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# THE NEW TIMES

Vol. 7. No. 8. MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, FEB. 28, 1941.

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).

## Fruit Rots In Australian Orchards

### The Fruits of a Rotten System

By JOHN RUTLAND

Forgotten echoes of the piping days of peace and poverty must have stirred in the minds of those who read the Melbourne morning papers of February 24—"Sun," "Age," "Argus"—all carried standardised twenty-five line paragraphs publicising Victorian U.A.P. leader Hallway's attack on the Apple and Pear Board.

Mr. Hallway's current indictment centres on a Mildura grower's report that Goulburn Valley orchardists are paid £7 per ton to bury their fruit, that growers are not allowed to feed surplus fruit to pigs, and that one grower, having despatched 145 cases of fruit to the board, had so far received only £6/8/-. Mr. Hallway advocates reconstitution of the board to include consumers and to improve distribution.

**This sudden open reversion to the barbarous tactics of the unforgotten depression, when the blatant destruction of foodstuffs lay on the "civilised," hungry world like a monstrous witch's curse, must have startled many. For a moment, the polite camouflage of Restriction was torn aside, exposing once more, briefly, the dark blasphemy of wilful Destruction.**

Sixteen column-inches of the evening's "Herald" leaped gallantly into the breach, and to Mr. H. A. Baker, secretary of the Board, came the high honour of refuting the accusations. The sincere congratulations of all who appreciate a display of subtle word craft must go impartially to Mr. Baker. I, for one, viewed with a sort of horrified delight his unflinching progress along a very frail tight-rope. Without (so far as I know) a single lie, this talented apologist raised a structure of words which, I have not the slightest doubt, easily misled 99 per cent, of the human scanning machines who nightly rip through the truth-empty pages of the "Herald." Regarded as an exhibition of technique, this hastily composed denial is one of the finest efforts I have yet seen. Regarded as the reply of a public servant to the criticism of the public whose servant he is, this evasive jugglery with words becomes quite clearly the insolent gesture of a bureaucrat.

In fairness to Mr. Baker you should read the full item on Page 4 of the "Herald" for Monday, February 24, under the headline—"Board Denies Order for Burial of Fruit."

Quoting sections of this:—

"In detail the complaints made and the Board's replies were:—

"Growers paid £7 a ton to bury fruit.

"This can only refer to pears. The Board does not pay growers to bury fruit.

"The price paid (in this instance 3/6 a case) is for the bare fruit in the orchard, which, because of its quick ripening would not find a market if packed and sent to Melbourne. The grower can do what he likes with the fruit providing he does not sell it.

"Not allowed to be given to pigs.

"One of the Board's regulations specifically states that fruit can be used for feed for growers' own stock even though he has been

paid by the Board for it. He must not sell it to other stock owners."

The above paragraphs contain the issue raised by Mr. Hallway, to whose accusations they are intended as an answer, and they COULD have been written as (Continued on page 8.)

### HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

#### SUNDRY NOTES ON THE NEWS

By ERIC D BUTLER

The Federal Union plot proceeds. The following extracts from a report from Britain by "Truth's" foreign correspondent, leaves no doubt as to what is being attempted:

"Mr. Wendell Willkie's visit and Mr. Roosevelt's rallying to the democratic cause, even before the war is over, are leading great newspapers here to forecast an English-speaking future from which the whole world could benefit. The 'Star' says: 'What a rallying of Powers for good in the world there would be if Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt assumed joint leadership of a federation of mankind... British acceptance of this principle at last must be most gratifying to those earnest members of Anglo-

American fellowships who have worked for a quarter of a century in Australia and New Zealand. Truly it may not matter in a few years, once there is victory, whether the centre of the British Empire is in New York, London, Ottawa or Sydney.'" (or Palestine?)

It is very interesting how our opponents carefully confuse any of our statements concerning the "Jewish Question," the Monetary System or the Gold Standard with what has been happening in Germany. The following is a typical example of this insidious form of attack. It appeared in the Sydney "Truth" of February 16, under the heading: "Money and Markets": "Germany's propaganda machine has been working at high pressure lately in its efforts to disparage gold. Drippings from the machine have been picked up and are being used in this country. Doubts as to the future value of gold, which are being expressed freely in trains, trams and streets, are evidence of this . . . Agents say that gold is no longer the basis of currency in Germany, and it is suggested that the productive force of the German people is alone decisive for the stability of currency . . . Also, it is known that the Nazis envisage with 'defeat' of the British Empire, seizure of the Union of South Africa and the whole of the Rand mines. That surely implies, says the 'Financial Times,' an ambition to become the world's largest producer of gold. Further, Dr. Schacht, originator of many ingenious financial schemes for the Nazis, has announced his intention to come to an agreement with the United States on the gold standard . . . People participating in gossip as to the 'future of gold' should therefore realise it is their duty to debunk Nazis' claims and not support them."

If critics of the gold standard are Nazi propagandists, then there are many millions of them throughout the British Empire!

The following report from last Saturday's Melbourne "Sun" speaks for itself: "New Plea To U.S. Blockade Leak In East Shanghai, Friday, A.A.P.—It is reliably reported that Britain has renewed her request to the United States to further restrict American goods reaching Germany by way of Japan and Russia."

I'm afraid that it will take more than pleas to stop the assistance being given to the totalitarian countries by certain German-Jewish-American interests.

(Continued on page 3.)

### MEN AND MONEY

#### LACK OF AIR-RAID SHELTERS

Sydney "Daily Telegraph," Feb. 18: --"Sydney City Council would spend up to £200,000 on street air-raid shelters, and other precautions, IF THE STATE COULD GET THE MONEY FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. Alderman Sir Samuel Walder, M.L.C., told the City Council this yesterday."

It is claimed that the N.S.W. Government and the Federal Government have done practically nothing towards providing security against possible air attack in Sydney. The only public body building shelters is the City Council, which recently commenced building thirteen shelters to seat fifty persons in each at a cost of £4000. This expenditure, however, infinitesimal as it is, will seriously retard other urgent works, some of which have been held up for many years—owing to a "shortage of funds."

Air-raid precautions are a national work with a national security objective. THEY SHOULD BE FINANCED BY NATIONAL MONEY ISSUED AND RECALLED BY THE NATION'S GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE. THE AVAILABILITY (OR OTHERWISE) OF PRIVATE "FUNDS" FOR SUCH AN UNDERTAKING SHOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO ENTER INTO THE QUESTION.

I doubt whether any elector in N.S.W. would disagree with that assertion, yet this is the only State in the Commonwealth other than Victoria whose Parliament has not advocated the use of the national credit for national undertakings.

It is the duty of this Parliament to insist upon the Federal Government (which is legally and constitutionally endowed with the necessary powers) making available whatever money is required for that or any other national objective. More than that, it is the moral duty of all electors in N.S.W. to demand action along these lines by their Federal and State members—that is, of course,

if they prefer democracy to dictatorship, and if they are not greatly imbued with the idea that "it can't happen here." Judging from past political records, it is quite probable that abstract quantities—such as governments—will once again let the people down; but, given an understanding of the facts, I cannot conceive of the majority of the people LETTING THEMSELVES DOWN. After all, our Governments are not doing the fighting or the dying, the doctoring and the nursing, the defending and the munition-making; THE MEN AND WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA ARE.

As it is, sufficient air-raid shelters are being built to seat 650 persons; enough, shall we say, to accommodate our councillors and politicians and their families. I wouldn't dare suggest that about a baker's dozen of those Molotov "breadbaskets" on Pitt-street might wake the rest of us out of our apathy, but I do believe that if the worst comes to the worst we will all start to get busy, regardless of where the "funds" are to come from, and in spite of the balderdash of Sir Samuel Walder, who rejected a motion to the effect that the shelters should be built by the unemployed, and claimed that "this work must be carried out by skilled labour."

In conclusion, I might mention that lots of safe places already exist in our cities; strong rooms and vaults, for instance. Fire, flood and bombproof, they were built for the safety of gold and other valuables such as MONEY. A hole in the ground for MAN? Why, we all get that sooner or later—and we don't have to dig it ourselves!

—"SCISSORS."

## “PROGRESS”

A Broadcast from 7HO on February 9, by  
JAMES GUTHRIE, B.Sc.

