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# THE NEW TIMES

Now, when our land  
to ruin's brink is  
verging.

In God's name, let  
us speak while there  
is time!

Now, when the  
padlocks for our lips  
are forging.

Silence is crime.

—Whittier (1807-1892)

Vol. 6. No. 37. MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, SEPT 13, 1940.

## Beasley's Policy Speech

### The Daily Press Liked It Not

Last week we reviewed the policy speeches delivered by Mr. Menzies (for the U.A.P.-C.P. combination) and Mr. Curtin (for the Federal Labor Party). But the most interesting and realistic policy speech from a Party leader was that delivered by Mr. Beasley (for Non-Communist Labor).

Mr. Menzies' speech received the fullest favourable publicity in the daily press, and Mr. Curtin (who referred to Fascism and Nazism, but, unlike Mr. Beasley, failed to include Communism in his denunciation) was treated fairly well. But Mr. Beasley (whose Party, incidentally, was the only group to oppose the Emergency Powers Bill) got relatively poor publicity. What he said provides the explanation.

**While we endorse no Party—indeed, we oppose the political-Party system—we have pleasure in redressing the balance somewhat, by placing on record the following extensive extracts from Mr. Beasley's speech:**

"We stand with the British Commonwealth of Nations in defence of British institutions, against the imperialism of Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin.

#### MENZIES' "ALL-IN" EFFORT

"Dockyards are idle, annexes are unable to get into their stride, 100,000 men are unemployed, the Air Force Department is in chaos, training of pilots and building of machines are months behind schedule, the motor industry has been plunged into costly confusion by the almost weekly changes of Government policy over petrol rationing. Everyone will agree that the manufacture of munitions in Australia was, and still is, of paramount importance. What are the simple facts concerning this matter? Following the declaration of war last September, the then Minister of Supply, Mr. Casey, announced as Government policy that it was intended to build a number of munition annexes throughout Australia alongside existing industrial and manufacturing undertakings.

"Much publicity was given both in the Parliament and over the radio to the Government's proposals. The people of Australia, in their usual free and easy style, accepted everything that had been stated by the Government and went about their everyday affairs with the confidence and feeling that our preparations were being proceeded with at a rapid pace.

"To their amazement, they found, following the exposures of my party in the Parliament, that in these annex buildings had been completed and some of the machinery had been installed, but it had remained idle for months.

**"Not a wheel, in many cases, had been turned.**

"Men had not been trained to handle this new class of machinery, stocks of raw materials had not been obtained, and in a number of cases, electrical installations had not been completed. The benches and in-

spection tables had not been erected. Almost the same regrettable features characterised the effort in connection with aircraft construction. The Government had announced, almost simultaneously with its proposal for the manufacture of munitions, a scheme for the building of Bristol Beaufort bombers in Australia. In this case it was proposed to undertake the major part of the work in the Victorian, N.S.W., and South Australian Railways Workshops. Towards the end of last year 80 men were selected to visit the Bristol works in England in order to obtain first-hand knowledge of aircraft construction. These men returned to Australia soon after the New Year, and were allowed to roam about the Railway Workshops in N.S.W., much against their will, for months afterwards, without their services being utilised (Continued on page 7.)

### A RAILWAY MYSTERY "FANCY FIGURING" DISCLOSED

**"The financial result of the operations of the Victorian Railways Commissioners for the year ended June 30th presents a brighter position than that of the previous year," says the "Age" of September 4.**

The "Age" also says: "The annual report issued yesterday shows a deficit of £396,201, compared with £952,066 for 1938-39. The improvement of £355,865 was contributed to by an increase in revenue of £582,120 and a decrease of working expenses of £4448, making a total of £586,568, which was reduced to £555,865 by the deduction of £30,703 for increase of interest, exchange sinking fund, and contributions. Revenue amounted to £9,942,449, compared with £9,360,329 in 1938-39. . . . The total loan liability at the close of the year, after allowing for securities (£2,749,989) purchased from the National Debt Sinking Fund and cancelled, was £45,151,823, representing a nett increase during the year of £550,049. The gross increase was £865,701, but this was reduced by payments to the State Loans Repayment Fund (£6877), the excess (£3879)

of premiums over discounts and expenses, and securities purchased and cancelled from the National Debt Sinking Fund (£304,896)." (Our emphasis.)

\* \* \*

Considering that no less than 32 sets of financial figures, and numerous other figures, were used in the article quoted, it is quite likely that the majority of "Age" readers hadn't the time or inclination to notice that the nett increase of loan liability amounted to £550,049. Compare that figure with the "improvement of £555,865," and what have you? Just one more illustration of how the rob-Peter-to-pay-Paul, "Sound" Finance policy FAILS to work. The railways belong to the State—which is said to mean the people; but, with the present loan system of finance, all we "own" is the debt, plus the ever-recurring interest bills. —"Scissors."

### PARLIAMENTARY NOTES

By MARCUS E. DODD.

It is interesting to learn that over £30 million has been lent by the Commonwealth Bank to the Australian Wheat Board. On August 20, Senator Aylett was told, in answer to his questions, that on the 1938-39 harvest, £2,334,000 had been lent, and on the 1939-40 harvest, £28,287,000. The whole of the 1938-39 loan has been recovered from the sale of the wheat. On last season's harvest up to July 27, 1940, the sales amount to £12,416,000. This advance of £28,287,000 by the People's Bank demonstrates its usefulness and that it could be used to a much greater extent to supply credit for our war effort.

Abraham Lincoln was quoted in the Senate when Senator Darcey, speaking during the International Relations debate, said: "The people of Australia are supposed to enjoy democratic government. Under a truly democratic form of government the people would get what they wanted; but it can be proved that the people of this country do not get what they want. Democratic government implies 'government of the people, by the people, for the people.' Do we want war? Of course we do not, but we are getting it. Do we want poverty amidst plenty? No, but we have poverty. Do we want malnutrition and unemployment? Certainly not, but we have both. Therefore, the people are not self-governed. We know what the Commonwealth Bank was established for, and three State Parliaments are demanding that it shall be employed for the purpose of providing interest-free money. It was the first and the only bank in the world to be established for the purpose of meeting the financial needs of the people. Honourable Senators opposite have never con-

tended that interest-free money could not be provided; they merely sit back and say nothing."

Senator Collett: "What have the Honourable Senator's remarks to do with the war?"

Senator Darcey: "The war cannot be viewed from a more important aspect than that of finance. The Government has stated that the total cost of the war, up to 1944, will probably be £435,750,000. At least 80 per cent, of that amount will be borrowed in the usual way by the Government through the private banks, and part of it through the Commonwealth Bank."

#### NATIONAL SECURITY REGULATIONS

A motion to disallow certain regulations dealing with employment was moved by Mr. Rosevear (Dai-ley), on August 20. In the course of his remarks, he indicated how absolute is the power of the Government over artisan and labourer alike, and went on to say: "Regulation 3 provides that no employer can employ a man without a clearance from his former employer, or from the Director of Labour. That places the workers practically in the position of ticket-of-leave men. Paragraph 1 of Regulation 4 prevents an employer from offering more than the basic wage for which provision is made in the schedule. This, I contend, is a denial of the first principle of arbitration, under which the practice has been merely to fix the minimum wage to be paid. This regulation compulsorily makes the minimum the maximum, and consequently is opposed to every principle of arbitration. When the Arbitration Court makes an award for the workers, from the labourer to the highest skilled tradesman, it always fixes the minimum wage, and leaves it to the discretion of the employer to compensate a man for any additional skill or ability he may possess. By compulsorily making the minimum the maximum, this regulation leaves no margin for the recognition of extra skill or efficiency. It will destroy individuality and initiative, and will lead to a form of passive resistance on the part of those workers in factories who are compelled to give their labour for the wage fixed in the schedules. It is true that any higher marginal rate being paid to an existing employee will be maintained; but, any new men who are engaged, no matter how high the degree of skill or efficiency they possess, cannot be paid more than the minimum provided in the schedule."

