

ON OTHER PAGES

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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. 48. MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, NOV. 29, 1940.

## Mr. Menzies— In "Love" and War

When the Menzies Government and the Labor Party recently agreed to form a joint National Advisory War Council, some few optimists hoped that this companionate marriage experiment would be speedily followed by a publication of the banns for a National Government union.

Very early, however, incompatibilities have revealed themselves, and at the moment it seems unlikely that the wedding bells will ring out their happy chimes. Recently, Mr. Menzies charged his prospective partner with "spilling the beans" and "talking too much altogether"; but the experiment seems to be doomed to crash, at the point where so many domestic unions have crashed—over the matter of finance.

### MARITAL FOREBODINGS

Miss (or is it Mrs.) Labor objects to carrying on the establishment with borrowed money, and says she "can't abide money-lenders and debts!" but Bob answers: "Why, dear, everybody, who is anybody, does it. We mustn't lose caste you know!"

Miss Labor asks: "But, however are we going to pay them off?"



Budget does not awaken taxpayers to the fact that we are at war, it will, at least, give them a rude awakening to the results of the orthodox financial system.

The Prime Minister recently said: "The people had to find the money for the war. They must subtract from their usual expenditure, their usual living, if they were to avoid inflation and ruin." This is cheerful news, indeed, to the 67 per cent. of Australia's population who already have to exist on £3 per week or less.

### MR. MENZIES' BOGEYMAN

In an effort to stem the rising tide of public opinion in favour of making provision for war requirements by means of non-interest-bearing credits from the Commonwealth Bank, Mr. Menzies resorts to his usual misrepresentation tactics, and trots out the inflation bogey. If, as a beginning, (Continued on page 8.)

And he replies: "We'll follow the rules of 'Sound Finance,' my dear, and borrow ourselves out of debt, just as the great Economists advise." "Well," says Miss Labor: "I'll think it over, but it doesn't seem to make sense to me. Just look at the interest we'll have to pay; —over a million pounds a week." "Try and not think about it, dear," says Bob; "never meet troubles half way!" That is how the matter seems to stand at present; but that the "tiff" has left some bitterness is shown by Mr. Menzies' reference, apparently to the Labor Party, as "monetary cranks" who would "write cheques on the sky."

### WHO GOT TO SKYLINE FIRST?

As the financial system to which the Prime Minister so slavishly clings has already plastered Australia's sky with cheques to the extent of some £1,400,000,000, there does not appear to be much space left there for anyone else to write. It seems curious, though, in view of Mr. Menzies' professed horror of anything but orthodox finance, that his budget proposals include a large loan from the Commonwealth Bank.

It will be interesting to note the reaction to the inclusion of this sop—or is it a face-saver for Labour? Time will show; the Party has fallen for less before.

### PUTTING ON THE SCREW

Whatever else it may do, if the

## INTERNATIONAL BACKGROUND

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

One of the most hopeful aspects of the present world-struggle is the growing recognition of the real enemies of democratic progress, as distinct from their tools. The general background of the conflict is becoming more apparent—particularly to the British peoples, who are bearing the main brunt of the attack on the democratic way of life. The broad strategy of International Finance, with its headquarters in Wall-street, New York, has been to provide a military aggressor in Europe, and then, under the cover of war emergency, to introduce "national socialism" in every British country as a prelude to absorbing the entire British Commonwealth of Nations into a system of "international socialism."

Russia, testing-ground for the type of socialism envisaged, is a vital factor in this intrigue. More and more commentators on international affairs are beginning to see that a long exhausting war in Europe, with Russia remaining neutral, may result in, the collapse of Western Europe and a flood of "Sovietism" from the East. International Finance hopes that the fighting forces and morale of the British people will be so shattered that they will not oppose the restoration of the international gold-standard, and the abandonment of their national rights to some International Government—"Federal Union."

Fortunately, it is now recognised by an increasing number of people that International Finance and International Communism seek similar (if not identical) objectives. "Sovietisation" is being rapidly intensified in Britain and other parts of the Empire by the big private bankers and their political puppets. Orthodox finance automatically hastens the process.

The Political and Economic Planning Group in Britain was

### PUBLIC OPINION TESTS

On August 14 Mr. Mander asked the Minister of Information whether he will consider the advisability of conducting a series of tests of public opinion in selected constituencies through their Members of Parliament, as an alternative or addition to methods at present employed?

Mr. Cooper: "I am always grateful for the co-operation of hon. Members, and if any hon. Member is prepared to give the necessary time to work of this kind, I shall be glad if he will communicate with me."

Mr. Mander: "Do I understand from the reply that if a sufficient number of Members send in their names, the right hon. Gentleman will be willing to put into operation a scheme of this kind?"

Mr. Cooper: "I will gladly go into it with any hon. Member who wishes to co-operate."

Mr. Lawson: "What is the need for these tests of public opinion? Why cannot the people be trusted?"

Commander Bower: "Is it not time we came to the conclusion

that the people of this country have guts."

### WARTIME SOCIAL SURVEY

On August 14 Captain Bellenger asked the Minister of Information whether questions on the inadequacy of, and manner of dealing with, applications for supplementary old age pensions have been, or will be included in the investigations of the social survey conducted by his Department?

Mr. Cooper: "No, Sir."

Captain Bellenger: "In view of the considerable information which is apparently in the possession of Members of Parliament on this subject, and which Members think ought to be brought to the notice of His Majesty's Government, will the right hon. Gentleman put some of these questions to his inquirers who are now going round to try and find out this information?"

Mr. Cooper: "This is a matter which concerns another Department of State, and I should not take any steps to interfere with its work."

Captain Bellenger: "On what basis are these social surveys carried out? Who sets the questions on which the people go round to find out information?"

Mr. Cooper: "All that was very fully explained in the statement which was made a fortnight ago, and I cannot go into the whole facts now."

Mr. G. Griffiths: "Is it not a fact that the Minister's "snoopers" would not get through one street a day if they were inquiring about old age pensions?"

Mr. Mander asked the Minister of Information whether he will make arrangements for hon. Members interested to have an opportunity of meeting the investigators in the employ of the War-time Social Survey?

Mr. Cooper: "As I have explained to the House, these investigators are not appointed by the Ministry of Information, but I should be glad to put the hon. Member in touch with the senior officials of the War-time Social Survey."

Mr. Mander: "Is that invitation extended to any Members of the House who may desire to meet them?"

Mr. Cooper: "Certainly."

### "SPEND LESS" AND UNEMPLOYMENT

On August 15 Mr. Craven-Ellis asked the Minister of Labour what is the approximate percentage of the 60,481 increase in the number of the unemployed for July attributable to the policy of restricting the sale of consumable goods; and why this restriction

(Continued on page 6.)

(Continued on page 7.)

## "WHAT OF PEACE?"

Broadcast from 7HO and 7LA on November 3, by the Electoral Campaign Speakers.