**In the good old days, when men were sure of themselves and sure of the future, and when they thought they knew where they were going, there was a word which continually crossed their lips. It was a word conjured up to explain everything, to excuse anything; this blessed word was "Progress," spelt with a capital "P."**

This word is not used so often these days because men are not so sure now what progress means; they have sampled some of this "Progress" and it has a distinctly nasty taste, and a decided sting in its tail.

**The old world is changing rapidly; we have entered the age of planning—large-scale socialist planning, where millions of people have their lives planned for them by a small band of men who sit in a central office in Berlin, Moscow or New York, and, by merely picking up a telephone—or have a few thousand men "liquidated."**

We are very lucky to have had such vast experiments in planning carried out in Russia and Germany, because there is a possibility of the people of the British Empire escaping a similar fate—that is, if they are fully alive to the nature of these experiments where millions of human lives have been sacrificed in the name of Progress and a New Social Order.

But it would be very misleading to suggest that only in Russia and Germany has the individual man and woman been sacrificed in the name of an abstraction called Progress, or Planning, or a New Social Order. Those who have travelled through the industrial areas of England, who have seen the destruction of its beautiful countryside, the pollution of its streams, and its hideous new jerry-built bungalows: only those can have felt as I did when I said to myself: "If this is progress, then I am out to kill it—this filthy monster." When I witnessed the filth and destruction produced by large scale industrialisation I felt I was travelling in a country that had been raped by some vandal—a greedy, vicious vandal who had

sucked the goodness out of it, departed and left the remains of his drunken feast behind.

### SOURCE OF TROUBLE

To visualise clearly what is happening is, I think, the first step towards escaping the tragic mistakes of the socialist planning of Germany and Russia.

The first thing to remember is that the so-called socialist planning of Germany and Russia was made possible by being financed by great international financial houses—like Kuhn, Loeb & Co., of New York.

Secondly, it is important to remember that these great international monopolies are not at all interested in private enterprise.

Thirdly, that these financial houses are definitely interested in State monopolies, and are willing to finance any powerful Government that will take entire control of all enterprises.

Fourthly: These organisations have not the slightest interest in producing goods, nor even in making profits; but in gaining power so as to gain more power.

### PRODUCTS OF PLANNING

The consequences of this large-scale planning are easily seen; beer is no longer made by brewers; it is made by chemists, and with the gigantic organisations behind the modern brewery—its highly trained chemists, accountants and engineers one would expect something immeasurably superior to the beer of twenty years ago. But, strangely enough,

the reverse is the case; and not only is the beer a poor imitation of what our fathers drank, but costs three times the money and is served in glasses skilfully designed to magnify the reduced quantities served.

Milk: A bluish-white watery fluid that comes out of an outraged piece of nature called a mass-production cow. The poor cow, forced by "scientific" devilry and financial necessity to give three times more milk than nature meant her to, is so weakened as to be constantly liable to disease. And, to prevent the disease spreading, this white watery fluid called milk is "scientifically treated," still further reducing the value of the already poor-quality milk. That is what is called "scientific" management and production; and the result; poor milk at twice the price people can afford to pay.

Cotton: The production of cotton in the world is so great that many ingenious methods have been used to destroy the output, rather than give it to the people who need it. The manufacture of cotton thread is in the hands of an international trust who have a huge organisation of scientists and engineers, and who also run their own technical colleges; and the result of all this fifty years of "scientific" planning and scheming is what? Cotton thread, which any housewife will tell you is vastly inferior to the product of twenty years ago, and more than twice the price.

### IT'S CALLED PROGRESS.

That is what is called "Progress," my friends, and I hope you like it. It is now a hundred years since Rowland Hill introduced the penny post. With the aid of "scientific management," steam, electricity and petrol, and Government control, the postage of a letter is now 2d. Isn't it a wonderful age in which we live? Thirty years ago in Hobart you could rent a gentleman's villa for £1 a week; now an unemployed man has difficulty in getting a hovel for that rent. Well, I hope you like the results you are getting; they should be good because you are paying a tremendous price for them.

But when I think of the cheap and nasty rubbish—not so cheap, either, but certainly nasty—which you and I are forced to buy; and when you compare it with the high-class workmanship, and the remarkable excellence and amazing attention to detail of our bombers, guns and battle-ships, one begins to wonder exactly what is happening.

One wonders: Where do you and I come in, in all this planning and scheming, this "scientific" management, this "new" education? What are all our institutions doing; our political parties; our trade unions; our churches and universities? Are they working for us or are they working against us? Are they controlled by us, or are they controlling us?

### THESE "TRENDS."

This brings us to another word. This idea of a "Trend" needs severe handling. We hear people say, for example, that there is a trend in England for small motorcars. But people do not go about in small motorcars little bigger than perambulators, driven by toy engines, if they can get real motorcars to ride in.

The British engineers who build the Rolls Royce engines and the Spitfires can build as good a car as any other engineers. There is no "trend" for British engineers to build small cars, and at the same time destroy the British motorcar export trade. That is not a trend nor a characteristic, nor an inexorable law. It is produced by one or two men, in or behind the British Govern-

ment, deliberately penalising by means of a tax anyone who uses a large car. That's how the British export trade was killed.

### NEW SOCIAL ORDER

We may not know why men like Mr. Baldwin, or Earl Baldwin as he is now called, do these things; all we know is that these men do things which are quite the reverse to what we want done, and they refuse to do the things that we urgently want done. These are the men who are designing the so-called New Social Order in Europe, and I for one do not look forward to living in that New Social Order. I know our soldiers are not fighting for that New Social Order, and I would very earnestly warn you to treat with suspicion any New Social Order, which obtains great headlines in the syndicated Press.

Any change which is to come, if it is to be of any benefit to you and me, must be such that each one of us will be in a position that he can choose with increasing freedom and complete independence whether he will or will not take part in any scheme which may be placed before him, and that no man or party or Government will have the power to rob a man or woman or child of his right to share in the fruits of science and invention, which is the rightful heritage of all men. That is what I think the soldiers are fighting for; that is what I think they will expect when they come back. And I hope you will do everything you can to see they are not disappointed, because it will be a great encouragement to them to know that they are not being forgotten.

## United Democrats' Report

From Headquarters, 17 Waymouth Street, Adelaide.

**Monthly Meeting. - Remember Saturday evening, March 1.** We hope to have a good attendance to hear Mr. J. L. Atkinson, candidate for the Torrens electorate, speak on "This Money Business." There are important matters to discuss also. Supper from the ladies as usual.

Special Luncheon.—On Thursday, March 6 at 1 p.m., there will be a special luncheon, prepared by the members of the Women's Division, to welcome John Hogan again to South Australia. Uniform charge of 1/6 to help the funds.

Rally of Supporters.—To enable members and supporters, past and present, to meet John Hogan at least once before he begins his tour of the State, we have fixed a provisional date for a meeting to be held at 17 Waymouth Street (large hall, ground floor), namely, Saturday, March 8, at 8 p.m. If the date has to be altered we shall notify in these columns next week.

Country Members.—Will those in country centres who are making arrangements for a visit from John Hogan kindly write to us as soon as possible?

## BOLONEY

Mr. Ernest Bevin, speaking to the members of the London Rotary Club, said that the motive of our life was—"social security" (sounds like Dartmoor, doesn't it?). "Individual" security was not mentioned in reports. Also, as an effective answer to Hitler's new world we had got to build one "preventing unemployment. (Strangely enough, this is one of Hitler's ideals, too, the "work" state). The building of the new world, however, is to commence after the war. ("Two pence a week, and jam every other day, Alice," said the Queen in Wonderland.)

—"Reality."

## STRIKE A BLOW FOR FREEDOM!

FLOOD MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING DEMAND:

.....M.H.R.,

Canberra, A.C.T.

Dear Sir,

My forefathers fought and died to give us British democracy. The recent increase in unjust and unnecessary taxation has added to the growing body of responsible public opinion which believes the present financial policy is not only hampering the war effort, but will undermine the victory, as was the case after the last war.

The recent regulation gazetted preventing criticism of the Government's financial policy outrageously violates the right of the taxpayer, who will not be allowed to protest. This regulation is a negation of British democracy, and, in my opinion, is designed to protect the financial interests who are drawing such a heavy toll of interest through taxation from the people. Furthermore, it is the introduction of "Hitlerism," which the youth of Australia is fighting and dying to destroy.