(Continued on page 8.)

## BEATING THE MONEY MONOPOLY

### PARTY PROMISES OR "PRESSURE POLITICS"?

By JAMES GUTHRIE, B.Sc.

(Based on a talk broadcast from 7HO, Hobart, and 7LA, Launceston, on Sunday, September 8, at 8.15 p.m.)

**Today, we have not only the military foe, but also an enemy more deadly, more powerful and more insidious than any other that ever attacked a civilised community; an enemy that crumpled up France and left Australia without adequate means of protecting herself; an enemy that has smashed its way into every home, and caused more chaos and despair than all the armies of Europe. I refer to the Monopoly of Credit, which is at present holding Australia in its stranglehold.**

No matter in what sphere of activity you are engaged, you find your work held up or crippled through lack of money. The enthusiasm and spirit of adventure in this young country, our inventiveness and ingenuity, have been slowly rounded up, driven back, and bottled up by the Money Monopolists, who permit no enterprise to flourish except their enterprise. This tragic stranglehold of money is rapidly changing the character of the people of this country, and what military dictatorship has done elsewhere, financial dictatorship is rapidly accomplishing here.

Every politician knows the power of this financial dictatorship; that's why he does nothing about it.

To fight this dictatorship of money, the first essential step is to force the enemy out into the open, expose him for what he is, make his habits known to the people, corner him, and show the people what kind of a fighter he is. That's what has to be done if you are in earnest about it.

#### PARTY LEADERS

I looked up "Hansard" to see what kind of organised fight was going on in Parliament; I wanted to see what the gallant party leaders were doing. I had no difficulty in placing Mr. Menzies, Mr. Spender and Mr. Cameron; they were standing foursquare, protecting the Money Swindle. We know where we are with these men; they can spring no surprises on us. We feel safe about them because we know they have to be fought.

But this other leader, Mr. Curtin. What person in Australia

knows where he stands with him? I looked through the whole of this last year's "Hansard," and could find no attempt on his part to expose, to lead an attack, or to introduce any legislation, which would expose the rotten financial system, which, as Mr. Curtin knows only too well, is destroying this country.

Yet this same man, Mr. Curtin, has the audacity to come out with a financial reform programme on the eve of the elections. No! It won't do, Mr. Curtin! We have seen that trick before, and we are not amused. President Roosevelt played that trick six years ago; he never intended to do anything, and, what's more, he has done nothing but strengthen the financial slavery in which his countrymen are held.

The Prime Minister of Canada, at election time, swore he would fight the money monopoly and introduce a sane financial system; since then he has used every means in his power to kill any attempt at financial reform. The New Zealand Labour Government was swept into power on a programme of financial reform. It has introduced some financial "reforms"—it had to; but these reforms are about as useful to the New Zealand people as the toothache. The New Zealand Labour Government killed a great reform movement; that, apparently, was the main idea, and now the New Zealand reformers have to start all over again as a grave disadvantage. That was a case of "Lord, protect us from our friends."

#### THE PROBLEM

This question of elections, who

to vote for, and how to get the proper representation in Parliament, is a question of very great importance; and to get any results in the future it is necessary to see the problem clearly.

First of all, before the people can get any important improvement in their conditions, they must speak with a united voice. That seems to be so horribly obvious that I am almost ashamed to mention it. Nevertheless, it requires to be stated frequently, because it means that at least the active members of our community will have to decide to put first things first: they will have to be prepared to fight a decisive battle on one important issue at a time, and they will have to make up their minds what that issue is to be.

Monetary reform, like Socialism, can mean practically anything a clever politician likes to make it; it can be a snare and a delusion, like the New Zealand business; it can be twisted against you the same way as Christian ideas have been twisted to mean the exact opposite to what they were intended.

The Financial System is a highly technical mechanism, which the ordinary man and woman cannot be expected to completely understand, and which, if discussed in detail, usually leads to endless argument. But do not let us be deceived and discouraged by this fact. Let us take the case of the motorcar. It also is a highly technical mechanism. That does not prevent you using it, nor does it prevent you from passing judgment on the results obtained. The ordinary man and woman, without any mechanical knowledge, can soon tell the difference between a good car and a bad one. That is the kind of knowledge that is required in deciding the policy, which you desire for the government of your country.

#### "PRESSURE POLITICS"

When the people have realised clearly that this country of Australia can produce all the food, clothes and houses the people need, then they have gone half way along the road to coming to

a unanimous decision as to what they want; because then they know that what they want is physically possible, and that any barriers to getting what they want are purely artificial: made by man—and can be removed by man.

Having reached that stage, all that is required is for them to demand that the Government make the abundant food, etc., available to the people. If that is demanded persistently by a large section of the people in a whole-hearted manner, the Government will be forced to "deliver the goods," or name the people who are preventing it.

Any Government, which tries to make production fully available to the people, will come crash up against the banks; a fight will develop; the enemy will be forced into the open for all the people to gaze upon. The banks would be torn to bits (figuratively speaking). That is the only way of getting satisfactory financial reform.

But, a united opinion of the voters is of very little value unless there is "steam" behind it. Where there's a will, there's a way; and without that will, all talk is just—talk!

No great reform will ever come to this country until the people are willing to put up a fight for it; until they get "hot under the collar" about it; until they are willing to stop work for a week to see it through; until they act like a mother acts when her child is in danger; or like a businessman acts when his business is in danger. That's what I mean by "steam." When that "steam" is "up" elections don't matter; Parties don't matter. What the people want, the people will get.

Meanwhile, our duty is to put the truth in front of the people as clearly as we can, and expose all those people who are distorting and hiding the truth. If we do that consistently, we can await events more or less calmly, knowing that the people's enemies can do almost anything they like—except escape the consequences of their own acts.

## WEST AUSTRALIAN NOTES

From Electoral Campaign Headquarters, 81 Barrack Street, Perth.

We appeal to all supporters to send in donations to headquarters immediately if they desire their nerve centre to function properly.

\* \* \*

The farmers of West Australia are now on their last legs financially, and the trading banks' policy of evicting men and women who have been on their farm lands for over thirty years, in some cases, is the real fifth columnist activity during the present conflict. Only a change in financial policy can prevent this procedure.

#### GROUP ACTIVITY

A new group was formed at Wongan Hills as a result of a visit by the campaign director, Mr. V. J. Dury, and good results are to be expected from this area. Another group will shortly be formed under the guidance of Mr. Cadwallader, at Kondut. Both these groups will work in conjunction with each other. A local objective will be launched in the near future, with a view to teaching the people their sovereignty over their institutions and the fact that in association they are all-powerful. Another new branch has been formed in Bunbury, and, according to the latest report to hand, has doubled its membership. It is hoped that all the new members will become real actionists, and not settle down to the usual branch procedure, and allow a few individuals to run the whole business.

Elect your executive and select an objective and work wholeheartedly for its fruition. Another request for a meeting has come from Burracoppin, and it is hoped that a speaker can be sent to this area. The conditions for a speaker from headquarters to visit the country districts is a guarantee of hospitality and transport both ways, either by train or car.

#### THE ELECTIONS

Many enquiries are being received referring to the Federal elections. It is not a function of this Campaign to tell people whom they are to vote for. We do not advise electors to vote for any Party—member or policy. There is only one way to get results, especially the results the people require, and that is through pressure politics. Wherever a reliable INDEPENDENT, acceptable to electors, who is prepared to represent what the electors want, comes up for election that should be sufficient guidance to them on how to use their votes. We must point out, however, that electors can also use their voting power in between elections, as they did against National Insurance and the Commonwealth Bank Bill.

\* \* \*

Do not forget to send to our headquarters, 81 Barrack-street, Perth, a donation to enable us to carry on. If we are to keep functioning, we expect you to help. Do it now . . . and help win the fight for political and economic democracy.