**B. —I notice that you frequently give expression to fears as to the nature of the peace that will follow this war. Don't you think it is yet a little early to think about peace?**

**J. —Nobody doubts that the war has to be won first; Nazism has to be crushed. But Nazism is not just Hitler. Hitler is a symbol or a tool, and the natural product of a foul disease.**

**B. —Removing the Kaiser did not remove Prussianism?**

**J. —Exactly.**

**B. —And removing Hitler will not necessarily remove Nazism?**

**J. — Not if the same kind of peace is forced on us after this war as was done after the last war.**

**B. —When the Kaiser was removed from Germany after the last war, why did Prussianism continue to grow? You would have thought that the Germans had had their fill of it.**

**J. — Prussianism, like German National Socialism, is not something people ask for; it is something they get thrust upon them by those who manage to get control over the nation's institutions.**

**B. —Prussianism, then is rule by gang - - is really glorified gangsterism on a large scale.**

**J. — The larger the scale the more "glorious" it becomes.**

**B. —But the last war was fought to break that up.**

**J. —Yes, but it didn't break it up.**

**B. —But why?**

**J. — Well, reason it out for yourself. After the last war what would have been the most obvious thing to do to ensure peace? Wouldn't it have been to break up the artificially created German empire into its original independent States? A man like Hitler can't do so much harm in charge of a small State as in charge of a great empire.**

**B. —Naturally, but why wasn't Germany broken up?**

**J. — Britain and France wanted that, but certain very powerful American interests were violently opposed to it, and so Germany remained just as before, ready for the next Great Leader to take hold of the helm of State and drive the empire on the rocks.**

**B. —And so you think something similar is going to happen all over again?**

**J. — Well, we know that certain powerful interests scattered round the world are not only keen on large empires, but are still keener on a combination of large empires.**

**B. —Controlled by themselves, of course.**

**J. —A sort of World State.**

**B. —With one large Parliament, in which no one understands the other.**

**J. — It wouldn't matter if they did understand; they would have no armies to protest with or protect their respective countries.**

**B. —It sounds a very nasty idea.**

**J. — This idea is backed by many great idealists.**

**B. —That doesn't prevent it being nasty or dangerous. Do you think that the German type of National Socialism will be imposed upon most of the victors and victims of this war by a central group of powerful world-planners?**

**J. — The plans are being prepared now.**

**B. —I suppose you know the names of the men who are sponsoring this plan.**

**J. — I do. I shall give you full details later.**

**B. —Do you think these world-planners prefer the German type of National Socialism or the Russian type?**

**J. — These men don't care what it is called; they leave the name to you. All they want is control over the State; when they have that they will permit you to call it Christian Democracy if you are fond of those high-sounding names that nobody understands.**

**B. —That's our trouble; we are continually having words flung at us that can mean anything or nothing. Take the words,**

**Socialism, Democracy, Christianity. They can mean anything. Nobody really appears to know what they do mean.**

**J. — Words which should be used to help and explain, are used to deceive and bewilder.**

**B. —I wonder how many people know what Socialism means.**

**J. — Very few Socialists, I should say, judging by their conversations.**

**B. —Doesn't Socialism mean the control of the means of production, etc, by the State?**

**J. — That's the idea put forward by Karl Marx; but he also said that the State must be Democratic. But he forgot to tell us how to get a Democratic State.**

**B. —So what?**

**J. — How can a State control anything? It's men who do the controlling. There is no such thing as a State. In Germany, when a few thousand are killed off in the name of the State, it really means in the name of Hitler or some of his Party ruffians.**

**B. —With Russia and Germany a standing example of what not to do, isn't it possible to build up a kind of Socialism where the affairs of industry are run by Government officials instead of by private enterprise?**

**J. — For what purpose?**

**B. —A Government official could not own a large factory and, therefore, could not accumulate large profits.**

**J. —Go on.**

**B. —If he can't accumulate great wealth he will be unable to obtain the unreasonable powers that go with wealth.**

**J. — So that it is power you are afraid of; power over other men?**

**B. —Precisely.**

**J. — Do you know that Stalin is supposed to have a salary of £10 a month, and with this £10 a month he runs four palatial residences along the shores of the Black Sea, and several comfortable summer palaces in the suburbs of Moscow.**

**B. —Not bad, on £10 a month.**

**J. — Power, in these days, doesn't come from the ownership of wealth; it comes from the control of it. There are some men today controlling thousands of millions of pounds who don't own a fraction of it. It is unlimited power over other men that we have to break. By giving a few men more power under so-called State control we are going to solve none of our difficulties, but intensify every one of them.**

**B. —If a country like Australia adopted State Socialism, you couldn't expect a repetition of the Russian experiment; the people would not stand for it.**

**J. — The Russian experiment is crude and vicious, and because of that it will cause a violent reaction. What I am afraid of is the gradual method of Sovietisation, and at present it is not so very gradual. A process whereby men and women are losing their independence, losing their homes and their land and wages to financial institutions. Not only are unskilled labourers wage-slaves for life, but so are landowners, clergymen, professors of universities and the Prime Minister himself. These men are under no fear of being shot by the Gestapo—but they aren't open their mouths, nevertheless. No dictatorship could be more effective than that.**

**B. —If the financial institutions can do these things, and nobody can doubt that they can,**

**then, why do they support so many schemes to give the Government more power? Why are they backing State Socialism?**

**J. — The financial institutions are destroying private enterprise in this country, and getting more power into the hands of the Government because they are the Government.**

**B. —Controlling finance, then, is not the only way of controlling a country.**

**J. — A National Security Act is much quicker. Only in an emergency can the British people be induced to part with their hard-earned liberties.**

**B. —Liberties, which have taken centuries to get, can be lost in a few years of war, and you think they will remain lost?**

**J. — That is what I fear.**

**B. —You heartily dislike the German and Russian methods of Government, and you see a great deal of abuses in our own form of Government; then what kind of Government do you like?**

**J. — I don't like any form of Government; all Government is an evil—a necessary evil, no doubt, but still an evil. It is well to remember that.**

**B. —I take it then that Government is like fire—a good servant but a bad master.**

**J. — A Government always should be under the control of the people—who pay and suffer and do the fighting; and the smaller the Government the more easily it can be controlled by the people.**

**B. —The smaller the Government, the bigger the people become.**

**J. — The bigger an organisation becomes the less say has the individual man and woman in his own destiny.**

**B. —He becomes merely a cog in a wheel.**

**J. — Just a taxpayer!**

## ALBERTA OIL

Mr. George R. Cottrelle, of Toronto, a director of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, has been appointed "oil-controller" of Canada, with Mr. S. W. Fairweather, an economist of the Canadian National Railways, as his assistant.

Schemes for adapting Alberta oil production to the war emergency will include:

(1) Reserving the whole of the domestic market of Western Canada for Alberta, and saving foreign exchange by cutting down oil imports.

(2) The introduction of Alberta oil into markets of Eastern Canada as quickly as possible, although the Turner Valley fields are not yet producing enough for the whole of Eastern Canada.

(3) The distillation of aeroplane fuel from the crude oil from Turner Valley to be used by the Canadian Air Force.

(4) The rapid exploitation of several Alberta fields at present about to begin production.

The Hon. N. E. Tanner, Alberta Minister for Lands and Mines, has won his fight for wider markets for Alberta oil: suddenly all serious obstacles have disappeared, and it will be up to Alberta to furnish the oil that Canada needs.

Production in the Turner Valley fields is at present 24,000 barrels a day, with wells operating on a "rationing" basis. The field could produce 35,000 barrels a day without opening another well.

Last year, Alberta's proposal for a pipe line to Fort William to carry 60,000 barrels a day was turned down by the Federal Government; experts believe such a pipe line would by now have been working to capacity if the scheme had then been undertaken.

## NOW OUT!

### "THE WAR BEHIND THE WAR"

By ERIC D. BUTLER

PRICE 3d; Posted, 4d

Every person who desires to gain a thorough knowledge of the real background to the present conflict should read this booklet. The most critical and impartial analysis of the "Jewish Question" to appear in this country.

Is socialism democracy? Where does Russia stand? Is Hitler a tool or an enemy of International Jewry? What are we fighting for?

These, and other questions of great importance, are clearly dealt with in this booklet, which is packed with facts and information. Every reader should obtain a copy.

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

## GROUNDS FOR GOOD HOPE

By G. HICKLING, in "Reality" (England).

That the spirit of England still survives has been proved by two outstanding facts of the war so far.

The first proof was given in the evacuation at Dunkirk and the orderly progress immediately prior to it under conditions that would have demoralised any other army in the world.

The most heartening feature of the whole business was the fact that the men composing that army saved themselves.

The significance of this statement cannot be fully appreciated without a great deal of thought, for neither the Government nor the press has shone any light upon it. The embarkation of the troops at Dunkirk and their transport across the Channel, covered with honour every seaman engaged in the task, but this operation is not comparable to the epic feat of converging upon, and reaching, the port itself under the conditions that existed.