Along with many fellow-electors, I desire you to exercise your responsibility to have this regulation repealed without delay. This matter is of such vital national importance that I demand that you take steps to have Parliament assembled immediately to have this undemocratic and unpatriotic regulation repealed.

Yours faithfully,

Address.....

Obtain your supplies of the above letterform from The United Electors of Australia, 5th Floor, McEwan House, Little Collins Street, Melbourne. Price, 1/6 per hundred, post-free.

## DOING OUR BITS

By FOOTLE

**The other day I was teetering along in the old metropolis: just tootling hither and thither, pleasantly exercised in mind by the reflection that things have a perfectly marvellous way of arranging themselves.** F'instance, it's so devilish fortunate that a good sound burgundy is the perfect irrigation for a poulet saute a la Marengo, yet would be quite definitely the wrong sort of tippie to take with bread and cheese and onions. You get the idea? Sort of harmony, doncherknow—everybody happy and all that. Purely the result of culture, of course.

Nature in the raw does some perfectly hideous things. Just think of our chappies in Libya scuffling about in all that beastly sand, and no liquid—not even water—for oodles of miles. Very bad arrangement in my opinion. Just the very place where the most limited intelligence can see that water is required even more than usual. Nature hasn't provided a bally drop. Fortunately I knew about that.

Suddenly a familiar phiz loomed out of the crowd. I couldn't place it at once: it didn't seem to belong to its surroundings: in fact, it seemed all wrong, like a policeman with an umbrella, or a platinum blonde with elastic-sided boots; but when the owner had grabbed my hand, glove and all, doncherknow, and crushed it as though he hoped to ring a bell somewhere or get his penny back, I knew who it was. It was Pongo Pyke. He looked perfectly ghastly: quite healthy and all that, of course: it was his uniform. They tell me you have to be deformed to really look well in some of the kit that's dished out. And apart from that, I prefer ornaments on the shoulder straps. But Pongo seemed fairly pleased with himself. Most unthinkingly he said: "You haven't joined up yet?"

"Who, me?" I gasped. "Dash it, be reasonable. I can't possibly afford to. You know what Aunt Ella's like: if I were to go home dressed up as a 'private'—that's about the lowest of the low, isn't it? I thought so—well, Aunt Ella'd think I'd done it purposely, and cut off the necessary at the source. Can't be done. I mean, what can you do with thirty-five bob, which is, I believe, the ghastly pittance mentioned in this connection? Not even enough for a decent buck party, let alone any civilising influence. I thought, maybe, they might have been short of captains or majors or that sort or what-not, but you'd be bally well surprised, old man, if you saw them as I did—teemin' in all directions. Bally well marvellous, and most undemocratic, doncherthink? But let's have a pow-wow somewhere. Anyone might come along and see us here."

Fortunately there was a decent lounge handy, with those sensible chairs, large enough to afford a complete alibi.

"Now, tell me," I said, over the amber. "What made you do it? Get in on the ground floor, I mean. Don't tell me you wanted to do your bit as a private."

Pongo's canine features went somewhat into eclipse.

"You mean 'bits,' old thing. Distinctly, one should use the plural. D'you know, old man, that getting into the army is pretty near as tough as getting a job, and that staying there's even tougher?"

"You stagger me," I said, thinking he was potty.

"D'you know," went on Pongo, firmly, "that if I had to sign up for the 'duration' many more times, I'd need a diary to keep track of my enlistments? That's what I meant when I said 'bits.' I'm a sort of veteran already."

"Don't be silly!" I advised. "You don't mean enlistments. You only have to enlist once."

"Footle, old boy," he said, sadly, "you're losing ground. You're falling behind the times. In this war you can be enlisted over and over again. This isn't a man hunt like the last show, in fact you mustn't say 'yes,' 'no,' 'nor 'nay,' 'black,' 'white' nor 'grey'; but you can get in when you know what to avoid. In fact I'm

so used to taking the oath I don't have to read it."

"How frightfully rummy!"

"Yes, isn't it? Fact, all the same. It's as hard to keep in the army as it is to keep money." He seemed to get even more gloomy.

"Tell me, and get it out of your system," I recommended, as I refilled his glass and called for another bottle.

"You see," said Pongo, "I've got an aunt too—not like yours, though. 'Percival,' she said—my name's not really 'Pongo,' you know—"Percival, I've lost faith in you. You seem to be living on your expectations of me, and I've made up my mind to make an adjustment in my will, an unpleasant adjustment for you, unless you can show me that you are capable of holding a job for at least six months. I've been going to speak to you about it many times. The war makes no difference to my resolve: it merely makes it easier for you, since only by misconduct can you be thrown out of the army." That's what she said, and that's all she knew.

"Well, I joined the A.I.F., celebrated with a binge during which I must have changed into 'civvies' some place—I never succeeded in remembering where, though I spent days trying to find my uniform, as there were a couple of girls' addresses I simply had to have. And when I finally blew into camp you'd have thought I was a desperate criminal captured at the point of the bayonet. Nobody cared a curse about the addresses I'd lost, of course, but they thought of everything else, I can tell you. It took 'em best part of six minutes to read the crime sheet. So that was that. I'd got my bowler hat, as they say. I couldn't go back to Aunt Constance, and on the advice of a serious-minded bloke, I didn't go for the A.I.F. any more, but got myself enlisted for full-time duty in Australia. I signed for the 'duration,' and thought everything was joy. I aimed to keep it dark from Aunt Connie, and, later on, tell her how the enemy were at the gates, so to speak, and that a few picked troops such as yours, &c., were selected to defend the shores of our island home.

"But somebody, high up somewhere, changed his mind, and there I was, out on the old familiar kerb once again. Some of the lads had actually given up jobs and couldn't get them back again. They were frightfully peeved, but not more than I was. Trying to keep square with Aunt Connie is pretty nearly as good as a win in the Irish sweep as far as I'm concerned. But it happened in a day or two they wanted some more husky lads for the 'duration.' In I went again, but I'd hardly got myself recognised by the pay-master when the job cut out, and there I was again, lying low, with a couple of months to go. Then, this very day, I went to swear in for the last time. 'Listen,' I said to the attesting officer, 'there's a good deal hanging to this. Is there any way of making it last, say, three months?' I don't think he heard me, or, if he did, he probably thought I was taking the oath. 'Sign here!' he said.

"So," concluded Pongo, "I signed for the 'duration.' But I'd feel safer if it had been for three months . . . Why, where are you going?"

"I'm going to join up after all," I said, firmly. "You've put new heart into me."

## HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

(Continued from page 1.)

Mr. Wendell Wilkie is rapidly appearing as a "key" man in the plan to subjugate the British Empire through Federal Union. A press report last week states: "Mr. Wendell Wilkie indicated yesterday that he was considering a tour of China and Australia. Mr. Wilkie's friends [I wonder who they are] are urging him to continue the fact-finding begun in Britain. . . . He has become a permanent political factor, and so is being urged to complete first hand knowledge of world affairs by visiting Australia and China."

\* \* \*

In connection with the recent suggestion that Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt assume "joint leadership of a federation of mankind," the following report in last Monday's Melbourne "Age" takes on a sinister implication: "It is suggested by the New York correspondent of the 'Sunday Despatch' that Mr. Churchill should visit Mr. Roosevelt. The correspondent declares that over Mr. Roosevelt's table Mr. Churchill could achieve more in a few hours [for whom?] than all the ambassadors, envoys and special representatives could in a year. He adds: 'I put the suggestion forward after trying it out with United States political leaders. First they said it was a breathtaking idea, and impossible of fulfilment, and completely out of the run of things. Later, when the thought had stink in, they came back and said that it could be done, and it would be tremendous.'" Yes, I have no doubt.

\* \* \*

The red-tape experts are not having it all their own way in Britain, as witnessed by the following interesting report in the Melbourne press of February 21: "Are we compelled to muddle through to victory?" asked Lord

Perry, in the House of Lords yesterday, in a bitter attack on the alleged ineptitude of the Civil Service. Lord Perry, a former Cabinet Minister and notable businessman declared that the British permanent officials believed that second thoughts were better than a quick decision, and an overnight consideration better than action.

"Recruitment for this illustrious body of men seems to get young men whose ceiling of ambition is short hours, little work, mediocre surroundings, and no responsibility . . ."