**You Should Not Be Without It!**

### "THE WORLD-GOVERNMENT PLOT EXPOSED"

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

This booklet is most topical at the present time. Shows the plans and objects of International Finance in a startling light. It is a complete answer to "Federal Union" and the move to abolish the State Parliaments. It should be circulated as widely as possible at the present juncture.

The financial swindle during the last war is outlined and the move to financially enslave the British people as a result of this conflict.

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

## ANOTHER BANKERS' APOLOGIST

### 'THE PUBLICIST' REBUKES "THE NEW TIMES"

In the September issue of "The Publicist," a monthly journal published in Sydney, we note with interest the following criticism:

"The 'New Times,' of Melbourne, is a weekly paper, with queer ideas of power, war, politics, economics and finance. Read its 'Demand Form,' reprinted below, from its issue of August 9, which it suggests should be written by all Australian electors to their representative delegates at Canberra, and note its fallacious claims and implications in the light of Mr. Edward Masey's article, 'Our War Economy,' and Mr. M. F. Watt's article, 'The Government Should Govern,' in this number of The Publicist."

For the benefit of our readers we would mention that "The Publicist" stands for certain things, which the bankers support. It has no less than fifty points of policy for an "Australia First" Party after the war. Point 6 states that "The Publicist" stands for National Socialism against international Communism. Now, where have we heard of this before? Would it be from an Austrian paperhanger who now maintains control of gangster-ridden Germany—with the aid of the international Communists whom he was so fond of abusing?

Point 47 states that "The Publicist" stands for conservative banking practice against inflation. This is interesting. Points 48 and 49 state that less taxation and less debt are necessary. This appears to be rather contradictory to us, particularly after reading the two articles mentioned by "The Publicist."

However, contradictions come quite easily to this journal, which refers to "representative delegates at Canberra." There is a great difference between a representative and a delegate. We don't agree that members of Parliament are delegates. This would mean that electors would delegate their power, and, by so doing, destroy the very foundation of real democracy. Power should reside with the electors, who should frame their own policy. Members of Parliament should represent this policy. Of course, we know that "The Publicist," which suffers from the leadership mania, will not agree with this. It is so very busy collecting its "Australia First" Party, which will no doubt give us this leadership. God forbid!

#### WHO IS THE GOVERNMENT?

We first carefully read the article previously mentioned by "The Publicist"—"The Government Should Govern," by M. F. Watt. Nothing much of interest here. However, we note the following: "The calling up and training of a vast number of men necessitates much heavy staff work. The equipment of those men taxes every available factory to its utmost; and thanks to a foresighted scheme of reserving and exempting certain men in particular occupations, the demands of war are calculated to cause as little dislocation in industry as may be." We don't know where the writer got the nonsense about every factory being taxed to its utmost. We believe that the experts know their job perfectly; financial domination is the only thing, which hinders a maximum effort. Financial domination must be broken; it can only be broken by the people demanding a change through their members of Parliament. The writer concludes his article by an appeal for cheerful submission to authority; also an appeal to let the Government do the governing. Exactly. The people are the government, and they are not going to cheerfully accept any suggestion that they unnecessarily buy a possible military victory at the terrible price of financial slavery.

#### WHO ADVOCATES INFLATION?

The second article mentioned by "The Publicist" is "Our War

Economy," by Edward Masey. We have no hesitation in saying that we have never read so much nonsense in all our lives. To quote a sample: "There are three ways only in which Australia's war effort can be financed. The first of these is inflation, either by expanding the note issue or by liberalising the credit policy of the banks. Ever since the commencement of the war, Douglas Credit, Social Credit and other financial cranks have been urging the utilisation of the illimitable resources of the Commonwealth Bank to pay for this country's share in the present conflict—once the principle of waging the fight without cost is endorsed, their proposals boil down to an increase in the note issue to whatever figure is sufficient to cover the additional expenditure of the Government, or an interest-free, unredeemable loan from the Commonwealth Bank, which amounts to the same thing."

We are not suggesting that wars are fought without cost. There is a very real cost—men and materials—to be paid; but, under present arrangements, this is paid once in the real sense, and forever in the financial sense. And where did this suggestion about an increase in the note issue come from? Obviously from the writer's imagination. He goes on to say "inflation, whether induced by the crude method of the printing press or the insidious pressure of credit expansion, does not avoid the money costs of war, but on the contrary, ensures that they shall be as expensive as possible." We can only ask what the banks are doing; and has "The Publicist" never heard about price control?

We have neither the time nor the inclination to wade through any more of this trash, but, in conclusion, we quote the following gem: "A second way of financing war effort is the raising of war loans to meet the increased expenditure of the Government. The money thus transferred to the Government reduces the public's demand for consumable goods, and at the same time increases the Government's capacity to command the commodities and personal services it requires to prosecute its programme."

If the writer of this article knew the first thing about finance he would know that the bulk of war loans is subscribed (created) by the banks at practically no cost to themselves. He goes on to say: "The total cost of the war effort is reflected in the national debt, which tempts many people to believe that the war is paid for, not by the generation that wages it, but by those who inherit the debt. That, however, is not the case. The method employed to collect the Government's funds cannot alter the fact that there is a loss of civil production equal to the amount of the defence expenditure, and that living standards are reduced to that extent. But the decline of expenditure is concentrated among those from whom the Government borrows, and those engaged in the industries that would normally supply the lenders' wants. In return for their self-denial during wartime, the lenders to the Government acquire a right

## U.E.A.

### LECTURES.

The usual weekly lecture took place at the Christian Club, Albany Court, Collins-street, on Tuesday night, when Mr. L. G. De-Garis ably outlined his "vice currency proposals."

New faces were seen despite the electioneering attractions. Mr. A. White, who presented the social reform idea, is an interesting man, and will be the speaker next Tuesday. Come along and bring your friends.

### ELECTION MEETINGS.

As well as using political meetings for publicity purposes by way of questions, supporters are asked to get very busy organising local meetings. Carnegie supporters have given lead, and have asked all candidates to appear and submit to questions from the audience.

The Frankston Group are also very busy on this idea—it is an excellent suggestion, which Headquarters recommend, and, if required, speakers may be obtained from Headquarters.

## Financing Defence in U.S.A.

Addressing the House of Representatives on national defence, Congressman Jerry Voorhis, of California, called for the outright purchase of the 12 central Federal Reserve Banks by the Government.

"In my humble judgment," he said, "the most fundamental measure of national defence that could be taken would be for us to cut loose from our present insistence that this sovereign nation must pay interest on its own credit."

He stated that the new defence expenditures would bring needless debt. He asked for the passage of H.R. 8209, a Bill providing for the purchase of the Federal Reserve System by the Government.

"I think we need to learn what national credit means. I think we need to learn what money and credit actually are in an economy of expanding production, and learn to base that money and credit on production as it expands."

to future income, and therefore to future spending, and the rest of the community meets these interest claims through the taxation system. Thus, while the community in general still pays for the war while it is being conducted, borrowing alters the incidence of that burden, and leaves a legacy of debt, which affects the distribution of the national income in future years." This stuff comes from those who desire to lead us! Need we comment any further?

## Eric Butler's Meetings

Last Tuesday night Eric Butler addressed a very successful gathering at Armadale. This meeting was arranged by the Baptist Fellowship.

Eric left the following morning for the Wimmera. He was to speak at Horsham on Wednesday, Nhill Thursday, and Warracknabeal tonight (Friday). Reports of these meetings will appear in our next issue; also Minyip meeting, to take place next Monday.

After returning to Melbourne on Tuesday, he will leave on Wednesday morning for the big rally at Kyabram, arranged by Mr. R. C. Caldecott for Thursday, September 19.