Faced with overwhelming odds of men and material, the front broken and flanks exposed, communication interrupted, our army found itself in a vicious trap. Fighting in isolated groups and with inferior equipment, when the order came "Every man for himself!" the supreme test was upon them. Whoever was responsible for exposing these men to this desperate situation could not help them. Federal Union ideas were of no use in this emergency; nor did the men hope for help from the United States, the cheap bravado of the penny press or careerist politicians. All these had failed, and that a great and irrevocable disaster was avoided is due entirely to the spirit that breathed in the living bodies of our countrymen. The extraordinary feature of this is, that it did not appear as a heroic virtue of an individual group here and there. It was common throughout the whole army, shining brightest in the lower ranks everywhere. At no point did the milling retreat degenerate into a rout, nor did panic or paralysis obtain a footing anywhere. We can be proud of these men without vainglory. They demonstrated that whatever weaknesses may be present at the top of our social and political structure; there is a high quality of initiative, courage, self-reliance and capability amongst the common people of Britain. There is substantial grounds for hope here and a solid foundation for confidence in the future, too, but it must be correctly placed where it belongs—on the people, on the common men, and not elsewhere.

It is good and cheering to remember that these men are still with us, and with others like them in plenty. We must not confuse them, their high qualities and their silence with the tinkling cymbals and empty-sounding drums of Whitehall and Westminster.

The second proof of the reality of the English spirit is demonstrated daily by the Air Force, not only by the fighting pilots whose prowess from every angle is superb and unsurpassed, but by those mechanics who toil and sweat on the ground to keep fit and airworthy the engines and rigging of strained machines, continually presenting them tuned and gleaming on the tarmac ready for service.

The best of machines is of little use without the initiative, courage, ability and personal spirit of the rider in the sky controlling and directing it, and again this splendid quality—so different from the bureaucratic frustrations saddled at the top—distinguishes, like a great light for all to see, the common ranks; owing nothing of its nature to prominent men or fatuous sentimental ideologues.

Here again there is ground for

hope, here again events are producing contrasts that expose to shame timidity, meanness, and tinkering ineptitude in high places.

Sooner or later, the spirit of our people as displayed by its exponents in the trapped army and a splendidly fighting Air Force—not forgetting the Navy, braving death from all sides, above and below, that we might live—will yet invade the House of Parliament and even penetrate the Treasury.

The subsidising of food, and little fearful dribbles to help the farmer by subsidising fertilisers and draining improvements are signs of the pressure of events from without upon our financial institutions whose main foundation is "fear."

Debt, destruction, wars, restriction, and power-lust divorced from responsibility, are the fruits of those temples of frustration known as financial institutions. Their results; their fruits; their philosophy; their lies; in reality conflict with the living spirit that permeates the common people of our island. Because war is here and has challenged our people—regardless of its origins, the time must soon come when the same independent resource, courage, self-reliance, and magnanimous generosity that now distinguishes our common countrymen will be required of our institutions. Who can doubt the result of this issue, which—though not yet clearly discerned by the majority—is yet now irrevocably joined.

Facts are "chiefs that winna ding"; they offer every ground for faith, hope and confidence that the victory we are working for will ultimately be achieved and that its fruits will reflect the spirit that achieved it.

If you think on this, you will see that the victory which is to come will be shaped by the men who, using their common sense in desperate emergency, forgot all about Federal Unions and "interdependence" and so survived. The form of our victory aims, therefore, will be quite different from those so fondly planned by remote controllers, and—glory be to God—they will be better than anything now contained in their vain imaginations; it will contain no thrones of centralised power from which a few ambitious financial world-rulers may sport with the world and with the nations.

The facts show that just as our men in France saved themselves, because nothing else was practicable (and they succeeded), so, too, ultimately, will they make a policy for the new peace themselves (and they will succeed in that too) when the time comes.

## Announcement

Although Eric Butler's new book, "The Money Power Versus Democracy," was announced in our last issue as having 72 pages and being priced at 1/1, posted, a last-minute decision was made to use slightly smaller type and thereby compress the same matter into 48 pages. This has effected an important saving in paper, enabling us to reduce the price to 10d, posted. The difference in price (3d.) will be refunded to those who have already placed their initial order.

## WEST AUSTRALIAN NOTES

From Electoral Campaign Headquarters, Perth

Mr. W. M. Marshall, M.L.A. (Labor, Murchison), made history when he once again moved his famous resolution, ably seconded by Mr. T. H. Berry, M.L.A. (Independent, Irwin-Moore), with the added proviso that the State Government be authorised to send the resolution to Canberra demanding its implementation immediately.

The motion moved by Mr. Marshall referred to a previous resolution demanding the use of the Commonwealth Bank to finance the war effort, the primary producers and the general welfare of the community without inflation or any charge. This resolution was passed by 28 votes to 6. The following politicians voted against the motion: Mr. C. Latham, M.L.A.; Mr. Ross MacDonald, M.L.A.; Mr. Doney, M.L.A.; Mr. McLarty, M.L.A.; Mr. Seward, M.L.A.; and Mr. T. J. Hughes, M.L.A.

### These members must be "sacked" as soon as possible,

Electors are requested to write immediately to their State members, requesting them to keep up the pressure on the Federal Parliament. Use your State Parliaments. If you do not do so the move to abolish State Parliaments will grow. Demonstrate that pressure can be brought to bear through a decentralised system of government, and thus keep your Parliamentary representation under your own control. The answer to unification (centralisation) is decentralisation, and by using State Parliaments you keep your power and gain more by demonstrating how easy it is to control Parliament if only the electors will act on their own initiative.

### KANTANNING TOUR.

The campaign director, Mr. V. J. Dury, visited Katanning on the 13th inst, stopping in the district for three days as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Beeck. One new group was formed, two public meetings were held, and much good work accomplished. The secretary and president of the new group are respectively: Rev. Pelham Thorman and Mr. C. A. Garston Martling, of Katanning. Those residents of

Katanning wishing to join the group are requested to get in touch with either of these two gentlemen immediately.

Katanning should now forge ahead into the vanguard of the movement for true democracy, and it behoves the people of the surrounding district to form groups to strengthen those already formed.

### FINANCE APPEAL.

All those who have answered our urgent call for finance are hereby thanked, but many have so far not responded. Please do so as soon as possible.

The thanks of headquarters are extended to the Katanning No. 1 Group for donation of five pounds towards headquarters' deficit.

All groups are requested to emulate this example.

News of the York Group and Quairading Branch would be greatly appreciated.

Those who would like a speaker from headquarters are notified that they must provide transport and hospitality.

Advice re local objectives can be obtained by contacting headquarters, 81 Barrack Street. Full stock of books kept on hand. Excellent library under the management of Mr. Andrews, who will be pleased to give full particulars on application.

## Kooyong League for Monetary Reform and Real Democracy

Copies of the manifesto and electors' demand letter issued by the above League and published in the "New Times" of November 15, may be had upon application to the Secretary of the League at 140 Derby-street, Kew, E.4.

Prices: Manifesto, 25/- per 1000 copies; Letter, 12/6 per 1000 copies.

—H. Roberts, Hon. Sec.

## Keep This Date Free

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 8.15 p.m.

## VITAL RALLY OF SUPPORTERS

Speaker:

ERIC D. BUTLER.

## Centenary Hall

Cr. Exhibition & Lt. Collins Streets.

### TO OUR READERS—

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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, NOVEMBER 29, 1940.