"There is nobody who can discharge him, except death, nobody who can promote him, except death; and if death is kind by a quick removal of his seniors, he may get £3000 sterling a year, with Order of the Bath before he retires on half-pay at 60. Take no responsibility is the keystone of the Civil Service. The intrusion of businessmen disturbs its restful procrastination, which is the Alpha and Omega of the life of Whitehall."

### £22,000 Tax on £20,000, But Man Will Pay It

Auckland (N.Z.), Wednesday. — Replying to a deputation today asking when the Government was going to conscript wealth, the Minister for Finance (Mr. Nash) said one New Zealand man with an income of £20,000 had to pay £22,000 this year in taxes and levies.

Mr. Nash was asked how the man would pay it. He said: "He borrowed from the bank and will have to pay interest on the loan."

—Melbourne "Sun," Feb. 6.

## A BOOK YOU MUST READ

**"The Money Power Versus The above are obtainable from the "New Times," Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne**

# The New Times

A non-party, non-sectarian, non-sectional weekly newspaper, advocating political and economic democracy, and exposing the causes, the institutions and the individuals that keep us poor in the midst of plenty.

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No. 8.

## "DEFYING THE GOVERNMENT"

Under the above heading, "Sound Finance"—a monthly publication issued by the Sound Finance League of Australia (Sydney) and the Sound Finance Association of Victoria (Melbourne)—waxes vitriolic about "typed matter, under the title 'Information,' . . . being circulated in Sydney and Melbourne and, we believe, throughout Australia by a kind of 'chain-letter' process."

Readers will remember that on December 20 we reported the publication, as a printed leaflet, of the matter referred to, and quoted its contents. It is interesting to receive confirmation from such a source that it has been distributed so widely, and is even being typed out and circulated "by a kind of 'chain-letter' process."

"Sound Finance" rushes to the rescue of the private banking monopoly; but not being able to clearly refute the statements made in "Information," protests loudly, over and over again, that the said statements are "subversive" and "lying," originate from "cranks," are contrary to the infamous Bankers' Clause in National Security Regulation 42A and that the Government should enforce 42A in such a case.

The word "lying" apparently stuck in the mind of the "Sound Finance" writer after constant repetition, so that, quite unconsciously no doubt, he repeated a worn-out bankers' lie when he wrote that the banks "are distributors rather than creators of credit."

In one typical effort to show that the statements in "Information" contravene Regulation 42A, "Sound Finance" asks: "Could any statement be likely to 'undermine public confidence in banking' more than the assertion that 'nominees of private trading banks dominate the Commonwealth Bank Board?'" Which is simply specious nonsense, of course. The assertion might be likely to undermine public confidence in **private trading banks as arbiters, of Australia's financial policy**, but NOT in banking.

Of course, "Sound Finance" endeavours to make some show of disproving some of the statements to which it objects, but it is a pathetic show. In an endeavour to minimise the proportion of Government loan money which originates in the private trading banks, this bankers' mouthpiece goes away back to the peace-time deflationary days of 1936 and quotes an amount as at a selected date in that year. But the amount quoted only includes **"long-term Government securities maturing in Australia"** held (at that date) **in their own names** by private trading banks. Bankers are expert at camouflaging the nature and extent of their activities, and one simple expedient to conceal the proportion of "loan funds" that is "bank credit" has been fully exposed in these columns in the past. The Bank of Australasia advertised it in its full front-page advertisement in the "Argus" annual Financial Supplement of February 13, wherein they stated, boldly and prominently: "Advances are made for business purposes, the purchase of homes, and to assist in the acquisition of Government loans, investment stocks, etc." Still trying to conceal the truth on this point, "Sound Finance" continues: "It has not been revealed what percentage of the loans floated since the outbreak of the present war was taken up by the trading banks." Not revealed to the awakening public, of course, but Sir Bertram Stevens is able to show, in an article in the same "Argus" Financial Supplement, that the nett amount of "trading bank security purchases" from July, 1939, to September, 1940, was considerably more than their total holdings as given by "Sound Finance" for a selected date in 1936.

There is much more we could pull apart in the "Sound Finance" article, but we think we have said sufficient to show the devices resorted to by the defenders of a private monopoly which is **"defying the Government"** by usurping a prerogative of the Crown—the creation of money.

## THE MONEY-CHANGERS IN THE TEMPLE

The following is extracted from the book, "In the Steps of the Master," from the pen of H. V. Morton. Readers will recognise similarity to certain transactions, which are resorted to today in Collins Street Temples of Mammon:

"Much has been written about the attitude of Our Lord to the Temple. We cannot doubt that while He revered the thing it stood for, He condemned the thing it had become. 'I will have mercy and not sacrifice,' He said. His opinion of the priesthood was well expressed in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, and one might perhaps read into His attack on the moneychangers and the merchants in the Temple a deeper meaning than a dislike for the carrying on of business in a sacred place. Was it not also a protest against the whole financial system of the Temple?"

"But what was this system? The priests literally raked in the shekels and lived, quite as literally, on the fat of the land. The Temple Tribute, or poll tax, was only one of the imposts levied on the Jews for the upkeep of the Temple. Offerings of a different nature embraced every conceivable thing.

"There were the first fruits, the so-called 'seven kinds,' which were wheat, barley, vines, figs, pomegranates, olives and honey. Those near Jerusalem offered them fresh to the Temple; those far away brought them dried. Philo and the Mishna describe how the villagers assembled together at the time of the offering of the first fruits and came up to Jerusalem to the music of the pipes, the procession led by a sacrificial ox with gilded horns garlanded with olive leaves.

"In addition to the first fruits were the *terumah*, an offering of wheat, wine, and oil; the *challah*, an offering of kneaded dough, and the oppressive tithes which, says the Mishna, covered 'everything which may be used as food and is cultivated, growing out of the earth.' It was this rigorous system of taxing the most humble crops, such as mint and anise and cumin, that provoked Jesus to cry out: 'But woe unto you, Pharisees, for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God.'

"Then there was the offering of all first-born sons and all the male first-born of animals. The sons were ransomed on payment of five shekels to the Temple Treasury, and a lesser money payment was made for the first-born males among the non-sacrificial animals, such as the ass, the horse and the camel. But the first-born of goats and sheep and oxen belonged to the Temple.

"In addition to all this, the priests received incredible quantities of meat. All kinds of sacrifices followed each other at the altar: sin offerings, trespass offerings, meat offerings, thank offerings, and burnt offerings. From all except the last, which were entirely consumed on the altar, the priests received a good share of the meat for their private use. In sin offerings, for instance, only the fat was thrown on the altar, and the priests received a proportion of the carcass. In thank offerings they were entitled to the breast and right shoulder—and even in burnt offerings the skins fell to them, in which they did a profitable business.

"Therefore, the Temple must have been an enormous storehouse of every kind of food and produce. Its vaults were stacked with the very best that the country could grow. In them also were large gold deposits, for, like most temples in ancient times, it was a bank in the sense that it offered strong rooms and safe deposits for the wealthy.

"It was this mighty Institution which Christ entered with a whip

in His hand. The market was a remarkable feature of the Temple. During the days before the Passover, it was at its busiest. It was a cattle market. It was a money market. It was also possible to buy the necessary food and drink offerings there. The market had no doubt grown up over a long period of time because of the demand for Levitically perfect animals, the need to change money into Sanctuary coin, and a hundred other material matters connected with the Temple worship. Instead of bringing his own lamb or goat to the Temple and risking its rejection by the *mumcheh*, or inspector, who passed all sacrifices for a fee, the worshipper could buy in the Temple market beasts which already had been examined by the authorities and were guaranteed Levitically pure. It is common knowledge that as soon as a few stalls are erected anywhere and an atmosphere of buying is created, all kinds of transactions begin to occur in the neighbourhood. Leather Lane, near Holborn, is a perfect example. Much the same thing must have occurred in the Temple precincts.

"The market was held under the arcades in the great Court of the Gentiles. It must have been exactly like any market in Damascus or Jerusalem or Cairo today: a tense mass of arguing, bargaining people. Many a poor peasant was well fleeced there. We know that prices were artificially manoeuvred, and that on one occasion the cost of two pigeons was run up to the ridiculous price of a gold denar, or about fifteen shillings and three pence of modern money. Before night it had fallen, through the intervention of an honest man, till the normal charge of a quarter of a silver denar, or about eight-pence.