## Menzies as a Socialist

We have often contended that there is no fundamental difference between the aims of the financiers and the Communists. Although we have often stated that financial interests have been progressively introducing socialism, it was rather a shock to read that a U.A.P. candidate for the forthcoming elections admits this. According to a report in the Melbourne "Age" of Saturday, September 7, Mr. F. L. Edmunds, U.A.P. candidate for Yarra, was badly heckled. One questioner asked him about boards. He replied: "The Labor man is the last that should attack boards. Boards mean pure Socialism, and Mr. Menzies is the biggest Socialist in the country."

## DR. JOHN DALE Independent Candidate for Kooyong

WILL ADDRESS MEETINGS AS FOLLOW:

Thursday, Sept. 12, Rechabite Hall, Canterbury-road, Surrey Hills.

Monday, Sept. 16, Recreation Hall, Wellington Street, Kew.

Wednesday, Sept. 18, Hartwell Presbyterian Church Hall (cr. Eddy and Halley-streets, South Camberwell).

Thursday, Sept. 19, Le Leu Hall, 395 Whitehorse-road, Balwyn.

HELPERS WANTED at Central Committee Rooms, 55 Riversdale-road, Camberwell Junction. Phone: WF 1640.

—Authorised by J. McKellar, J.P., Campaign Director. Phone: Win. 2992.

—Advertisement.

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Published every Friday by New Times Ltd., McEwan House, Elizabeth and Little Collins Street, Melbourne, C.I. Postal Address: Box 1226 G.P.O., Melbourne. Telephone: MU2834.

Vol. 6. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1940. No. 87.

## The Truth Will Out

We have often pointed out how the war effort is being controlled by people with financial minds rather than engineering minds. The Big Bankers are determined that, war or no war, they are going to maintain their financial domination of the entire community; here as elsewhere. Until quite recently, other newspapers—particularly the dailies, of course—have been very reticent about admitting that the banks restrict the war effort; but now the truth is leaking out—even through some dailies! On August 9 we quoted striking local evidence from the Melbourne "Age." In the Melbourne "Herald" of last Saturday, the following report appeared:

"U.K. Banks Accused of Pressing Clients. London, Friday, — The newspapers are indignantly campaigning against the high-handed manner in which local branch managers of banks are pressing small clients with overdrafts to sell out industrials at present levels, because 'they will go lower,' and to reduce their overdrafts . . . Some shares have been sold at ridiculous levels. The 'Daily Mail's' City Editor says that he is receiving many surprising accusations of the bullying tactics adopted by branches, and instances individual cases. He asks whether the banks' attitude is proper because, under the Defence Regulations, a bank cannot foreclose on a borrower without the Court's permission."

This treacherous policy is being pursued while every man, woman and child is in the front line of the Battle for Britain! The banks won't allow a **real** maximum effort; partly because they are determined that only the big finance-controlled monopolies shall get contracts. So, the **smaller** firms are being crushed. By the same token **hundreds of thousands** of workers are **still** unemployed in Britain.

These facts are beginning to be publicly recognised all over the British Empire and are beginning to cause considerable agitation in the British House of Commons itself. Major Milner, speaking on the matter in the House of Commons recently, said: "Apparently these contracts have been largely restricted to specified firms. In my city of Leeds, there are extremely efficient contractors in every direction who have never had an opportunity and there are many others in this country who have written and interviewed every department of Government, every department of the War Office, and every commander of the War Office, but they have never had a contract."

There is no disputing the superb courage of the British people—in a living hell with death raining from the air. They clearly recognise the enemy in **front** and tell him to "come on." The time is not far distant when they will **also** clearly recognise the enemy in the **rear**. The same initiative and courage which will hurl back the Nazi onslaught, financial domination or not, will also sweep from illegitimate power the international banksters and their puppets, who, be it remembered, have aided and abetted Hitler and other power-crazed political gangsters.

The call goes out today for every real Australian to "hang on." Don't get excited and lose perspective in the atmosphere created by the elections. Keep your eye on the real goal and continue to press home the attack relentlessly and tenaciously. **The truth will out.**

## SHIRKING OR SHIPBUILDING?

"Sydney, Tuesday. —The Premier upon the Federal Government. (Mr. Mair) said tonight that Three other State Parliaments prospects for an early re-opening of Walsh Island dockyard, Newcastle, urging that such finance be made were not bright The State Government available from the National credit, would not shirk its responsibilities, but the proper limit to which is set he considered shipbuilding essentially only by the enormous actual and a Commonwealth matter. A factor potential REAL WEALTH of Australia. So far, the Government of missing was the necessary finance." New South Wales has failed to —News item, last week.

Another factor missing is FAIR PLAY. If the N.S.W. State Government is determined not to shirk its responsibilities, it will immediately bring pressure to bear upon the Federal Government. Three other State Parliaments have already passed resolutions, urging that such finance be made available from the National credit, the proper limit to which is set only by the enormous actual and potential REAL WEALTH of Australia. So far, the Government of New South Wales has failed to fall into line with the growing body of public opinion on this vital question. Mr. (night?) Mair might make a note of this.

—"Scissors."

## The Need of King and Country

By "THE WALRUS."

The other day, I was surprised to meet an acquaintance who I thought was busy earning ribbons for his chest on the other side. "Well, it's nice to see you," I welcomed him. "How long have you been back? Is Bass's ale still the fortifying draught it ever was? Can you still buy a 'baby's head'—otherwise steak and kidney pudding—at the good old 'Cheshire Cheese'? Come along; we must go somewhere and talk this over."

And I led him to one of those rare places where you can sit in peace and comfort and discuss the amber. It was then that I noticed he was regarding me with a reproachful mixture of sorrow and scorn.

"What's up?" I demanded in concern. "Something radically wrong?" "I'll say there is," he replied bitterly. "Perhaps I'd better tell you the lot." **This was it:**

It's about a year since I first responded to the call of King and Country. Everything at the recruiting office looked easy and business-like on the face of it: just as I had imagined it in fact. "Where were you born? When were you born? Why were you born? Have you ever suffered from any of about 196 disgusting diseases? Have you any relatives, and if not, do you think they would have suffered from them if you had?" Then came the birthday-suit ballet, which in my case revealed the horrific discovery that I couldn't make the requisite five feet six inches. A couple of decent corns on the soles of my feet and I'd have made it. But they would have none of me. I was advised to wait until such time as the supply of outsizes had eased off.

Some time after, you will remember, the floodgates were opened to the Lilliputians; the medium standard was reduced to five feet. Hopefully, I rolled up again.

"Sorry!" explained the dentist. "Several of your teeth will have to be removed, and when they have been you will not, of course, have sufficient teeth to comply with the regulations. A plate will have to be made, and that will mean a delay of a few months. Bad luck! Next, please." So, in the words of Norman Long, "I had to go and draw another pound out."

My blood was up by this time and I lived for the day when I should inherit my denture. As soon as I did I bowled up again for the bare skin ballet. I can tell by your sympathetic phiz that you are already on the trail, but, brother, you exaggerate. It was not cancer. It was simply an inguinal thimble. Beats me how they found it. I didn't know it was there myself. "Only a matter of another week or two," I was encouragingly assured. So off I went for the double operation on my person and my savings bank account.

The time came when I presented myself again, though the first fine, careless rapture had passed. If anyone had asked me I'd have said that King and Country were a thought finicky and more than a thought Yiddish in their aim at perfection. But you know how it is. I had got to the point when I would have converted myself into a platinum blonde if that would have helped.

I had by this time grown so accustomed to being overhauled that I was quite nippy in displaying my working parts. To say that finally I was in the pink would be a casual slight to my faultlessness. Naturally I passed. The army couldn't sort of believe it. It seemed to think there ought to be a catch somewhere. Needless to say, there was. When it was revealed, nobody could grasp how I had been allowed to get so far in my audacious gate crashing. You see, when asked my occupation, I didn't like to say I was flat broke; moreover, most of the things I could do seemed so pussy when viewed in cold blood. For instance, if I had said I was the greatest unpublished poet in the Commonwealth it wouldn't have looked any better than the description of

myself as a cowboy with a taste for metaphysics, and, anyway, the point about occupation is what you are paid for, as I believe Sam Weller pointed out. Well, the most recent thing involving finance, which had happened to me, was that which made me a grazier—a bankrupt one, alas! So I said, "grazier." And that gave the army its chance. A chappie they called a Man Power officer shook his head at me in triumphant sadness, "Your King and Country don't need you, my boy—not in the army."

