

ON OTHER
PAGES

Problem of
"Surpluses."
(Page 3.)

In Britain's Parlt.
(Page 4.)

What "Capital Levy"
Means.
(Page 7.)

Feeding Five on 39/6.
(Page 8.)

THE NEW TIMES

Vol. 7. No. 10. MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, MAR. 14, 1941.

Now, when our land
to ruin's brink a
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).

CRISIS or SMOKE-SCREEN?

Federal Government "Puts a Hot One Over" Australia

In days gone by early navigators and writers were wont to refer to Australia as a land of mystery. Thanks to exploration and settlement, most of the so-called mystery or mysteries have been solved, excepting, of course, the perennial mystery of the failure of some "dead certs" in the Cup or the Hurdle.

Quite recently a number of people have been exercising their minds with conjectures about another imaginary Australian mystery. It has been called "the Far-East enigma," and they have spent a good deal of time and thought in trying to discover the reason why the Acting Prime Minister suddenly called a War Advisory Council meeting, and together with Messrs. Curtin and Beasley, warned Australia that a state of the utmost gravity had suddenly developed.

As official circles in London and America expressed surprise at the sudden pother in Australia, and our War Minister, Mr. Spender, stated that the position was neither better nor worse than it had been for weeks past, some came to the conclusion that, like many racecourse punters, Mr. Fadden must be in receipt of "exclusive" information from some more or less reliable but undisclosed source. At present, public opinion about the incident seems to be evenly divided between "crisis" and "leg-pull," but subsequent events point to a much more feasible explanation.

It will be remembered that, some little time since, the Federal Cabinet promulgated the now notorious Regulation 42a, which took from the people of Australia their time-honoured right to criticise the financial measures adopted by the Government they themselves had put into power. This attack on democratic rights aroused so much opposition that the Government, having still another "hot one" to put over, seemingly decided to hasten slowly, and await certain (very certain) events.

In modern warfare, smoke-screens have often proved useful (this is, of course, a digression), and have sometimes been found helpful elsewhere.

Curiously enough, the "Far-East" affair soon grew alarming, and by a strange coincidence, on the day that the arrival of Australian troops in Singapore was announced, and filled the minds of the people to the exclusion of almost all else, news of a further set of regulations was published.

According to Press reports, regulations ostensibly framed for the purpose of conducting an enquiry into hire purchase and cash order systems have been widely extended: and extended in a manner that is totally opposed to British traditions of legal procedure.

A Press resume of these states: "The regulations, however, deal with no specific kind of inquiry. They declare that a Minister may appoint a board of inquiry or any person to inquire into and report to that Minister on any matter in relation to the public safety or defence of the Commonwealth,

which is specified in the instrument of appointment. It is also laid down that every member of a board and every commissioner shall in exercise of his functions have the same protection and immunity as a justice of the High Court. Rules of evidence will not apply to inquiries conducted under these regulations. Authority has been given to call witnesses and to obtain access to any books and records. Witnesses may be represented by counsel, and any

(Continued on page 2.)

Opposition to the Apple and Pear Board is Widespread

By ARTHUR CHRESBY.

As a visitor to Melbourne, I learn with astonishment of a statement made by Board representatives to the meeting of Mornington Peninsula fruit growers recently.

Apart from the fact of the action taken by the fruit growers of Orange (N.S.W.) in contesting at law the validity of the A. and P. Board, I should like to make known to "New Times" readers a little information which will clearly indicate that the Board statement, that the only people who are displeased with the Board's administration are those near Melbourne, is undiluted fabrication.

A meeting of fruit growers was held in Goulburn (N.S.W.) on Friday, February 28, and the Mayor of Goulburn, Alderman T. P. Manion, presided. Amongst those present were Mr. Tully, M.L.A., and growers' representative of Crookwell, Parkebourne, Rosemont, Yowrang, Brayton, Merrilla and Goulburn districts.

Resentment, in no uncertain terms, was expressed by these men at the practically totalitarian activities of the A. and P. Board in N.S.W. Mr. Tully told of a case he was personally acquainted with, where a good type of apple realised 38/- a case, but the grower received only 2/-, and went on to indicate that the Board's statement on the varieties of apples which could be "marketed" was almost unbelievable when one realised that in the metropolitan area it was often impossible to get good fresh fruit—such as was on display at the meeting—on the tables of the hotels.

Fourteen different varieties of apples were displayed which were condemned by the Board as "un-

marketable." One grower said there was no such thing as "over-production," while one person was without fruit. The Board members would have received an education if they had met these remarkably fine stamps of Australian pioneering manhood and heard their stories, told with simplicity and frankness. A deputation was arranged to wait upon the Minister concerned (Mr. Anthony, M.H.R.) to seek redress, and it was tacitly agreed that if such was not forthcoming, the meeting would move along the lines I suggested for a campaign for the abolition of the Acquisition Board. Let the Board members and any citizens who doubt these things obtain copies of the Goulburn "Evening Post," dated February 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, and March 3, and see the unanimous support given to the fruit growers by the "Post" and the Goulburn Municipal Council.