No. 48

### NONSENSE FROM DR. EVATT

We were led to expect outstanding statements and profound wisdom from Dr. Evatt when he entered the Federal Parliament. During the election campaign he said very little of real importance. We were told that the Labor Party, led by Mr. Curtin, would get us out of our troubles. Such matters as the private creation of the nation's money supply seemed to be beneath his judicial notice. He has now made his maiden speech in the House, of Representatives. He is reported in the Melbourne "Sun" of November 23, as follows:

**"Industrial unrest was the effect of shortcomings in the country's system of arbitration and conciliation. There had been little improvement in Australian arbitration methods since the present system was established in 1907. Figures show that so far as the basic wage is concerned, his (the worker's) conditions are a trifle worse now than they were then. Certainly, they were no better," Dr. Evatt said.**

Dr. Evatt's statement that the conditions of the workers are no better today than they were, back in the early days of the Labor Party is not much of an advertisement for the efforts of this Party. However, for Dr. Evatt to attribute industrial disputes to bad arbitration is the sheerest nonsense. **Bad arbitration often can, and does, irritate the effects of an underlying cause.** As far as we can gather, Dr. Evatt didn't mention that underlying cause—the present financial system that causes increasing friction between employers and employees. If the people as a whole had sufficient purchasing power to buy all goods at a reasonable price, employers would be able to pay their employees decent wages. Such small disputes as might arise could be settled between the employers and the employees without a vast State bureaucracy being introduced more and more into the functioning of private enterprise. Industry is like any other form of organisation; the best results are achieved where the greatest co-operation exists between individuals. Men cannot and will not give of their best if they are working under duress, if there is some constant friction. It is no use the employees endeavouring to make out that the majority of employers are "sweating capitalists"; they are more than likely worried about their bank overdrafts and the interest thereon. They have to get as much as they can out of the men for a minimum of wages paid—or face bankruptcy.

Some might say that the strike at Lithgow Arms Factory was in a different category. Apart from the fact that the men have to negotiate with an impersonal Government bureaucracy, which we admit puts them at a disadvantage, there must be a reason for the strike. Some will mention the Communists; but this fact remains after all: **Men who are contented will not strike, no matter what arguments a few Communists may advance.** Their present discontent has to do with financial remuneration. If a little more time were directed to the financial cause of industrial disputes by Dr. Evatt, instead of dealing with effects, something of a tangible nature might be done. After all, as he admits himself, the arbitration system has not been able to achieve anything in nearly forty years. Surely this is a clear indication that industrial peace cannot be achieved by that line of approach. Unfortunately, most men who have been steeped in "The Law" are unable to see the trees for the wood.

### United Electors' Report

Lectures. —The last of the 1940 lectures was given on Tuesday last, the subject being the "Inflation Bogey," and the speaker, Mr. J. McKellar. It was stated that inflation was inevitable under our present monetary system, and that this fact should be pointed out at all times. Supporters are requested to read our notes in the "New Times" for information on resumption of lec-

tures, which are expected to commence again early in January. Home Meetings. —A meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Allen, of 6 Harold-street, Thornbury, on Monday, December 2, at 8 p.m. The speaker will be Mr. E. D. Butler. All are welcome. We are prepared to supply speakers for you if you will get your friends together in this manner.

## CHRISTIANS UNITE IN ACTION

### Co-operation in Mildura District

**A splendid example of Christian co-operation has arisen in the Sunraysia district of Victoria, with its headquarters at Mildura. A non-denominational, non-party movement has been formed to obtain the signatures of electors to a petition for national and social reconstruction, and for the distribution of the manifestoes of the "Christian Social Order" and the "Bishops' Statement on Social Justice."**

The movement was started by laymen of the various churches of Mildura, who believe that a Christian social order is now possible. All the churches in the district have given enthusiastic support, and the committee consists of clergymen of all denominations, local councillors and citizens, under the patronage of the Mayor of Mildura and the President of the Shire of Mildura.

The petition is addressed to His Excellency the Governor-General and his councillors, to humbly pray and urge the appointment of a special commission to thoroughly enquire into the economic system, the problem of distribution, monetary theory and whether the manifestoes of the "Christian Social Order" and the "Bishops' Statement on Social Justice" should not be the completed objective to be sought for our industrial, social, economic and financial system. Copies are obtainable from the publicity officer, Mr. Proudfoot, Langtree-avenue, Mildura.

We are advised that support is forthcoming from the Church of Christ headquarters, from the Church Council for a Christian Social Order, and from many church leaders. The movement presents an honest endeavour to promote a united demand for the removal of the evils of our time, and to make that demand heard. Such endeavour should be given every encouragement.

Whilst we whole-heartedly agree with the general objective, we would also like to be sure that the procedure to be employed will attain the desired end. We ask in a perfectly friendly manner, if the presentation of a petition to the Government is considered to be the best kind of action to make this united demand heard by the individuals whom we elect to represent our desires in Parliament? We ask this question because it was proved in the campaign against national insurance, that members of Parliament become most anxious to comply with the wishes of a majority of their electors when the electors write to their respective representatives, clearly expressing their desires. We have learnt from experience that the personal responsibility of our elected representatives for Parliamentary action has often been avoided by its transference to impersonal bodies having

no responsibility to the electors, such as boards and commissions.

Those are reasons why much honest endeavour in the past has ended in disappointment and failure. It is our earnest desire that this splendid effort shall end not in disappointment, but in crowning success. A demand upon Parliamentary representatives for RESOLUTIONS, based upon the manifestoes of the "Christian Social Order" and the "Bishops' Statement on Social Justice" would, in our opinion, be the best procedure for this new movement.

The initiative of the laymen of Mildura is deserving of the highest praise, and we sincerely hope that laymen in other centres will act to promote the co-operation of the clergy of the various denominations in the pursuit of effective action. It is pleasing to note that there is at least one Parliamentary working actively in this matter. Mr. L. H. Hollins, M.L.A., has addressed meetings in various centres, the latest being a public meeting held in Moorabbin on Monday, 25th inst. The electors of the Mornington Peninsula are being fully informed of all these activities by the local newspapers, conducted by Standard Newspapers.

United action can be promoted by the initiative of intelligent Christians in all centres. When this is done it cannot be said that there are too many comfort-sodden Christians in our midst who are unmoved by the sufferings of their less fortunate fellows, or who are unconcerned about conditions which, at present, are preventing the practise of true Christianity. It is edifying and encouraging to see a united body of Christians preparing to demand a new social order for the social and material benefit of all, particularly the helpless poor and down-trodden, who are in dire need of assistance and who cannot help themselves to acquire their rightful share of God's bounteous plenty.

## STEADY, WINSTON!

I believe that most of us have full confidence in the capacity and leadership of the Prime Minister. But we are anxious that he should not give occasion to those who accuse him of rashness and lack of solid judgment. Two of his recent actions give some colour to the accusation. One, happily abortive, was the wild promise, without any consent of ours, to merge the sovereignty of our King with that of the French Republic, to which we will never willingly agree, certainly not in the light of recent events, however anxious we are to re-establish relations of close association with our former Allies. The other is the cession of naval bases to the U.S.A., not for our own defence, but strangely enough, for theirs, obviously, in order to obtain something in return. Leaving aside, for the moment, the merits or otherwise, of these startling surrenders, what possible claim, can we still make to possessing a Democratic Government, if they can be offered in

the name of the British people without any consent of, or consultation with, their chosen representatives in Parliament? We are told that the people of Newfoundland, Bermuda and the West Indies are quite agreeable to the establishment of half a dozen foreign "Gibraltars" in their midst. This I cannot believe, especially as I am afraid it is the prelude to the withdrawal of the British Navy from the Atlantic Seaboard, and the ultimate cession of most of the islands.

—"O.B.," in the "Patriot" (London), 12/9/40.

### WHO RULES?

The financial editor of the "Manchester Guardian" (May 23, Page 8), wrote: ".....It still remains to be seen whether the Treasury, with all the enabling powers in the world, can make the views of the War Cabinet prevail over the views of the Bank of England."