"But my creditors have pinched the lot," I pointed out.

"Can't help it. These papers say you are a grazier, and I can't accept a grazier."

I felt an ass. And I felt like wishing I was the sort of ass that could go back to graze. But I didn't give in. "There must be some way for a fit man without a job to beat these blokes," I told myself. So up I went again.

I was so efficient at the ballet and the eye test by this time that the doctors decided I was a suspicious character and made me do all sorts of other things. They did their darnedest to catch me. But they couldn't, of course. They hated themselves and me, but they just had to pass me. What was my occupation this time? Sorry! I ought to have told you. I thought up what I reckoned was a good one, and put myself as a "hot-cross-bun" maker. I reckoned that a maker of buns that were only required once a year ought to give the Man Power bloke a headache. But I was the one who needed the AP.C. after all. The only doubt in the enemy's mind was whether I should be classed as a baker or a pastry cook. "But," he consoled himself, "it didn't matter, anyhow. I was out either way." Did I chuck it? I did not.

At the risk of being recognised in every recruiting depot in Queensland I showed up again, but not before I'd done a bit of thinking. "What is it," I asked myself, "that nobody wants?" And, like a flash, the answer came. "A gentleman!" Why didn't I think of it before?

I scored at last. But, alas! It was a hollow victory. The army had the last word. I'd forgotten that.

"Enlistment suspended until further notice!" I was informed.

You'd think my cup was full, wouldn't you? Which only shows how lacking in imagination you are. Wait till I show you what I got today. There it is. The army now wants to know in what circumstances I failed to report as a conscript. Can you beat it?

Well, let's have another. It may be the last time we shall see each other. It's quite on the cards I shall be shot as a spy, for I can't believe I'm fated to get into the army.

## SITUATION WANTED.

Reliable Tractor Drivers, Teamsters, Milkmen, Fern Cutters, M. Couples waiting. —WILLIAMS' BUREAU, 440 Flinders-street, Melbourne. Phone: MU3423.

## "SOUND FINANCE" ATTACKS ERIC BUTLER AGAIN

### SUBVERSIVE EFFECT ON PUBLIC ALLEGED!

Having failed to accept Eric Butler's recent challenge to a public debate, we thought that "Sound Finance" had resorted to its original weapon against financial reform by completely ignoring the subject.

However, apparently Eric Butler's second booklet, "The World Government Plot Exposed," has, like his first booklet, proved too much for the bankers' apologists. In passing, we might mention that we have good reason to believe that their first article, which was so widely circulated throughout Australia, was written by no less a person than Mr. McConnell, economic advisor to the Bank of New South Wales.

Since this article, Mr. Adams, secretary of the Sound Finance Association of Victoria, has been speaking in different centres where Eric Butler had previously spoken; which seems to indicate that Mr. Adams is very worried. "Sound Finance" has another article out now, and already it has appeared in several Victorian country newspapers. It deals with Eric Butler's second booklet, which it alleges will "have a subversive effect upon the minds of the people who have neither the knowledge nor the means of proving it." Apparently the writer of this article—is the author Mr. McConnell?—has that knowledge. Eric Butler only asks that he come forward and meet him in public discussion. Failing this, there is only one obvious conclusion.

Most of the article makes a great point about the "Jewish problem," particularly "The Protocols." After alleging that the book is based on "The Protocols," which is simply untrue, the writer goes on to deal with the alleged discovery of fraud, etc., concerning those documents.

Eric Butler has stated that he is not concerned whether the documents are forgeries or not; the fact cannot be ignored that events today

are developing with uncanny accuracy along the lines indicated in "The Protocols."

However, we would refer "Sound Finance" to some documents which no one can suggest are forgeries. These were first surreptitiously circulated by the Political and Economic Planning Group in Britain in 1931. International financiers were concerned with the formation of this sinister organisation, which laid down a complete plan for the "sovietisation" of primary industries throughout the British Empire, under the guise of "planning." The chairman of P.E.P. is Mr. Israel Moses, Sieff, a prominent Zionist.

Since 1931 this plan has been progressively introduced in British countries. The introduction of boards into this country is an ominous sign. We cannot waste valuable space in dealing with all the nonsense emanating from "Sound Finance"; we only wish that some of our opponents would show sufficient stomach to come out in the open, instead of skulking behind a cloak of anonymity. However, we do thank them for their valuable publicity concerning Eric Butler's second booklet, which, like the first, is having an excellent sale.

## WATCH "THE WATCHMAN"

Last Friday evening, September 6, Mr. E. A. Mann, better known as "The Watchman," opened his election campaign as an "Independent" for the Flinders electorate. He addressed one of the largest political meetings ever held in Dandenong; and, in view of what took place at this meeting, we have no hesitation in saying that his entry into Federal politics would be no asset to this country.

No effort should be spared to defeat an individual who has utilised his position as a radio commentator to propagate views, which are detrimental to the progress, and, indeed, the maintenance, of British culture and democracy. He has been a violent opponent of any suggestion of monetary reform; while he has advocated "Federal Union," which would hand over the British Empire to a world Government.

His address was one of the most sarcastic and negative speeches we have ever had the misfortune to hear. The only positive statement made was the advocacy of a National Government. However, it was his attitude at question time, which revealed a mentality, which, we would suggest, is completely out of place in a British community. It is the first time that we have ever heard of a political candidate blandly refusing, point blank, to answer a question. Apart from this, his tone was most arrogant and abusive. Most of the

### Queensland Electoral Campaign

A PUBLIC MEETING will be held on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, at 7.46 p.m., in the BUILDERS' EXCHANGE ROOMS, 28 Wharf-street, Brisbane, to CONSIDER FUTURE ACTIVITIES.

A good roll up is desired.

questions were obviously asked by monetary reformers.

In answer to a question as to whether he would obey the clearly expressed will of the electors, he rejected this proposition; would not agree that he would be the paid servant of the people, and went on to say that he would mould the opinions of his electors by giving them proper leadership. Shades of Hitler! After one question concerning finance, he sarcastically said, "That was a nice little speech," and sat down without even attempting to answer the question. One particular question seemed to annoy Mr. Mann very much. An extract from "Hansard" was read out which reported that a Mr. E. A. Mann, Nationalist member in the West Australian Parliament in 1926, said that the White Australia policy would have to be reviewed and possibly abolished by international law. The questioner asked whether the Mr. E. A. Mann who advocated this action in 1926 was the same Mr. E. A. Mann on the platform as an "Independent." Mr. Mann refused to answer and got rather heated.

After several more questions, Mr. Mann said that he would allow no more questions from three particular people whom, he said, were asking him "trick" questions to trap him.

Let us take this opportunity of placing on record our considered opinion that it will be most unfortunate for Australian democracy if Mr. E. A. Mann enters the Federal House. Every effort should be made to defeat him.

## THE RUSSIAN ARMY

The following extracts are taken from an article in the "Saturday Evening Post" of June 1, by W. G. Krivitski, the former General and Intelligence Officer of the Russian Army, who escaped the "purge" in 1937 by taking refuge in Paris:

"After the Treaty of Versailles, the officers of the dissolved Imperial German army began attempting to rebuild Germany's military might. They turned to the one important European Power equally hostile to the Versailles system. The Bolsheviks always regarded the new States in Central Europe—the Baltic Republics, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and expanded Roumania—as a ring of Anglo-French vassals, ready at any time to be turned against either Russia or Germany.