"When Jesus entered the Temple Market it must have been loud with the bleating of the sacrificial sheep in their pens, the lowing of cattle and the cooing of doves. Men must have been arguing loudly, laughing, trying to get the better of each other, and gazing with contempt on the poor pilgrim, who offered no man a profit.

"There is an interesting point about this market. There is reason to think that it was the property of Annas, who had been High Priest for many years. Edersheim says that there can be no doubt that this was the place known as 'the bazaars of the sons of Annas,' and Josephus makes the significant remark that Anna, the son of the Annas of the New Testament, was 'a great hoarder-up of money.' If this was so, can we not see how Christ's attack was aimed not only at the prestige of the priests, but at their pockets and the whole shabby financial system by which they had grown rich? One critic has even suggested that this was one of the main reasons for the arrest of Jesus.

"It is, at any rate, certain that in cleansing the Temple Jesus delivered a blow at the vested interests of the aristocratic priesthood. His action was an invitation to all honest men; and the poor, patient multitudes, who were mercilessly squeezed to support one of the most numerous and best-nourished priesthods in history, gave Him such support in His protest that even the Temple police, who usually corrected the slightest irregularity, did not dare to lay a finger on Him. 'And he taught daily in the temple,' says St. Luke. 'But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people (Continued on page 8.)'

# **£250 WANTED IMMEDIATELY £250**

## ***Will You Help?***

With this issue of the paper we are launching a determined campaign to raise £250 immediately; also to increase our circulation by an extra thousand copies per week before Easter. We believe that the present situation calls for an immediate intensification of our activities in every part of Australia. We have struggled through some very black periods in the past, when it was a tremendous struggle to survive. But, with the magnificent assistance of supporters, we managed to do so. The result has been that our last annual balance sheet showed that, for the first time in the history of the paper, we showed a small profit. However, magnificent as this result was, we still have to face the fact that it was only achieved with the aid of a considerable sum in donations, which bridged the reduced deficit in our trading activities. So we must now obtain £250, not only to bridge the diminishing deficit in the current financial year, but to take greater steps to increase our circulation and to finance booklet publications.

### **WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED**

The "New Times," as far as we are aware, is the only paper of its kind in the British Empire, which has not reduced its contents or increased its price since the present military struggle started. Our influence has become more and more widespread. Our analysis of the international situation has played a vital part in revealing to the Australian public the real factors underlying the present conflict. The "New Times" was the first paper in Australasia to give the "inside story," just prior to the outbreak of war, regarding the Wall Street intrigue. No other paper in Australasia has presented the background to national and international events as consistently as the "New Times." Mr. Butler's booklets on the international situation, mainly reprinted from the "New Times," have had a sale in every part of Australia and abroad.

Our tremendous influence in Australia has started to manifest itself in many significant ways. The Budget crisis late last year made Australian history. The question of finance came "into the spotlight" as never before. Since then, Mr. Fadden and other apologists of the present financial system have become almost frenzied in their attempts to stem the rising tide of public opinion. The introduction of the famous Regulation 42A, with its "Bankers' Clause," was the most significant move ever launched against any British country. The "New Times" lost no time in launching a nation-wide campaign against this Regulation: the nation-wide protest is holding up this attack on democracy. This paper has led many fights over the past few years: National Insurance and the Commonwealth Bank Act Amendment Bill were swept aside by an aroused public opinion. Now, in this greatest of crises, the "New Times" must go from strength to strength. Now, as never before, we need a strong, virile press to keep the Australian public enlightened and in touch with the rapid whirl of national and international affairs. We are fighting for our existence; things may become worse, but the future is in our hands. Every reader of this journal has a responsibility, which he must accept—or repudiate. Money is the sinews of the war. Will YOU supply some part—small or large—of that £250.

### **INCREASE THE CIRCULATION**

Apart from financial assistance, EVERY reader is asked to make a determined effort to get at least one more reader. Unless doing so already, he can buy an extra copy every week and pass it on. We also desire to inform readers that we have a large quantity of back numbers, which readers should obtain and distribute as widely as possible. Readers who are prepared to do this are urged to write to us immediately. (Any number of copies will be posted to any part of Australia, post free.) Every reader can at least do that much for the cause.

### **DO IT NOW!**

If you are going to assist, do it NOW. In conjunction with this appeal, Mr. Butler has sent out a personal letter to many hundreds of supporters. You may have received it. Mr. Butler writes: "Over the past twelve months I have donated most of the profits on my books to subsidising the paper. . . . I believe that, in conjunction with the paper, books are the best and most financially remunerative way of reaching the public. With this end in view I have written 'The Money Power Versus Democracy,' a book, which was urgently wanted in our work. This book has been highly commended by supporters, from many parts of Australia and New Zealand." As Mr. Butler points out, the publishing of a large edition of this book involved incurring a debt, which we must meet IMMEDIATELY. "When this has been paid the profits from the book, which should be considerable, will be used as a further subsidy for the paper. This is my personal contribution, apart from writing regularly in a strictly voluntary capacity. What are YOU willing and able to contribute? Our aim is £250."

SEND YOUR DONATION, HOWEVER LARGE OR SMALL, TO THIS ADDRESS:

## **THE NEW TIMES**

BOX 1226, G.P.O., MELBOURNE.

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DON'T LEAVE IT TO THE OTHER FELLOW. MAKE THIS CAMPAIGN A GREAT SUCCESS.

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A copy of "The Money Power Versus Democracy" will be sent to every person forwarding a donation.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## PACIFIC "CRISIS"

Sir, —I suggested in my article, "The Pacific Crisis," published in these columns last week, that the situation in the Pacific was being grossly exaggerated by the finance-controlled press of this and other countries. Sensationalism ran mad for a few days I mentioned the Melbourne "Herald" in my article. Reports reaching me from other States indicate that similar scare-mongering tactics were utilised there, too, so that many people believed that Australia faced an imminent military threat.

Apparently, the high-water level of this anti-Australian campaign was reached when the Sydney "Daily Telegraph" reported Mr. W. M. Hughes "in tears," after the now-famous cablegram concerning alleged Japanese movements had been handed to him in the Cabinet Room. This deliberate lie was apparently too much for Mr. Hughes, who promptly summoned Mr. Frank Packer, the Managing Director of Consolidated Press, to see him at the Commonwealth Bank Buildings. It would be interesting to know what Mr. Hughes told Mr. Packer.

According to "Truth's" correspondent in Britain, Mr. Fadden's statement was received with great surprise in English political circles. The British Ambassador in Japan is reported as discounting Australian misapprehensions.

Throughout last week we were told that the position, although still "grave," had "eased." In a special article in the Melbourne "Argus" of February 19, Mr. Clive Turnbull, Special Representative of Australian Associated Press, wrote: "Logically, there is every reason why Japan should never go to war; and it seems certain that she will never go to war at the bidding of the Axis."

In the Melbourne "Sun" of February 19, Mr. Swain, who was 17 years with the Shanghai municipal police, is reported as saying, upon his arrival in Sydney: "I don't think there is any fear of Japan extending her activities southward until she has cleaned up China, and that will take plenty of time."

When it became apparent that there were many people like myself in Australia, who suspect all "crises" these days, then the "explaining" campaign started. Last week I referred to the underlying menace of certain financial interests in America. The following extract from an article entitled, "Pacific Tension Eases, But Britain Remains Vigilant," in the Melbourne "Herald" of February 19, is a remarkable admission of press lies: "The Japanese have complained bitterly that tension arose suddenly because of the circulation of false reports. The reactions of Australia, Britain and America were certainly based on hard facts, and were in no way related to false reports circulated throughout American newspaper channels to the effect that Dutch ships had been ordered to Manila, and that the Japanese were making further demands on the Dutch East Indies. These reports were certainly without foundation, but they were not circulated by any Government channel in Britain or the United States." It would be interesting to know which were the "hard facts."

