods, they will make more jobs for others, and thus lead to the production of more wealth?"

"Why should it be necessary to go on our hands and knees to some witch doctor of the financial world in order to get his permission—in the shape of the intangible thing called 'credit,' which does not even exist until it is put into use! —to start this process? Is it not the function of a Government, and a Government only, to ordain that if men work they shall be given all they need of the food, clothing, shelter and recreation that is produced in super-abundance by their country? Does it need more than a convention — an agreement—to accomplish this? Does the banker, when he "provides money" (as the funny saying goes) actually do anything more than set a convention in operation, with himself as god of lightnings and thunders? By what authority has he usurped this right to decree that men shall work or loaf, eat or starve, live or die?"

These are the things that people—all sorts of people, from managing directors to clerks and labourers—want to know.

The apparent chicanery of war finance and the humbug and evasion associated with the wartime restrictions on capital for industry, are arousing them to more clamant demand for a general economic "debunking."

The suspicions of the Forces of Finance that grew out of the 1914-18 war, dormant for 20 years, have resumed rapid crystallisation into something more positive, and when this war is over there will surely be a "show-down." Why not more candour and courage in high places NOW, as a measure of defence against the acceptance by a bewildered and disillusioned people of that futile and destructive debasement of Communism that Stalin & Co. are striving—with so much more success than many of us imagine! —to spread in the democratic countries?

Correction Please!

In our editorial last week, the chairman of P.E. P. was referred to as Sir Otto Moses Sieff. The correct name is Mr. Israel Moses Sieff.

In the main front-page article of the same issue, these words occur in the first paragraph (black type): ". . . not all the warriors are known to the mercenaries. . . ." This should have read: ". . . not all these warriors are known to be mercenaries."