"When the Red Army was advancing on Warsaw in the summer of 1920, Lenin, anticipating a revolution in Germany, believed that he could win the officers of the old Reichswehr under the slogan of "War Against Versailles." General Hans van Seeckt, commander in chief of the new "Republican" Reichswehr, entered into secret negotiations with Kopp, the Soviet Ambassador, and conferred with Shipik, our secret military attaché, who later worked for me in the Intelligence Department. General von Seeckt also believed that the Reichswehr and the Red Army could unite."

On that occasion, however, Russia was driven back.

"During the following year, a number of officers of the German Army were sent to Moscow on false passports by von Seeckt. His chief representative was Major Oskar von Niedermayer. Under the terms of the peace treaty, Germany was not permitted to maintain military missions abroad and von Niedermayer was officially listed as having retired from the army in January, 1922. Actually he was the secret military attaché in Russia, and chief liaison man between the two armies for many years after his retirement. He was to become so closely bound by ties of friendship to the officers' corps of the Red army that we used to say, 'Von Neidermayer will soon enter one of our army political schools.'

"Early in 1922 the Reichwehr, the Junkers aircraft concern, and the Soviet Government concluded a secret agreement authorising Junkers to build a factory in Fili, a village near Moscow. This was to be financed partly by the Reichwehr, partly by the Soviet Government. In an agreement, signed in Berlin on March 15, 1922, the Reichwehr was called the 'Special Group,' the Junkers concern was designated 'N.N.' the Soviet Government 'R.R.', and the aeroplanes were dubbed 'boxes.' The planes were to be for the German army, which was not permitted to maintain an air force, and for the Red army.

"In 1924, I was operating in

Breslau, Germany, the centre of Reichswehr Intelligence for Poland. On instructions from Moscow, my aide established contact with the chief of the Reichswehr Intelligence. Thereafter our two organisations regularly exchanged information obtained by our agents in Poland. . . . This type of co-operation was part of the day-to-day life of the Reichswehr and the Red army.

"To supplement courses at the Red army academies, the General Staff annually sent groups of twenty to thirty officers of upper rank to study in Germany. A number of my colleagues were still in German military institutions nearly two years after Hitler came to power. The first crisis between the Red army and the Reichswehr came in 1926. Whatever lingering hopes we had of a Communist revolution in Germany were now dead. Our influence in Germany was negligible, but Germany's influence over Soviet Russia was mounting steadily. Opinion in the Politbureau was seriously divided. Some Soviet leaders were beginning to believe that Germany, once in the saddle, would never become the subordinate partner. It was at this time that Radek repeated to me a significant remark made by Trotsky, 'Our foreign policy is formulated in the Wilhelmstrasse.'

"Although Hitler's avowed hatred of Soviet Russia was known to everyone, the Reichswehr did not change its course when he became Chancellor . . .

"At first I could not fathom Stalin's attitude. But it was at this time, in the spring of 1937, that the foundations of his partnership with Hitler was established. Stalin was careful to put no obstacles in the path of its realisation. A new chapter was beginning—for the first time Russo-German collaboration was to go far beyond the ties between the Reichswehr and the Red army.

"Shortly after my return to the Hague, on May 27, 1937, came the first moves to wipe out the high command of the Red army, destroy more than half of the commanders of the rank of colonel and higher, and liquidate in all approximately 35,000 officers.

"When the OGPU, with the aid of the Gestapo, had finished its work, all the outstanding talent in the General Staff was destroyed. All that the military academies had achieved in twenty years was wiped out. The prospect that the Red army might have developed into a fighting force to assume a position independent of German influence was set back for many years."

## MOTORIST CANDIDATE A. J. AMESS (INDEPENDENT) FOR FLINDERS

TONIGHT, FRIDAY, 13th: Frankston Mechanics', 8 p.m.  
SATURDAY, 14th: Probably 3DB, 8 p.m.  
SUNDAY, 15th: Mornington Post Office, 11 a.m.  
Hastings Pier, 2.30 p.m.  
MONDAY, 16th: Bellbird Cafe, Belgrave, 8 p.m.  
THURSDAY, 19th: Warragul Markets, 3 p.m.  
3UL Warragul, 8 p.m.  
FRIDAY, 20th: Mentone Street Meeting, 8 p.m.

BENTLEIGH HALL, BENTLEIGH  
Tuesday, September 17, 8 p.m.

SPEAKERS: S. J. Thomas and F. C. Paice.

—Advertisement

# Will Democracy Survive?

## THE STATE AND THE INDIVIDUAL

By ERIC D. BUTLER

(Continued from Last Issue.)

**When dealing with the subject of Democracy it is essential that we clearly understand the proper relationship of the State to the Individual. The "trend" today is towards complete domination of the Individual by the State. The war has accentuated this "trend."**

One leading British sociologist has said: "Instead, then, of endeavouring to impose some abstract and immature organisation upon nations and upon the world, the first step would appear to be to examine the nature of nations. The first fact, which seems incontestable about nations, is that they are collections of human beings. Human beings can exist quite comfortably without nations, or States, but nations or States cannot exist without human beings."

The only social philosophy, which will allow the individual to attain his fullest development, is that which religiously upholds the importance of the individual. This being the case, any system, whether it be economic or otherwise, which hinders the individual from obtaining happiness, must be altered, because systems are made for men—not men for systems.

Those persons who are always telling us that the people don't know what is good for themselves are upholding a philosophy which has always prevailed in varying degrees, but is now reaching its logical conclusions in modern society—which is fast becoming so centralised that individuals are slaves to such abstract gods as National Efficiency, The Nation and The State. Some people desire the present conflict to finish with a Super-World State—Federal Union. This distinct "trend" is disturbing, and must be faced. As Tagore, the Indian philosopher, says: "The time has come when, for the sake of the whole outraged world, Europe should fully know in her own person the terrible absurdity of the thing called the Nation. The Nation has thriven long upon mutilated humanity. Men, the fairest creations of God, came out of the National Manufactory in huge numbers as war-making and money-making puppets, ludicrously vain of their pitiful perfection of mechanism. Human society grew more and more into a marionette show of politicians, soldiers, manufacturers and bureaucrats, pulled by wire arrangements of wonderful efficiency." That the individual, both physically and mentally, is being subjugated, needs no substantiation. The principles of true democratic government, if applied, would reverse this position to one in which every individual would be his own dictator.

### TWO CONFLICTING SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT

Most of the history of the social development of the human race can be written around the two conflicting schools of thought, which have been mentioned above. Dating from the time of the Sophists of the early Greek civilisation, who were opposed to the authoritarian doctrine, the school of thought, which has been opposed to all forms of centralisation and their consequent evils, has found expression in many reform movements during the centuries, and is now finding its strongest expression in all "New Economic" thought. On the other hand, those who admire the virtue, so-called, of these things called National Efficiency, etc., have had their strong advocates from the time of Plato, who, in the eighth and ninth books of his "Republic," launched a vigorous attack upon what he termed the inefficiency of democracy. And so, down the ages, the conflict has raged until, with the growth and monopoly of credit power, the enslavement of the individual has been carried to such a pitch that the forces of liberty have been hard pushed to keep alight the small spark of democracy. "Hitlerism" is the very embodiment of this pernicious philosophy. The outstanding problem, which confronts society at the present time, is to save the individual from enslavement, whether it be to power-crazed political gangsters; abstractions, such as "The State," or the financial system.

What is needed at the present time is a greater consciousness of the natural relationship between the individual and his institutions. If that can be obtained, quite a lot of tyranny from which man suffers today will pass away, and we will recognise that the advice, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath," was not mere sentimentalism, but a brilliant maxim of social and political organisation.