I suggested that this "crisis" would be utilised to deliver another internal blow at Australian democracy. This has been done. The process of regimentation has seen taken a step further by the new "defence" scheme of having compulsory trainees in camp for six months in every twelve

months. The effect on industry will be colossal. To make it worse, the six months' training is to be divided into two periods of three months, which will mean that a recruit will be in camp for three months, out of camp for three months, and so on. The average employer will not be able to employ men under such conditions, with the result that it is being suggested that women could be trained to take the jobs of these men. It is not stated what is going to become of the men during their three months' period out of camp. They will be at the mercy of any suggestions our finance-controlled Government makes. Unless a halt is called, I can foresee the whole of the population — men and women — regimented under a centralised Government control.

Increasing friction will develop. There is only one way to successfully defend this country from any attacks—external or internal — and that is by a permanent force of volunteers who are well paid for their services. The obstacle to such a scheme is the present financial

system, which is destroying morale and the future hopes of thousands of young men who may be called upon to fight.

**What is physically possible must be made financially possible.** It is physically possible to increase the standard of living in this country, even while we are at war, to pay a permanent volunteer militia force a reasonable wage for their services, and to show the people that the conclusion of the war will leave us with our national sovereignty and democratic institutions intact.

The chief instigators of the Pacific crisis, the European crisis, and every other crisis are determined that the populations of the British Empire shall finish this war under a similar system of Government to that operating in Germany, Russia, Japan and Italy.

Unfortunately for these instigators, the peoples of the British Empire are beginning to look for the underlying causes of all crises, and are prepared to resist the enemy on all fronts. This seems to be worrying Messrs. Fadden and Co. in this country. —Yours, etc.,

ERIC D. BUTLER.

Melbourne.

THE TIME IS RIPE  
United Effort Wanted  
—NOW

Sir, —The enclosed small sum of ten shillings represents a mere 500th part of the £250 required to carry on the "New Times." No doubt, like thousands of other people, we feel that though financially we "cannot afford it," in terms of true representation towards ultimate democratic victory and economic security, such a "widow's mite" should be regarded as a gilt-edged investment.

You are appealing to several thousands of readers throughout Australia and elsewhere for a mere £250. This amounts approximately to one shilling per head of local readers, who certainly have a first-hand knowledge of the tremendously effective effort put up by the "New Times" and its voluntary staff of contributors during the past few years. I know that but for the human element — forgetfulness, thoughtlessness, and procrastination—this sum would be forthcoming immediately, and much more if necessary; but—"eramus est humanus."

Appreciating the urgency of the present situation, and in order to encourage others who may not yet have done their bit, I ask that you publish this letter so that those not in close association with your own efforts may realise that the "New Times" and its great campaign MUST GO ON.

My wife and I have just returned to Sydney after having travelled 3000 miles by car throughout the Riverina. We distributed approximately 1000 copies of the "New Times," obtained a number of new subscribers, and disposed of a large quantity of literature. We feel that if each one of your readers could have shared our observations, impressions and experiences during the past six weeks, there would soon be no further need for financial appeals by the "New Times."

In all my travelling experience I have never seen the country so ripe for reforms along the lines advocated by the "New Times." All our spare time was taken up with interested people, answering questions, etc. There is no doubt that the Australian public are rapidly becoming money-reform conscious, and that the scope for the right literature distribution increases daily. Supporters CAN obtain new subscribers if they will but make the effort, and I appeal to them to do so.

The following brief observations may serve to illustrate the position in the country districts: In a once-thriving town on the Victorian border no less than 15 businesses have closed down during the past few weeks. In contrast to this, whilst shops are being sold up and demolished, huge banking and insurance buildings are being erected.

The biggest store in a large Western Riverina town recently returned unsold to the factory no less than 200 dozen of one article of clothing. In the same town garments usually sold at 7/11 are being offered for 1/- apiece.

Passing through hundreds of country centres, we were able to get a "close-up" of our "national effort." Of approximately 200 persons in one small town, 40 are drawing "relief." Every town has its gruesome quota of able-bodied unemployed men waiting for something to turn up, whilst road washaways resulting from recent floods remain untouched. In view of the need for a co-operative national effort, these facts cast a damning indictment against the present financial policy of our governments.

We found both the growers and retailers of fruit up in arms about the Apple and Pear Board—and not afraid to emphatically say so. Farmers described to us in detail the way in which their miserable portion of the recent Federal (Continued on page 7.)

## IN BRITAIN'S PARLIAMENT

## Chancellor "On the Spot" Again

## BANK ADVANCES.

On November 12, Mr. Craven-Ellis asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer from what source the banks are obtaining the means to make advances to the Treasury known as Treasury deposit receipts; and is it intended to liquidate these borrowings from the sale of National Savings Certificates or bonds?

**Sir K. Wood:** "The banks are able to lend to the Government by way of Treasury deposit receipts as a result of the increased liquid funds in their hands arising from the increase in their customers' deposits. As regards the second part of the question the proceeds of sales of Government securities to the public are not earmarked to particular purposes but, along with the proceeds of taxation, are available to meet all Government expenditure, including the repayment of short-term debt."

**Mr. Craven-Ellis:** "Have not these credits been brought into existence by the action of the banks, and is it not advisable at this time that the Government should be responsible for the creation of credit for war purposes?"

**Mr. De la Bere:** "Are these credits not costless credits? They cost the banks nothing."

**Sir K. Wood:** "I have already answered various questions which my hon. Friend has put."

**Mr. Shinwell:** "Does not the right hon. Gentleman realise that we must adopt a new conception of finance if we are to win the war?"

**Sir K. Wood:** "I have no doubt that my hon. Friend would agree to adopt the suggestions that have been made by his hon. Friend."

## BANK DEPOSITS

Mr. Loftus asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that the deposits of the joint stock banks have increased by over £300,000,000 since the outbreak of war; and whether, as this increase represents additional money brought into existence by the action of the banks in supplying the Treasury with funds which they create without cost to themselves, but upon which the Government pays interest to the banks, he will consider

amending the law so that any further issue of such money, which may be necessary, shall be made upon the authority, and to the benefit, of His Majesty's Treasury, and not upon the authority and to the benefit of any private interests?

**Sir K. Wood:** "I am aware of the increase in the deposits of the banks but cannot accept the suggestions in the rest of my hon. Friend's question. In so far as the increase has been due to the increased expenditure of Government funds those funds have been provided in the main by means other than borrowing from the banks. Two-thirds of the increase in bank deposits had in fact occurred before the Treasury began to borrow from the banks by means of Treasury deposit receipts."

**Mr. Loftus:** "Is not my right hon. Friend aware that this borrowing of newly-created money is dangerously increasing the floating debt, a practice which my right hon. Friend condemned at Leeds on 13th September; and, if it is to continue, will he arrange that these newly-created credit moneys are created by the State and not by a private monopoly?"

**Sir K. Wood:** "I cannot go into that question."

**Mr. Bevan:** "Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that there is a universal demand for him to adopt modern methods in financing this war; and does he not realise that a general impression is abroad that the Treasury is as backward as was the French Army?"

**Sir K. Wood:** "No, Sir; I do not think so."

On November 13, debating Clause 2 (Power for the Treasury to borrow) of the Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) (No. 2) Bill, Mr. Gallacher said he thought it undesirable to pass a Clause giving such powers to the Bank of England. "It is time something was done about the Bank of England," he said. "It has simply been fleecing the people of this country all along, and we have had many undesirable acts on the part of the Bank which have not been to the interest and advantage of the country." He opposed the clause but it was passed.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

Monday, February 17.

Conference between the Federal and State Arbitration judges into the question of improving machinery for the settlement of industrial disputes was adjourned. Proposals will be drafted for submission to the Federal Government.

(Why not submit to Parliament?)

The apathy of district land owners this year in regard to the activities of the Camperdown district bush fire brigade is causing the brigade executive concern. Out of 158 membership application forms sent out, only 24 have been returned.

(Do they dislike centralised control?)

At Maryborough Hospital, Mr. H. H. Olney, M.L.C., chairman of the Charities Board, officially opened additions to the hospital. Dr. Thompson said they looked forward to the time when towns such as Maryborough and Castlemaine would become industrial cities, when the Governments and the people realised what benefit was to be gained through population being spread throughout the length and breadth of Australia, instead of being quartered in a small corner of the coast.

(Those who realise the benefits to be gained must act to achieve. They can induce their fellow electors to join them in giving instruction to their Parliamentary representatives to demand the achievement.)

Wednesday, March 19.

Trades Hall Council Central Unemployment Committee claims that many skilled men are still without employment.