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## WAGES AND ARBITRATION

As a unionist and a wage earner, I am particularly interested in the discussions at present taking place re the basic wage and arbitration. As far as I can gather from the press and discussions on the job, it seems that the same old ground is being gone over again. By that I mean, employees bring pressure to bear, either through the Court or by threatened strike action, to obtain higher wages, because the cost of food, clothing and shelter has increased. Assuming that they are successful in this action, what follows? As wages are a cost in production this increase is added to prices, with the result that the increase in wages is cancelled out. Not only that, but owing to the fact that when wages are increased such increase does not apply to the unemployed, or to the invalid or old age pensioners, the standard of living for these unfortunates is commensurately lowered. The cost of living having again increased, the workers again demand higher wages, and so the silly business goes on until some drastic measure like another Premiers' Plan is imposed upon the wage earners and they are viciously cut down. They are stunned for a little while, then off they go again on the same old merry-go-round.

The time has long since arrived when industrial organisations and their Parliamentary representatives should recognise that it is not the function of the Arbitration Court to determine a living wage, the job of that court is to

determine what industry can pay, and it therefore follows that it is not concerned with whether a man and his family can live comfortably or otherwise on the amount so determined. Further, it is time they realised that even if the Court increased wages to £20 per week, it still would not be a living wage (as it would be included in prices) and the standard of living would not be improved, but, on the contrary, would be lowered, because the wage system is absolutely unable to provide a higher standard of living, as increases in wages are increases in the cost of production and distribution, and must, therefore, be added to prices, no matter how humanitarian the employer may be.

If the industrial organisations desire to raise the standard of living, and I believe that all right thinking people do so desire, whether employer or employee, then instead of milling round in the wages-chasing-prices-chasing-wages circle, they should demand either that wages be subsidised, such subsidy not to pass through industry generating costs, but paid direct to wage earners, or demand that the Government subsidise retailers, say, 25 per cent, subject to them entering into an agreement with the Government to work on an agreed margin of profit on turnover and sell their goods at a discount of 25 per cent, thus lowering the cost of living and increasing the standard of living, not only of wage earners, but of the unemployed, old age and invalid pensioners as well. Both methods could be

used in conjunction, thereby increasing income and at the same time decreasing prices.

I imagine I can hear that old cry, "Where is the money to come from?" It is an open secret where the money is coming from to finance the war, i.e., mainly from bank credit created against the workers' ability to produce goods and services. This National Credit belongs to the people, and not to the private financial institutions who at present claim the ownership of it and lend it to the Government as an everlasting debt at interest.

Demand that the Commonwealth Government exercise its power to control the nation's credit through the Commonwealth Bank for the benefit of the people of Australia. That's where the money will come from. —Yours, etc., F. C. PAICE, Coburg, Victoria.

## Motorists' Protection League

## N.S.W. SECTION FORMED

The State secretary of the Australian Motorists' Protection League reports the formation of a New South Wales section of the League. All those interested should get in touch with Dr. K. R. Moure, D.Sc., M.E., 33 Merrenburn Avenue, Naremburn 'Phone XF1812.

Now is the time to act with demands on your local M.P., demanding petrol production — not petrol restriction. Write to the League at 390 Mt. Alexander Road, Ascot Vale, Victoria, for free forms; also leaflets exposing the petrol ramp. The new book will not be completed until the end of December.

## OIL

Under a spreading chestnut tree,  
A modern bowser stands;  
Its function is to distribute  
The oil from foreign lands.

Of course, there really is no need  
To import foreign oil;  
Australia could produce her own,  
From products of her soil.

Ten thousand farmers could and  
would  
Power alcohol produce;  
From cane and kindred fodder  
crops,  
Enough for every use.

If we preferred to use shale oil,  
Or extract oil from coal,  
We have materials galore  
And miners on the dole.

We seem to be right out of luck,  
When oil fields we explore;  
Those Yankee experts see to that,  
How tools drop down the bore!

If we but end the import ramp,  
Australia will advance;  
We'll banish unemployment tax,  
And give the boy a chance.

Under a weeping willow tree  
Australians soundly sleep,  
While traders in a foreign land,  
A golden harvest reap.

—A.J.A.

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Apart from the above, Mr. Butler has dealt with the growth and history of the Electoral Campaign. The story of the famous Pink-Slip Strike in America is most interesting. In the chapter, "Britain Experiments With Democracy," he outlines what has been accomplished by the Electoral Campaign in Britain—such as the very successful Lower Rates Campaign. A chapter on Canada outlines the struggle in Alberta and the attitude and action of the Federal Government, acting on behalf of the Money Power.

The last part of the book deals in detail with the growth of the Electoral Campaign in Australia. The history of the now-famous Anti-National-Insurance Campaign is given in some detail; also the Campaign against the Commonwealth Bank Act Amendment Bill. The Conclusion is an appeal for individual action to save Democracy, and suggests a demand letter to be sent to Members of Parliament.

This book should have a tremendous sale; it fills a very real gap in Australian political and economic literature.

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## IN BRITAIN'S PARLIAMENT

(Continued from page 1.)

is imposed at a time when there are 827,266 able-bodied persons registered as unemployed?

**The Minister of Labour** (Mr. Ernest Bevin): "The information asked for in the first part of the Question is not available. With regard to the second part, I would remind my hon. Friend that there are other matters than the use of labour governing this policy as has been made clear by my right hon. Friend the President of the Board of Trade and by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary in the Board of Trade in reply to Questions by the hon. Member for Seaham (Mr. Shinwell) and the hon. Member for Westhoughton (Mr. Rhys Davies) on 6th June and 23rd July."

**Mr. Craven-Ellis**: "If my right hon. Friend is unable to give any information on the first part of the Question, how are the Government able to say whether their policy of restricting the consumption of consumable goods has succeeded or not?"

**Mr. Bevin**: "Questions as to the policy affecting the restriction of consumable goods should be addressed to the Department responsible, namely, the Board of Trade."

**Mr. Craven-Ellis**: "I thought that my right hon. Friend was responsible for labour."

### ANGLO-IRANIAN OIL COMPANY

On August 21 **Mr. Mander** asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the closing of the Burma Road for the supply of war materials for China it is proposed to cancel the sale of 1,000,000 barrels of oil to Japan made in April, 1940, by the British Government-controlled Anglo-Iranian Oil Company with the express approval of the British Government?

**Mr. Butler**: "I have nothing further to add to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Minister of Petroleum on this subject on 23rd April."

**Mr. Mander**: "Could anything be more grossly unfair than to supply Japan with oil to attack China at the same time as China is refused permission to receive supplies along the Burma Road?"

**Mr. Butler**: "His Majesty's Government on the date mentioned said that it was not their policy to interfere with the commercial activities of this country."

**Mr. Stokes**: "To what extent are His Majesty's Government being influenced by vested interests of this country?"

**Mr. Noel-Baker**: "Is it not most desirable that the Government should avoid the charge of having, in effect, put an oil sanction upon a victim of aggression while continuing to supply the aggressor with most of his requirements?"

**Mr. Butler**: "I agree that there is force in the hon. Member's point, but the Government has always endeavoured to keep themselves free from such charges. I have referred to the original answer given by the Minister for Petroleum. The hon. Member will see from that answer that there is no other limit to this transaction."

**Mr. McGovern**: "Is this policy supported by the Labour members of the Government?"

**Mr. Butler**: "All Government decisions are unanimous."

**Mr. Noel-Baker**: "Will the right hon. Gentleman undertake to have this matter reconsidered, in view of the fact that it is not possible to lay down a principle like that enunciated in the reply referred to in April, and that

the Government must consider the political and other bearings of commercial transactions in petroleum?"

**Mr. Butler**: "I am certainly willing to communicate the views expressed by the hon. Member to my hon. Friend the Minister for Petroleum."

### GOVERNMENT BORROWING

On August 22, **Mr. Stokes** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the fact that he is borrowing bank deposits at 1-1.8 per cent, direct from the banks, he will offer an incentive of 1 per cent to depositors to deposit with the Treasury direct, thereby enabling them to obtain 100 per cent, increase in the deposit rate now being received by them from the banks?