Here are two relevant quotations that should be noted. The first is from "The Soul of Man Under Socialism," by Oscar Wilde. He wrote: "Individualism, then, is what . . . we are to attain. As a natural result the State must give up all idea of government. It must give it up because, as a wise man once said many centuries before Christ, there is such a thing as leaving mankind alone; there is no such thing as governing mankind . . . authority is quite degrading. It degrades those who exercise it, and it degrades those over whom it is exercised. When it is violently, grossly, and cruelly used, it produces a good effect, by creating, or at any rate, bringing out, the spirit of revolt and Individualism that is to kill it."

### "MAN DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE"

The second quotation is from an article in the Halifax (Nova Scotia) "Chronicle": "The world seems to be rapidly dividing into two opposing groups, those who believe in the democratic way of life and those who believe in the totalitarian way. Behind those two opposing beliefs lie two conflicting ideas concerning man and his nature. One group believes that "Man does not live by bread alone." The other believes that he does. One sees man as a spiritual being and the other denies the whole spiritual background of life and looks upon it as of entirely material origin.

"Both Nazism and Communism look at life from a purely materialistic basis. Human beings are mere pawns in the economic game. Life is a matter of mechanics, and a perfect society is a perfect machine, designed and made by a little coterie of super-men, who call themselves the State. Individuals are mere cogs' in that machine. If individuals or groups of individuals do not fit into the society devised, then the State must step in and, with the impersonality of a surgeon wielding his knife, excise them from the body politic. They call it liquidating' or 'purging.' But it has not been done with the cold impersonality of

a surgeon. It has been done rather with the deliberate cruelty of a gangster exercising his sadistic power and impulse. It is doubtful if any blacker pages of history have been written than those of the last few years, which have seen the doctrines of materialism taking the shape of totalitarian States, with their claims to absolute control over the entire life of the individual. Any system which begins successfully to use man as a means rather than an end becomes a Juggernaut crushing out of life all human freedom and value.

"The fundamental error of these 'systems' is their denial of the truth that, 'man does not live by bread alone.' His origin is more than biological, and his needs are more than material. He cherishes ideals and visions in preference to bread. Such men do not dream of a world of static perfection, but of an evolving, expanding world, in which human personality is attaining ever new reaches of freedom and fulfilment. In regard to the State and all other institutions, they assert the great principle laid down 1900 years ago in the words, 'The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.' In the days when those words were spoken religion had made ritual requirement take precedence over human need. As a result, religion had become soulless and inhuman. Likewise, when the State becomes absolute, it becomes merciless and intolerant."

## ELECTORS' GUIDE—WHO'S WHO?

**In order to assist electors to determine which candidates are prepared to truly represent the wishes of the electors, the United Electors of Australia (U.E.A.) has sent the following "Undertaking Form" to all Victorian candidates, irrespective of Parties. The names of the candidates who have signed are given below. Some candidates have not replied. However, a complete list will be published next week.**

### UNDERTAKING FORM SENT TO CANDIDATES:

The Secretary,  
"United Electors of Australia,"  
McEwan House, Little  
Collins-street,  
MELBOURNE.

"Dear Sir, —  
"I have your letter of the .....  
and wish to inform you that I quite agree with the contention that Members of Parliament are there for the express purpose of giving effect to the WILL of the People.

"This being so, I have no hesitation in undertaking to give effect to the wishes of the majority of electors for the Federal Division of ..... as manifested by them and conveyed to me as a Member of Parliament; provided only that the carrying-out of such wishes is physically and constitutionally possible.

"Yours faithfully,

(To be signed.)

The following candidates have signed the Undertaking unconditionally:

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

**BALACLAVA:** Sandford, C. W. (Lab.); Moffatt, H. V. (Ind.).

**DEAKIN:** McCallum, C. F. (Ind.).

**FLINDERS:** Amess, A. J. (Ind.); Ryan, R. S. (U.A.P.); Lee, T. F. (Lab.).

**GIPPSLAND:** Bowden, Geo. (U.C.P.).

**HENTY:** Thomas, S. J. (Ind.); Haywood, Dr. A. R. (Lab.); Riley, E. G. R. (Ind.).

**INDI:** Devlin, J. J. P. (Lab.).

**KOOYONG:** Dale, Dr. J. (Ind.).

**MELBOURNE PORTS:** Holloway, E. J. (Lab.).

**WANNON:** Crawford, J. (Ind.); Potts, J. J. (Ind.).

## IN BRITAIN'S PARLIAMENT

### 'NO HOPE' AND 'NO, SIR'

When Mr. De la Bere, on July 3, asked the Prime Minister if he would find time for the following motion, Mr. Attlee replied that he could hold out no hope:

"That this House notes with grave concern the reluctance on the part of the farmers to employ the services of additional labour now available for work on the farms, and attributes this reluctance to the fact that farmers do not know the prices they will receive for their produce and are, therefore, unwilling to incur additional expense, and in many cases to increase their indebtedness to the banks without some clearly-defined statement from the Government in regard to the prices to be paid for all produce from the farms; is fully aware of the Government's assurance that prices will cover all increased expenses, but feels that this assurance should now be expressed in some tangible, concrete, and crystallised form."

Mr. De la Bere, on July 4, asked the Minister of Agriculture whether, in connection with the new prices for farm produce and the provision and extension of essential credit facilities by the banks, he 'will confer with the bankers concerned with a view to the in-

terest charges on these advances and overdrafts not exceeding 3 per cent., in view of the present bank rate of 2 per cent., and the need to obtain the maximum output from the farms?

Mr. R. S. Hudson (Minister of Agriculture): "No, Sir."

Mr De la Bere: "Will my right hon. Friend confer with the Chancellor of the Exchequer? Does he not realise that this question of charges by the banks of 5 per cent, on overdrafts is one on which some concession must be made? It is quite useless to give this sort of answer, and in view of the thoroughly unsatisfactory nature of that reply I shall raise the matter at the earliest possible moment on the Motion for the Adjournment. It is an absolute scandal."

### Election Comment

Responsibility for all political comment in this publication (including issue dated September 6, 1940), is accepted by H. F. Allsop, 5th Floor, McEwan House, Melbourne, C.I.

## BEASLEY'S POLICY SPEECH

(Continued from page 1.)

for the purposes for which they were specially sent abroad.

### TESTING MINISTER'S CLAIMS

"The Government was defended by Sir Frederick Stewart when the charges of bungling and incompetence were levelled, and on the floor of the House he was pressed to grant a permit of inspection to my colleagues and myself so that we could test the accuracy of the Minister's claims. Only with the greatest difficulty could I get the permit for inspection. Even then, the Minister, Sir Frederick Stewart, staged an official inspection for the purpose of lulling the public into the belief that everything was all right. During the course of this official inspection, any member of the Inspection Party who had had workshop experience could not be deceived, because, in many cases, the machines were only being "run in," and others that were idle had not been 'lined up' and 'bedded in.'

"The most glaring example of stage setting took place at Eveleigh Workshops. Upon the arrival of the inspection party, the place was a hive of industry, machines were running and many men appeared to be actively engaged in production.

"Fifteen minutes after the party had left, I returned unnoticed to this annexe and found several machines had stopped and a number of the men were missing. Subsequently, it was learned that the machines had been worked over the week by the transfer, temporarily, of a number of hands from other sections of the workshop. This had been arranged in order to provide a display of shell cases on the floor and general activity all round. In another case, in Marrickville, the annexe was busy on the day of inspection, but when we returned a month later, it was idle.

"In regard to aircraft construction, it was found that the buildings at Mascot for assembling purposes were not complete, much less equipped, and the same conditions prevailed at the Chullora Railways Workshops. During the course of a short address delivered by Mr. J. Storey, Assistant Aircraft Construction Director, it was disclosed that the required number of jigs and tools for the manufacture of this aircraft was not available from overseas, and the same applied to

the necessary requirements of raw materials, particularly aluminium. When Mr. Storey was questioned as to whether this would affect the programme originally disclosed by the Government, he admitted that it would, but that they hoped to be able to get aluminium—although there was no guarantee—and that they would now have to make the tools and jigs in Australia. In connection with sample supplies of Bristol Beauforts from overseas, it was admitted during the inspections that several parts were missing.