The secretary (Mr. H. H. Lees), said there were 744 registered unemployed listed as tradesmen and unskilled labourers in the metropolitan area alone.

There were probably as many more unemployed tradesmen not registered as unemployed.

Mr. Lees added that he had a register containing particulars of many such men not eligible for sustenance because of permissible income restrictions and for other reasons.

Wednesday, February 19.

Many industries are facing a shortage of female labour to meet the demand for manufactured goods and foodstuffs. The officer in charge of sustenance (Mr. F. W. Frawley) said there was not one girl or woman eligible for work in receipt of sustenance.

On the charge of purporting to sell a case of pears, the property of the Commonwealth, William Fitzsimmons, fruit grower, was fined 10/-, with 21/- costs, by Mr. Beers, P.M., in the Fourth City Court. The prosecution was instituted by the Apple and Pear Board, and this offence was alleged to have been committed at the Victoria Market.

Officers of the taxation department are dissatisfied with the classifications in that department. In the coming election for representatives on the Public Service Board they desire direct representation. The Public Service Association, at its annual meeting, decided that the executive should take "strong disciplinary action" against any member who nominates against the official general service candidate for election to the board, or any member who supports such an opposing candidate.

It is understood that "strong disciplinary action" mentioned would mean expulsion of the member or members concerned.

(The best way to treat a fool is to ignore him.)

Friday, February 21.

At this week's meeting of Sandringham council, the mayor (Cr Sandall) said the system of sustenance was a blot on our social system. We were told that we were facing the greatest emergency in our history, yet sustenance was being continued. The Government should be pressed to find employment for every man capable of working.

It was decided to refer the matter to the Municipal Association.

Friday, February 21.

The annual conference of the United Country Party will commence at Ballarat on Tuesday, March 25. Amongst the proposals to be discussed are several relating to economics and finance, advocating "That the national credit should be utilised to help the war effort, primary industries and the general welfare of the Australian people, without causing inflation, increased debt, or increased taxation."

Sir Archibald Howie, M.L.C., chairman of North Shore Gas Co. Ltd., Sydney, at the company's annual meeting, said taxation increased from £25,906 in 1939, to £36,751 in 1940—about 42 per cent. Comparing this sum with the amount required for the dividend, it meant that for every £1 paid to shareholders, the company had to pay in some form of taxation, no less than 13/4. Taxation represented 7.7d per 1000 cubic feet in the price of gas, compared with under 3d per 1000 feet eleven years ago.

Sir Archibald Howie added that in two years, taxation had increased by 110.8 per cent, and to his mind the economic limit had been exceeded. Industry's future was being prejudiced by exorbitant taxation, and this applied particularly to the gas industry. He was of opinion that the burden of taxation was not being spread equitably. Every citizen should be called upon to make some monetary sacrifice for the fight now in progress. Of the company's 526 employees, only 34 per cent, paid income tax. Was not the liberty of a man on the basic wage as dear to him as that of a man on a larger salary or wage? What the Government had refused to collect in tax from the lower incomes, it was taking from industry and other resources.

(Sir Archibald Howie may have special knowledge of "gas," but he evidently knows nothing regarding the social asphyxiation caused by savage taxation. The taxpayers who chose Sir Archibald as their representative will deserve all that is coming to them, should they neglect to use their representative to get what they want.)

Saturday, February 22.

Dimboola Tomato Growers' Association has decided to request the Premier to refrain from instituting any board to control the marketing of tomatoes for household use. A petition, which has been signed by every tomato grower at Dimboola, is to be presented to the Premier. This sets out that the experience with boards was that the grower received less and the public paid more.

For some years, ratepayers of Lilydale have had to pay the highest rates in the State. Every business property in Mount Evelyn, with one exception, has been increased by at least 40 per cent, notwithstanding that an examination of trades people's books would show a falling off of almost that figure in comparison with pre-depression figures, and for this the apathy of the ratepayers is largely responsible. Orchardists at Montrose and Kilsyth, who have cut down half their trees, had had their values increased, and one farmer, whose property was valued by the Closer Settlement Board at £1400, was for rating purposes valued at £2000.

"Seize a thief before he seizes you."

Saturday, February 22.

At Port Fairy, the A.N.A. South-western District Council decided to send a letter of congratulation to the board of directors regarding the introduction of the child endowment scheme by the Federal Government. The measure, it was stated, originated in the A.N.A.

A general increase in the retail prices of food and groceries appear in figures issued by the Commonwealth Statistician. In the twelve months ended January 31, the price levels rose by 9.5 per cent, in Queensland, 8.5 per cent, in New South Wales, 7 per cent, in Tas-

## USING THE NATION'S CREDIT

By ALBERT FAWCETT.

**A lot of talk is going on these days about the way in which this war is being financed, particularly amongst those people who at one time regarded the sphere or monetary problems as something that should be left to the professional economists.**

At one time, it was thought to be sufficient to know that the necessary money to pay for the nation's war effort was being raised in some manner or other, and let it go at that. Now, however, most people seem to remember that a few years, even a few months, before this present war broke out, there seemed to be an apparent shortage of money in Australia for all sorts of peace-time projects that were needed by the people, yet suddenly, when the nation is confronted with the necessity of finding millions for the purpose of waging war, the money is readily available.

After a lot of inquiries, it appears that this new treasure chest has been discovered by the Government "using the nation's credit." The press points out that there is such a thing as national credit, and that by the process of monetising that credit, the necessary finance for war purposes is being raised. Of course, one might immediately jump to the conclusion, that, as this "credit" belongs to the nation—that is, to the people as a whole—then we ought to be able to make use of it practically free of charge, except the usual bookkeeping costs of handling the account. People even seem to have the idea that, as this "credit" belongs to the nation, then there should be no debt created when we use it. After all, the wealth that is being monetised in this way is made by the people themselves, so it would be ridiculous to charge ourselves interest for simply monetising our own wealth.

But our professional economists and orthodox financiers seem to think that that would be absolutely calamitous. They say we would immediately have inflation, the price system would fall to pieces, our currency would be valueless, and a dozen other terrible fates would result. Oh, no, we certainly can't have "unlimited" quantities of "national credit" made available to us debt and interest free! The only way in which we can use this national credit of ours, they say, is to let the private banks handle the entire matter for us. Then we can have our own wealth monetised, as a DEBT, and be allowed the privilege of paying interest on it to the private banks, forever. Of course, the fact that the banks didn't create any wealth at all, but merely allowed us the privilege of drawing cheques on book-entries they did create is beside the point; they have decided that we must pay them for being allowed to use what belongs to us! The debt itself will never be repaid, yet we really must have a debt—because, if there was no debt, how would the banks be able to calculate how much interest we had to pay them each year? We are asked to believe that the only way to use this—

mania, 6.5 per cent, in Victoria, 4.2 per cent, in West Australia, and 4 per cent, in South Australia.

Monday, February 24.

Professor Copland, Prices Commissioner, has offered to visit Ballarat district to address potato growers on the question of maximum and minimum prices for potatoes. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Hogan), will make arrangements for a meeting at an early date. District growers consider that price control should be exercised in a scarce season as well as a prolific one. A minimum price of £5 per ton to growers at the sending station is advocated.

credit of ours, which we have suddenly found out does exist, is to allow private profit-making concerns to dole it out to us as they see fit, and to charge us what they like on what is rightfully the people's property.

However, we now know that the nation has got its own credit, and that the sole authority issuing and controlling the volume of that credit is not the people's Government, but private individuals, who are carrying on a business solely for their greater power and in their own interests. All this talk about allowing such private institutions to handle OUR credit, is merely so much sales talk, and the sooner the people wake up to the way in which they are being swindled, then the sooner we will be able to put out a one hundred per cent, effort, whether it is for the purposes of fighting a war, or for carrying out peace-time projects for the betterment of social and economic conditions in the community.

## Letters to the Editor

(Continued from previous page.)

grant of £1,000,000 (for the relief of wheatgrowers!) was being retrieved by the private banks as repayment of interest, mortgages, etc.

Whilst remembering the plight of a big percentage of fruit growers, we were asked to pay up to 4d for a single peach, 1½d to 2d for pears, and 2d for apples! And this in districts not fifty miles from where fruit is grown by the thousands of tons!