**Sir K. Wood**: "No, Sir. In so far as the Government desires to borrow for short periods, I think the best course is to issue Treasury Bills or to borrow from the banks under the scheme inaugurated last month."

### OLD-AGE PENSIONS

On September 5, **Mr. Kirkwood** asked the Minister of Health whether he will consult with the Ministry of Information with a view to making special inquiries in selected districts of Great Britain with regard to the examinations which aged people have to undergo before the Assistance Board Appeal Tribunals when applying for supplementary old age pensions, in order to test the public feeling which has been aroused throughout the country about the hardships suffered by these old people and the ordeals they have to undergo when applying for more money to keep body and soul together?

**Mr. M. MacDonald**: "More than 1,000,000 persons have received supplementary pensions, and I cannot agree that applicants have to suffer hardships or ordeals in the examination of their claims. I do not think therefore that there is a need for the special inquiries which the hon. Member suggests."

**Mr. Quibell**: "Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that in some instances the officers making the inquiries ask the applicants to produce even their laundry bills, and also their rates bills and their rent books, that in many cases they ask the amount of wages earned by the son-in-law and that if they refuse the information the supplementary pension is refused? It is a scandal."

**Mr. McDonald**: "Parliament has decided that a certain investigation should be made. The only question that arises is whether these inquiries have been carried out properly and impartially. If hon. Members will bring to my attention any cases where harshness has been used or where improper inquiries have been made. I will look into them."

**Mr. Quibell**: "There are thousands of them."

**Mr. Buchanan**: "While admitting that Parliament decided upon the investigation, is not the Minister prepared, after months of its operation, to have an inquiry to see whether the intention of Parliament is being carried out in the proper spirit? Will he reconsider his decision and have an inquiry made?"

**Mr. MacDonald**: "The authorised inquiry is being made. Many hon. Members have sent me cases from their constituents, and having looked into all those, I am not satisfied that the number involved is so great that a general inquiry is required. If hon. Members have particulars

of other cases and will bring them to my notice, I will look into them."

**Mr. Buchanan**: "Is the Minister aware that the method of doing this is not to overburden any Cabinet Minister but to take up these cases locally? Will he not reconsider the matter and set up a neutral body to re-examine the position, as there is intense feeling in the country?"

**Viscountess Astor**: "Is it not true that there are about four times as many people getting assistance as need it?"

**Mr. Gallacher**: "Is not the Minister aware that there are bitter complaints being made about the questions being asked and the very small amounts allowed to deserving old age pensioners? Will he not make an inquiry into how these Regulations are operating?"

**Mr. MacDonald**: "The opportunity which I have had of looking into this matter is of looking at the various, individual cases, but if hon. Members felt that a whole category of cases are not being treated in accordance with the desires of Parliament, I would certainly like to consider those cases with a view to seeing whether some inquiry by a Board or some other authority was required, I have not so far had such categories brought to my notice."

### INTEREST-FREE LOANS AND THE BANKS

On September 5, **Mr. Stokes** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many banks have subscribed to the interest-free loan; and the total amount of those subscriptions?

**Sir K. Wood**: "I would refer my hon. Friend to the reply given by my right hon. and gallant Friend the Financial Secretary to my hon. Friend the Member for East Wolverhampton (Mr. Mander) on 23rd July."

**Mr. Stokes**: "As the banks create all the currency and the Government now controls the banks, is it not possible for the Chancellor to give instructions to the banks that they should subscribe liberally to these loans?"

**Sir K. Wood**: "I must leave that to the corporations and individuals themselves."

### BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS

On September 17, **Mr. Parker** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that, in the Report of the Bank for International Settlements, dated May 27, 1940, the names of Mr. Montagu Norman, Governor of the Bank of England, and Dr. Funk, German Economic Minister, are included together amongst the list of directors; and as it is not desirable at the present time Mr. Norman should be listed in a public document as a colleague of a German Cabinet Minister, he will take the necessary steps to terminate this country's connection with the Bank of International Settlements?

**Mr. Craven-Ellis** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is satisfied that the enemy gain no advantage from the association of the Bank of England with the Bank for International Settlements and whether, in view of the public concern about the Bank of England's association with this bank, which is now controlled by representatives of enemy countries, he will take steps to ensure that all connection with the Bank for International Settlements is revised?

**Sir K. Wood**: "I am satisfied that the enemy gain no advantage from the association of the Bank of England with the Bank for International Settlements, the administration of which is now controlled by its president, Mr. Thomas H. McKittrick, a United States citizen. The report referred to by my hon. Friend the Member for Romford (Mr. Parker) is in the first person and is signed by the president of the Bank. I need hardly say that it contains

nothing objectionable to this country. No meetings of the Board of Directors have been held since the outbreak of war. If any such meetings were proposed, I should be made aware of the date and circumstances, and no British directors would attend without agreement with me. I do not on balance see any sufficient advantage to this country in formally terminating connection with the bank. I think this step would be more likely to help the enemy than ourselves."

**Mr. Shinwell**: "Is it desirable to retain this informal association between Mr. Montagu Norman and Dr. Funk, and, if the arrangement which was previously operative is now inoperative, could not this association be brought to an end?"

**Sir K. Wood**: "No, Sir, I do not think so, because, as I have said, I think there are advantages to this country in retaining the connection. We have a little money there."

**Mr. Stokes**: "Are we to understand from the right hon. Gentleman that Mr. McKittrick has no connection at all with the German bank directors?"

**Sir K. Wood**: "No, I did not say anything of the sort. I said that the report which was referred to was a report made by the president."

**Mr. Gallacher**: "Does the right hon. Gentleman remember the words of the Prime Minister, that the gold sent through this bank by Montagu Norman to Germany, would come back to this country in the form of bombs; and in view of the correctness of that prophecy is it not about time to put an end to this bank?"

**Sir K. Wood**: "I have already said we have some interest there."

### "FEDERAL UNION"?

On September 19, **Mr. Stokes** asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the approval of the policy of leasing bases for a term of 99 years to the United States of America and that of closer co-operation between the United States of America and the British Empire, he will give an assurance that, before any union of the kind proposed to France is put forward, he will give an opportunity for the fullest possible discussion in this House?


**Mr. Attlee**: "My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister is prepared to give an assurance that, if ever such a far reaching scheme were put forward, the House would be given every opportunity of discussing it."

### BANK OVERDRAFTS

On September 19, **Mr. De la Bere** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the attitude of certain branches of the joint stock banks throughout the country, whereby they have forcibly sold securities lodged against an overdraft without permission from the courts, he will give the necessary publicity to ensure that overdraft holders are made aware that they are protected by the Courts (Emergency Powers) Act, as many clients of the banks are ignorant of this?

**Sir K. Wood**: "I have no information which suggests that the banks have forcibly sold securities in contravention of the Courts (Emergency Powers) Acts, and I do not think it necessary to take any special steps to add to the publicity which has already been given to the provisions of those Acts. As I have already informed the House, careful inquiries which I have made have satisfied me that the banks are adopting a sympathetic attitude towards borrowers whose circumstances have been adversely affected by the war."

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## INTERNATIONAL BACKGROUND

(Continued from page 1.)

manufacturers should be absorbed by big trusts. A lot of progress in that direction has been made since then, particularly since the outbreak of war. A British Government, which includes a majority of socialists, is in control of Britain. Mr. Kennedy, U.S. Ambassador to Britain, in commenting on this, said that National Socialism was being introduced into Britain. This programme is having a deadening effect on Britain's war effort as witnessed by the storm of criticism, which is growing every week—even in some orthodox circles. Some hard facts are being ventilated in the House of Commons.

The most open admissions of what is being attempted appeared in the London "Economist" of July 20 and August 3. In the opinion of "The Economist" Britain can absorb the "careful, farsighted planning and cohesive organisation" of the "Nazi-Fascist heresy" and the "joy with which the individual citizen gives his service to the community."