### "A DEAD HAND"

"It must be here declared that in every case I found keenness and anxiety on the part of the executives and workers to get on the job, but the authority on top hung like a dead hand over everything. In connection with the manufacture of the Bristol Beaufort, the Government was aware almost from the beginning that the engine would have to be manufactured in Australia. However, the building at Lidcombe for the manufacture of these engines is not yet complete, and, no doubt, difficulty will now arise in obtaining the necessary equipment and machinery. These facts speak for themselves and provide the evidence of an appalling lack of organisation, drive, and determination to get on with the work, which means so much to Australia. Although these establishments are now swinging into production, the valuable time already lost cannot be regained. If the Government had exercised vision and initiative instead of simply making speeches and telling people what it was going to do, but rather had talked less and acted more, we all would have felt much happier about things at home today.

### WAR NOT THE ONLY PROBLEM

"The Commonwealth Government must recognise that, while the war is a major problem, it is not the only problem. We must succeed in this worldwide struggle in which we are involved against Nazi Germany and her Totalitarian allies, but we also must succeed, at the same time, in our own country in the task of insuring economic justice and security for the Australian people. Any Government that fails to recognise that principle is not worthy of the name, and this election provides, at the most important period in our his-

tory, an opportunity for the people to demand that not only must we win the war, but we must also make certain that the peace is not lost in a morass of debt, suffering and anxiety. We are arming soldiers to keep the enemy from despoiling our land and destroying our way of life. While we are doing so, we must be careful that we do not destroy it ourselves. The tragic depression that ravaged almost every home ten years ago was the direct result of the financial follies of the last war and the fallacies of the last reconstruction.

"Humanity was overwhelmed by the mountain of debt that was accumulated 25 years ago, and the stability for which we fought at Gallipoli, Flanders and other war zones was swept from under us over night. We cannot, therefore, afford, on this occasion, to think only in terms of post-war reconstruction. We must also turn our minds to wartime preservation. We cannot escape the fact that the last war added £370,000,000 to the public debt. We have to face the fact that we have since paid £352,000,000 in interest on that debt. This interest payment is almost double what we have paid in repatriation and war pensions to the men who did the fighting, and their dependents.

"That is the Old Order through which we have passed. It must not be allowed to return. That was the war in which the bondholders received in interest what the soldiers and their widows received in paltry pensions. But that is not the whole of the story. Because year by year we have had to pay a quota of that £352,000,000 of interest—we have been unable to pay for the things that were necessary to provide food, clothing and proper housing conditions for our people. The huge public works that would have provided thousands of workers, including the men who fought in the last war, and their sons, with employment have had to be neglected. The money that was necessary to stabilise our wheat, fruit, wine and other industries has been unavailable. We passed through a period when the wages of every man and woman were arbitrarily reduced, and their standards of living lowered. When the pensions paid to the aged and infirm people were cut down by a miserable half-crown, and even the pensions to the widows of the men who died for the safety of Australia were likewise arbitrarily reduced. We passed through the valley of depression, but all the time that interest on our war debt had to be paid.

### MONEY MUST SERVE—NOT RULE

"The time has come to declare that money was made to serve the community, and not to rule it. Every road that has to be built, every bridge that has to be strengthened, every water scheme necessary to the health and well-being of the people—have they all to wait until somebody says that he will release enough paper money at 3½ per cent, to enable them to be built? Has every farmer to face bankruptcy, has every orchardist to abandon his property, has every small business to go to the wall because some mysterious figures that pull the money strings declare that they will release enough 3½ per cent, money to buy guns, but that they will not release sufficient to buy security for the people? In this State alone, practically 50,000 men have enlisted in the various military and militia services of the Commonwealth. A number of factories have increased their output and provided more employment. And yet, between March and June, 5000 additional breadwinners were driven to the dole. This amazing paradox alone shows the ingenuity with which the monetary control is being manipulated to batter down the living conditions of the people under the policy of the Menzies Government. Obviously, this Government, in the words of the London 'Times,' has a war policy and nothing else. But something else is required, and to get it, we must take steps to see that the dictatorship of the three-and-a-quarter-per-cent is ended. Five years ago the Government set up a Royal Commission on the banking and monetary system. Its report was never even discussed in Parliament. It was buried, and the reason it was buried was because it contained enough political dynamite to blow the established dictatorship of the money trust to smithereens. In Section 504 of its report, the Royal Commission stated that, because of the powers it possesses as a central bank, the Commonwealth Bank, among other things, can lend money to the Governments and to others in a variety of ways, and can even make money available to Governments and to others free of charge. When the secretary of the Commission, Mr. Harris, was requested to comment on this section, he stated: 'This section means that the Commonwealth Bank can make money available to Governments or to others on such terms as it chooses, either by way of loan without interest or even without requiring interest or repayment of principal.' Either that section of the report

(Continued on page 8.)

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#### BEASLEY'S POLICY SPEECH

(Continued from page 7.)

means what it says, or it means nothing. Three weeks ago, the Federal Treasurer indicated that Australia's expenditure on the war during the present financial year would be £175,000,000. Of this amount, he said, about £30,000,000 will be spent abroad, and £145,000,000 will be spent in Australia. One half of the amount to be spent in Australia is to be raised by taxation. The balance is to be borrowed. In other words, it is to be added to the national debt, and 3¼ per cent, or more is to be paid on it year by year for years to come.

#### FOUNTAIN-PEN MONEY

"But when the Government appeals for that loan, it will not receive money. It will receive overdrafts that will be made available by the private banks either directly or through customers, who will lodge their bonds as security for the

overdrafts. In other words, £80,000,000 will be created out of nothing. It will be paid out to the soldiers, the contractors, and the suppliers of war materials, in the form of notes and cheques, each of which represents merely a promise to pay, the final responsibility for which must rest on the Commonwealth Government. If the private banks can make these advances, through an interest-bearing channel, why cannot the Commonwealth Bank make the advance directly to the Government, charging merely the clerical cost of the transaction? Why must the interest jackal be brought in as a middleman to charge what is virtually a brokerage on the community for using its own credit resources in carrying out its defence and war activities?

"The banks and the newspapers, however, will declare that it is sound finance when the private banks create the credit, but that it is inflation if the Commonwealth Bank should make the advance directly to the Government."

#### PARLIAMENTARY NOTES

(Continued from page 1.)

The motion was negatived by a Government majority of five, so the regulations still hold good—or bad, if you have to do an artisan's work on the minimum wage.

#### THE WORTH OF A MAN

A man who joins the army is fully aware that it won't be a parlour game for him. There will be sacrifices to be made, but what will his greatest sacrifice be worth? That, apparently, depends on the job he held before enlisting. The late Lance-Corporal H. W. Mulliner, who died in February, 1940, as a result of injuries sustained on military duty, only did odd jobs in civil life, so the Government wrote offering £50 to the aged parents as compensation for out-of-pocket expenses. Mr. Mulcahy (Lang) considered this "the crudest insult that has ever been offered to an Australian mother." He said: "The depression struck their home, and the father lost his employment. When the boy left school, he, like

thousands of others throughout Australia at that time, could find no place in industry. . . . Young Mulliner was a victim of the depression, which was created by the same financial forces that are now so readily finding millions with which to wage war. Mulliner had to leave school during that troubled period, and the fact that he was able to obtain only intermittent work was something over which he, and other children of the depression, had no control. . . . The letter (per P. A. McBride, Minister for the Army), says, in effect, that had young Mulliner lived he would have remained an intermittent worker for the rest of his days. Is that the best that the Commonwealth Government can offer the youth of Australia today? . . . If my memory serves me right, a worker in New South Wales is paid up to £100 for the loss of a finger. Therefore, in the estimation of the Commonwealth Government, young Mulliner's life was worth less than even a little finger."