And here is another reflection. Since the business of my firm necessitated my covering a big daily mileage and staying at hotels, it would seem that, apart from orders which I was able to obtain, I was, after all, supporting two monopolies—the oil combine and the breweries!

On the other side of the picture, however, the trend of intelligent conversation and the way in which copies of the "New Times" were received by people who had "never heard of it" was never more encouraging. In the absence of costly publicity, every reader should determine to make a personal drive for new subscribers NOW. It is not true to say that it cannot be done. With a united effort in this direction we could add 1000 in a week easily. My assurance to readers is that the potential market is there—waiting. Let it not be said that we let OURSELVES down by neglecting to lend a hand when it was most needed.

In the meantime I suggest that the "New Times" publish a weekly progressive list of subscribers to the £250 appeal. Let subscribers supply their names, initials, or nom-de-plumes, and the name of their town. This will mean extra work, but it would have a valuable psychological effect. The result would be illuminating as well as encouraging, since fellow-supporters would see how far-flung is the influence of their paper throughout the Commonwealth, whilst the jelly-spines of the dwindling protagonists of our present financial system should fairly melt with the warmth of our co-operative efforts.

Finally, may I respectfully appeal to all other readers for an IMMEDIATE RESPONSE. We are all in on this—whether we send a shilling or a pound. Let us do it, and do it NOW.

With best wishes,

Yours, etc.

NORMAN F. ROLLS.

Sydney.

## FRUIT ROTS IN AUSTRALIAN ORCHARDS

(Continued from page 1.)

follows, although admittedly giving a different impression:

"Growers paid £7 a ton to bury fruit.

"This can only refer to PEARS. (Everyone knows a PEAR is not fruit.) The Board does not pay growers SPECIFICALLY to bury fruit—they can do what they like with it providing they don't sell it. Even if the fruit was sent to Melbourne it would ripen too quickly and would not find a market. (Every year the growers grow fruit that ripens too quickly to sell in the City—it's a hobby.) Why don't they feed it to the pigs? (Every orchardist keeps a few hundred pigs, doesn't he?) But all this, amusing as it may be to the cynic, is by the way. In this case both parties have confused effects and causes, both parties have been guilty of the distortion of facts we know as propaganda.

Apparently the facts are that certain growers have buried fruit after having been paid £7 a ton for it by the Board, WITH THE TACIT APPROVAL OF THE BOARD. This fact is re-stated as "Growers paid £7 a ton to bury fruit!" A misleading, though essentially truthful statement. This is the sort of thing, which is making the genus, "clear-thinking-citizen," a vanishing race. Our sympathies may well be with the growers—as mine most assuredly are—but two wrongs are reputed never to have made a right, and this small, tactical error by the growers' self-elected champion followed by the apparent refutation by the Board, cancel out, leaving in the minds of the tired followers of the daily press, at the best, confusion, and at the worst the feeling that this was all much ado about nothing.

My sympathies, I have said, are with the growers; they are also with the consumers—or rather, the would-be-consumers — and even with the much-maligned Board. This miserable, puzzled board, with its completely hopeless task! Setting out to give the grower a reasonable price for his fruit and hoping to create a demand for it. Succeeding only in impoverishing 90 per cent, of the growers and putting fruit beyond the reach of those who need it, AND losing in the process hundreds of thousands of pounds of public money. Completely oblivious to the fact that in the present economic environment theirs was a completely impossible job.

There is one way, and ONE WAY ONLY, in which goods can change hands in modern society. GOODS must be bought with MONEY. No money—no goods. "We trust in the Lord, all others cash" is the cynical keynote of the system. It is axiomatic that a surplus of unsold goods indicates a lack of demand. Either nobody wants the surplus or, far more likely, nobody has THE PURCHASING POWER WHICH ALONE CAN MAKE POTENTIAL DEMAND EFFECTIVE. To talk as Mr. Baker has talked, of an annual "surplus" of 6,000,000 cases of fruit, is to talk the language of fools. WHO CALLS THIS A SURPLUS? Who does not know, or conveniently forgets, that every family in this wide continent with a net income of £5 or less a week could, with advantage and delight, double their consumption of fruit? Given money, purchasing power, the right to live in happiness and plenty; given this, to say that there is a surplus, will mean simply that there is a lot of something nobody wants. NOBODY WANTS — not something they want, but can't afford to buy. We won't want a board of woolly-headed jacks-in-office then, to restrict and destroy, to fake up famines and force up prices, to spread ruin and poverty wherever unfurls their blundering red tape.

In those happy days yet to come, real demand, backed by power-to-buy will spell the doom of the present poverty. But the happy days won't just come—the new age will be MADE, not born.

### Mr. Chresby's Tour

Country supporters' attention is drawn to the visit being made by Mr. A. Chresby, Campaign Director of the Electoral Campaign in New South Wales. This able lecturer and writer will be in Victoria for a fortnight from March 10, and those who feel that public interest in their area needs a fresh stimulus, are urged to avail themselves of the services of this speaker. An itinerary is being drawn up for a country tour, so communicate with U.E.A. Headquarters immediately, if you desire Mr. Chresby to speak at your local hall. Don't miss this opportunity to start that drive you've had in mind. Write in now, and make sure.

## United Electors' Report

Weekly Lectures: Last Tuesday Mr. A. Fawcett addressed a well-attended meeting, on the subject of "Press Propaganda," and showed the manner in which the press was controlled as a propaganda medium. Next Tuesday evening, Mr. N. Worrall will give an address, "Can the War be Financed Debt-Free?" If you know anyone who has any doubts on that point, who thinks that loans and taxation are inevitable, then get them to come along, and hear the facts of the case.

Country Supporters: Don't forget to let headquarters know of any new supporters at your meetings, or any non-supporters that might be interested to know more about the electoral campaign.

Literature: Extensive supplies of the latest booklets on monetary reform are now available at headquarters. "Victory Without Debt" and "The Answer to Tax Slavery," by C. Barclay-Smith (price 1/-); "Money," by S. Allen (1/-), and Eric D. Butler's latest book, which deals comprehensively with the growth and development of the electoral campaign, and the history of this movement towards democratic government: "The Money Power versus Democracy" (price 9d, 10d posted). Every reader should keep at least one copy of these books on hand.

All enquiries to the Hon. Sec., United Electors of Australia, Room 9, 5th Floor, McEwan House, Little Collins Street, Melbourne, C.I.

### D. C. Association of New South Wales

The "Information Sheet," published by Mr. W. H. Hands, Box 21, North Sydney, is available each month in return for an annual subscription of 2/-. Its contents include important articles reprinted from, the "Social Creditor" (England).

### The Money-Changers in the Temple

(Continued from page 4.) sought to destroy him. And could not find what they might do: for all the people were very attentive to hear him."

"So the Jewish authorities who had before the Passover, already decided to arrest Him, put their heads together and instigated the plot that led to the Cross."

## New Wool Regulations Serious in Australian Trade

Australian manufacturers of woollen piece goods are perturbed by a National Security Regulation, which virtually prevents them from offering their goods overseas.

During the past few years, thousands of pounds have been spent in an effort to popularise and expand the use of wool.

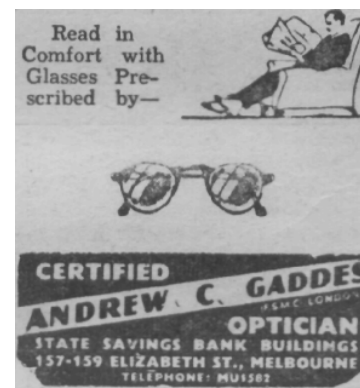
Manufacturers now fear the use of British productions to imitate wool and point out that, with accumulated stocks of wool in Australia and Great Britain after the war, a very pessimistic outlook will face mill-owners, their employees, and rural producers, as the market for wool will have been lost. They argue that British merchants are striving with all their might to capture world trade in cottons and staple fibre fabrics, and if it is good policy for British manufacturers to use every effort to increase their markets, it is surely no less patriotic for the Australian manufacturers to follow the British lead. Besides, Australia, no less than Great Britain has to pay for her share of the war effort.

The manufacturers will consider the matter of taking some action at a meeting next week.

## UNITED ELECTORS' RALLY

### Keep March 16 Free

A rally of the United Electors of Australia is being arranged for that date, when two prominent speakers will address them on topics of vital importance connected with future activities and the present trend of events in Australia.



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