Is Britain merely fighting Germany's military machine, but not her political ideas? This is rather a peculiar policy for maintaining morale in the fighting forces and the civilian population. "The Economist" also says; "All that is necessary is to see what is under our noses, to take some temporary expedient that is forced upon us by war and, with such adjustments as are necessary, build it into the permanent structure of our growing democracy (sic)..... There are here the makings of a new Social Contract between the citizen and the State . . . ." "The Economist's" idea of the "new Social Contract" is as follows: — "We have got beyond the stage where the Government can regard industry as something external to itself, from which it can purchase what it wants and take no responsibility for the rest. We have reached the stage where the Government must assume responsibility for the total organisation of industry. . . . Workers would be the Government's servants, and they would be prevented from withholding their labour or wasting it in unnecessary employment." Which is exactly what we see operating in Russia and Germany!

The growth of Boards and the gradual destruction of the smaller private enterprises are part of a similar policy being imposed on this country. We also notice many articles appearing in our daily press on the alleged necessity of greater Government "planning. This policy is not the way to win the war for the people. It is internal sabotage by private financial interests directly or indirectly controlled by the Wall Street gang.

### "AMERICA'S" ASSISTANCE

No matter how much the American people desire to give all possible aid to Britain, their actions are controlled by those who control finance—Wall Street. The American press speaks on behalf of International Finance—particularly "The New York Times." This press consistently attacked Mr. Chamberlain, while praising Mr. Churchill. The following extract appeared in the "Magazine of Wall Street" a few months ago: "The elimination of Chamberlain—of the Hoares and Simons—would give us the confidence necessary to produce the enthusiasm we need if we are to collaborate with England adequately, without reserve, and put our hearts in it." It is remarkable how the International Financiers and the Communists agree on so many matters. Or isn't it?

The American press has been very vociferous in its statements

concerning American help to Britain, and conveniently forgetful of the materials being sent to Germany via Russia and another "neutral" equally interested in preserving democracy. Yet even the daily press in this country has been forced to admit that most of the encouragement so far has been mostly of a theatrical nature. That's what we would expect from Wall Street. It helps to build a false sense of security, just like the finance-controlled press in Britain built a false sense of security regarding the Norwegian campaign. The ultimate reaction is a blow at British morale and an opportunity for the financiers to put some more of their "progressive" ideas into operation.

The following extracts from "The Economist" of August 10 are most informative on the question of American help: "There is a great and growing gulf between American words and American action. . . . In the last few weeks, however, the tendency (to rush all possible assistance) has been reversed. As the demands for increased help to Britain have grown, more and more obstacles have, in fact, been placed in our way. Congress effectually stopped the disposal of surplus stocks. Embargoes were placed on the export of steel scrap and aviation spirit, which, though they were doubtless intended to hurt others, certainly do not help us . . . . So far as this autumn is concerned, however, America can give us very little help and—despite the very strong wish of the majority of her people—WILL GIVE US EVEN LESS HELP THAN SHE CAN." (My emphasis.)

This admission, coming from such a source, might be compared with an admission, which appeared in the Melbourne "Herald" on November 20. Mr. Edgar Ansell Mowrer is reported as saying that a growing group of members of the American House of Congress favours "freezing" all foreign assets in America except those in the Western Hemisphere. "Russia and other 'neutrals' would then be unable to act as the Axis' purchasing agents," he says. Which is an admission that they are, at present, purchasing materials for Germany. The longer the war goes on the greater the advantage to certain groups in America and Russia.

An overwhelming military victory by Britain would be disastrous to their plans.

### THE NEXT MOVES

The next important move by International Finance will be to have the Johnston Act, which forbids the extension of any American loans to any foreign Government, which had defaulted on its debts, repealed. Of course, Wall Street wasn't really very concerned about Britain defaulting as they had control of the policy of the Bank "of England" as a result of the last war. Through the Bank "of England" they ruthlessly attacked the British people, while rearming Germany. They hope to extend their influence when the Johnston Act is repealed. And there will be no difficulty in having it repealed. The power of finance over-rides people and governments.

The "American" press is putting out some more propaganda on this point; it implies that unless Britain can get financial assistance before the end of January next year she will be beaten. This is another attack against the morale of the British people. There is no evidence whatever that Britain is likely to be beaten within the next few months.

When the pawing starts this time, it is not only to include Britain. Already there is talk about loans to the Dominions, which will mean that we will come more directly under the control of Wall Street, instead of being indirectly controlled through the Bank "of England," as we have been since the last war.

At the same time we see a definite move by the British Government towards Russia. In my notes last week I dealt with the outrageous proposals being made to Russia by the British Government. We are now told that the Australian Government agrees with these proposals. Did some one say that Mr. Menzies was anti-Communist? Some of the hypocrisy in high places is nauseating to loyal Britishers. Read the following carefully: "But Communism is not only a creed. It is a plan of campaign. A Communist is not only the holder of certain opinions; he is the pledged adept of a well-thought-out means of enforcing them . . . . Every act of goodwill, of tolerance, of conciliation, of mercy, of magnanimity on the part of Governments or statesmen is to be utilised for their ruin . . . . The citadel will be stormed under the banner of Liberty and Democracy . . . Democracy is but a tool to be used and afterwards broken." Who do you think wrote that? No less a person than Mr. Churchill only three years ago, and now head of a Government which seeks to enter into co-operation with a bunch of gangsters in Moscow, who have shown time and time again that they are the unrelenting enemies of the British Empire and all that it stands for. Can we win that victory we so dearly desire by such a partnership? Most certainly not. We must fight with our hands clean.

### THE REAL TEST

As mentioned in the opening sentence of this article, more and

more people are realising that this is more than a mere military war against Germany; it is a war against the forces behind Germany, the forces behind every form of totalitarianism, wherever it may exist. In the military sphere I think that we have much to be thankful for. In spite of the terrible battering from the air, the morale of the British people has never been better. That fundamental genius of the British is something, which will prove the stumbling block of the International Planners. The British people are showing that they "can take it." The threatened invasion of Britain has been held up by the magnificent individual qualities of the R.A.F. It is good to think on these things; it is good to think that a generation, of which nothing but bad was predicted by some of the "puritans" has shown that it possesses plenty of courage and tenacity of purpose. It is also good to think that, as every day passes, more and more criticism is being directed towards the private control of finance. At last we are starting to see light; our efforts of the past are bearing fruit. We still have a long way to go. The real test will come at the conclusion of the military struggle.

If we give ourselves to our cause with the same zeal, courage and tenacity as those who are fighting in the front lines of the military struggle, we will build a foundation of real patriotism which will stand the onslaught of all the forces of a foreign philosophy, such as International Finance seeks to impose upon us. The main point to keep on stressing is that we are determined to win this war for the British people, and oppose any suggestions which will hamper or sabotage that victory, whether those suggestions come from America, Russia, or from our own "leaders." There are indications that we are moving towards victory.

## COURAGE AND COMMON SENSE

The Rev. Leslie D. Weatherhead, M.A., is well known throughout the English-speaking world as a commentator on life's spiritual problems by those who wish to be abreast of any advance, which psychological investigators are making.

In May 1940, this writer published a small war-problem pamphlet called "Is it Courage we Need?"

In the third and final chapter, we read: "In trying to get my perspective right, I have imagined a tiny spider crawling up one of the pillars outside the City Temple." Then, after indicating how improbable it is that the spider can have any mental grasp of the "architecture of a single pillar" (let alone wider fields of men's designs), Weatherhead says: "I do not think I am exaggerating when I say that we are very much like that spider."

In attempting to understand and correct the spurious humility implied in the passage cited, many aspects of the problem would need to be examined; but in the realm of immediate and practical politics there is room for suggestions which will stiffen us into courageous and effective action, even though it may be true that most of us "can pick up only a merest glimpse" of God's vast universe.

First, let it be said that there is no deep enigma about the development of war conditions to those who face the facts; all the horrors are not astounding to those who have foreseen and expected some such set of disasters, as the natural outcome of a policy which we as ordinary,

everyday, very limited citizens have allowed to be foisted on us by the few crooks—(masquerading as angels of light, of course), who actually rule over the peoples of the world.

Then let each one of us trace out what is his or her own share in the responsibility for the disasters, because no one can be responsible for any other normal adult person.

The matter becomes simple (i.e., profound, but not complicated) and plain enough if we avoid trying to assess (as Weatherhead does) such an abstraction as courage, as if it were an entity in itself, and ask ourselves whether we have the courage to live and act as democrats.

There seems to be ample ground for the assertion that the outstanding and immediate need in the world of spiritual values is a display of just such courage—courage, that is, to be oneself, to act for oneself, and to ignore the perverted political conventions of the day.

Jesus pointed out the fields "white unto harvest." One does not detract from the spiritual intention of the idea if one suggests that the harvest he actually saw was one of ripened aspirations which could have been reaped at once—a harvest of results which the common people wanted as related to a more abundant and freer life, untainted by the irresponsibility of centralized control (over policies)—which is the curse of the ages—still waiting to be removed when we have the courage AND COMMONSENSE to do it.

—C. H. ALLEN.

## Mr. Menzies—In "Love" and War Usurers True to Type

(Continued from page 1)

he can explain why a non-interest-bearing loan for, say, £25,000 from the Commonwealth Bank is "inflation," while a loan from the private banks for a similar amount, at 3½ per cent, or so, is not, he might succeed in convincing the people that he is not talking mere humbug. Already the impression seems to be spreading that the difference (if any) between the Budget proposals and "ruin" is infinitesimal.

### INTEREST, OVER AND OVER AGAIN

It may be accepted that the people of Australia are resolved that no effort must be spared to win the war, but they will resent continuance of financial methods designed to compel them to pay, not only war costs, but also, interest in perpetuity on those same costs.

Side by side with its taxation proposals, the Government intends to continue its "borrow and bust" policy, by floating a public loan of £25,000,000.

During the past 38 years, Australia has paid £900,000,000 in interest on its national debt, without reducing the principal by one shilling (on the contrary, it has increased enormously. If this insane policy is persisted in, the interest due will, in a very few years time, equal the present national debt. There appears to be no hope of any change in this respect so long as the present Government remains in office.

### WHO GOVERNS?

The Prime Minister's peculiar conceptions of democracy and finance seem to be unaltered since he told the Southern Fruit growers Association at Box Hill, in 1933, that: ". . . the financial policy of the State is controlled by the Loan Council. Money cannot be borrowed without the permission of that Council, WHICH IS THE GOVERNING BODY OF AUSTRALIA TODAY."

### HAMPERING WAR EFFORT

A good deal has been said of late about the need for increasing Australia's war effort; but one of the greatest artificial obstacles in the way of doing this is the payment of heavy interest to financial institutions on the national debt. Not only would the Budget proposals hamper, in-

stead of help, Australia to finance the war, but, despite Mr. Menzies' professed solicitude for the "lower paid people in the community," it will increase their proportionate contribution as compared with the higher income groups.

For the "lower paid" the Budget means the sacrifice of necessities; a "lower deep" of misery.

### SOCKING THE POOR

Taxpayers, whose incomes are over £1000 a year, are to be taxed 2½ times as much as in 1939-40. Those between £400 and £1000 per year, 8 times as much as in 1939-40. Those with incomes below £400 a year, 50 times as much as in 1939-40. The last group will, no doubt, be thankful for the Government's solicitude for them!

Small wonder, indeed, that the 400 "LEADING CITIZENS," who entertained the Prime Minister at the Hotel Australia banquet a few days ago, cheered him "for his magnificent work."

It is well known that severe taxation does not always produce much dismay amongst the over £1,000 per year class, as ways and means can usually be found to pass the burden on to those not so fortunate.

It is understood that the issue of tickets for the Hotel Australia banquet was NOT entirely restricted to those whose incomes were less than £400 a year.

—"STIRREM."

In the midst of the Battle for Britain, certain bankers and stockholders in Middlesbrough complained that the 2½ per cent. National War Bonds did not offer a sufficient yield for industrialists and other large investors. The incident should become historic as an example of the passion for usurious gain that was so largely a mark of our civilisation, and so much a cause of our present tribulations.

But historians will also put on record that Sir Robert Kindersley, president of the National Savings Committee, gave them the rebuke that was never given in the war of 1914—and again, if it had been, we might have had less to reproach ourselves for in the generation of false peace after Versailles. "If we attempt," he wrote, "to split hairs over yields on our money at a time like the present, we have no right to ask or expect that our fighting forces should continue to try to protect us."

Sir Robert pointed out what is the essence of the sin of usury, that the sacrifice demanded of money is infinitesimal when compared with the sacrifice demanded of life itself. That disproportion is striking in war, especially in a total war, but it exists also in peace. Our right is not to demand tribute on money, but to bear one another's burdens and to give unto others with overflowing measure.

—The "Catholic Times," Sept. 13.

## United Democrats' Report

From Headquarters, 17 Weymouth Street, Adelaide.

The main feature of the last monthly meeting for the year, which will be held on Saturday evening, December 7, at 8 p.m., will be a talk by Mr. Wilson, a New Zealander, entitled "New Zealand and Its People." Mr. Wilson, although young, is much travelled, having been in 15 countries of the world. He is only lately come from New Zealand, after eight years in that land of promise. We hope to make this a friendly gathering, and all are invited, whether members or associates. Supper as usual.

To keep us informed and alive to questions of importance to the movement, and to help us understand public events taking shape at the moment, it has been suggested that the talks at the Friday lunch-hour should be interspersed occasionally with discussions on such topics. The first of these discussions took place last Friday, November 22, when Mr. D. J. Amos led with a short talk on "The Issue of Debt-and-Interest-Free Credit Without Inflation." Much haziness of mind was cleared up, and some knotty points explained, and the lively discussion, which followed, showed keen interest in this matter of moment.

The next discussion—either this Friday, November 29, or on December 6—will be led by the Rev. C. D. Brock, the subject being "Common Factors in the World Unrest."

## 'ELECTIONS OVER—WHAT NOW?'

### Distribute This Brochure

In our issue of September 27, Mr. Eric D. Butler dealt at length with the general political situation under the title, "Elections Over—What Now?" We believe this article to be one of the best summaries of political strategy to appear in this country; an opinion which has been supported by many letters of congratulation from all over Australia. This compliment and suggestion was received from the Campaign Director of the N.S.W. Division, of The Electoral Campaign: "My colleagues join with me in extending to you our heartiest congratulations and commendation on your article, 'Elections Over—What Now?' We consider this to be a masterly presentation of vital factors and

probably the finest article that has yet appeared in any paper in this country. It seems a great pity that this should not be reprinted as a special circular or leaflet and given the widest possible circulation . . . throughout Australia and New Zealand with all speed."

We have had the article reprinted in brochure form. Not only do we ask readers to give it the widest possible distribution; we urge them to study the implications and ideas outlined therein for their own benefit.

Supplies are obtainable at 6d per dozen, post-free. Send your order NOW to The "New Times," Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne.

## Victorian M.L.A. Hits Out

At the request of some friends and constituents, Mr. L. H. Hollins, M.L.A. has had copies reprinted from "Hansard" of the FULL text of his recent speech in the Victorian Parliament — extracts from which appeared in the "New Times" of October 11, under the above heading.

Some surplus copies of these reprints are available, and may be obtained direct from Mr. Hollins, Parliament House, Melbourne, at cost-price—one shilling per dozen.

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Printed by H. E. Kuntzen, 143-151 a Beckett Street, Melbourne, for New Times Limited, McEwan House, Melbourne.