Again, at Albury on March 9, I was motored out to a big orchard and shown over it by the owner, who invited me to make the most careful investigation. I was shown

(Continued on page 5.)

HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

SUNDRY NOTES ON THE NEWS

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

The propaganda in favour of Federal Union grows to alarming proportions. No wonder that a spokesman of the Jewish oligarchy recently said in America that there was every possibility of the Jewish financial domination of the whole world becoming an actuality within a comparatively, short time.

I intend to, analyse the general position in detail at the Centenary Hall, Melbourne, next Sunday afternoon. Nothing is more important at this juncture than to counteract the Jewish-American propaganda which is flooding this and other British countries. In spite of this propaganda and the suppression tactics of the daily press, some facts continue to appear in print. I have been dealing with these, week by week, in these notes. Easily the most staggering was the following report in the Melbourne "Sun" of March 6. It referred to the Lend or Lease Bill: "A responsible spokesman said it was no use pretending that the situation was not serious. American exports to Britain had risen only from 50,000,000 to 100,000,000 dollars a month in spite of all the flurry. Germany was taking a larger volume

from France alone, the official added. The Deputy Director of Production (Mr. Batt) pointed out that Germany was obtaining from conquered countries more aircraft than the United States was sending to Britain, with the result that Germany was still gaining strength. Mr. Batt is openly wondering whether American aid is too little and too late. . . The United States News declares that labor and many employers still regard the defence effort as an opportunity to get rich quick, while the slowness of the American shipbuilding programme is a major mystery."

Contrast the above with the screaming headlines we have been reading for the past 18 months!

I have always regarded the French as being fundamentally a very realistic people, and believe that, unless some of our "leaders" make any stupid diplomatic blunders, they will yet play a vital part before the end of this conflict. Eve Curie, daughter of Madame Curie, whose justly famous biography of her mother I reviewed in these columns some time ago, is visiting America, and upon arriving offered some typical French logic. Asked what she thought of the assistance given to Britain by the United States she smiled for a moment and then replied: "Is the United States giving help? I don't feel the selling goods on a cash-and-carry basis is helping. It is selling. But I do hear that aid to Britain is about to start. From now on you will have to give without being sure of getting paid."

Federal Union propaganda was given a big "boost" in Melbourne last week. Both the "Herald" and the "Argus" ran a series of articles urging a Federation of Democracies. One of the basic arguments put forward by many of those advocating Federal Union is, that America is a small-scale example of Union between States. But, has centralised control, both political and financial, benefited the American people? The shocking social conditions in that country supply the answer. Graft and corruption are equal to anything ever known in the history of man—not excluding the totalitarian regimes.

What I would like to know is why people like Mr. Paul McGuire, writer of the series of articles on the necessity of Anglo-American unity in the "Herald" last week, are not prosecuted under the National Security Regulations. After all, is there any basic difference between the ideals of the Federal Unionists and the Communists? To me, they appear to be superficially opposing sects of the one religion.

(Continued on page 6.)

NO SHRIEK IN THIS

JUST AN EARNEST APPEAL TO THINKING MEN AND WOMEN

By "ELECTOR."

"Yesterday, Mr. Menzies lunched with Mr. Bruce and other notabilities, including Mr. Montagu Norman, Governor of the Bank of England." (Vide Press.)

"Pussy cat, pussy cat, where have you been?" "I've been to London to see the Queen." So runs the dear old nursery rhyme, which countless British mothers have sung to countless British children. Today it is doubtful if even a pussycat would be allowed to see the King or Queen without first seeing Mr. Montagu Norman. Prime Ministers, Ambassadors, Emissaries, Plenipotentiaries, near-Presidents; in fact, with "big-wigs" of all kinds and colours it is now a case of "Pussy cat, pussy cat, how come your jaunt?" "I've been to London to see Uncle Mont." The reasons given for the journeyings of these "big-wigs" are usually summed up in the stereotyped press as "invaluable personal contact with the authorities at the seat of Empire"; "first-hand knowledge of conditions in the Motherland," etc.; but invariably the first "contact" is with the G.C.P. (Grand Chief Pawnbroker).

It would be flattering Mr. Norman to suppose that it is he, personally, to whom all the "big-wigs" have to bow. Indeed, the old gentleman's publicity men have long ceased to impress us with their "mystery man," and "picturesque figure" stuff. What we have to keep constantly in mind is that he is the personal embodiment, the visible expression, of the credit monopoly—the Hidden Hand that keeps its stranglehold on humanity from China to Peru.

It may be a far cry from the gloomy precincts of the Bank of England to the sunny orchards of Australia; but there is no limitation to the stretch of the Hidden Hand, and that is why our apples and pears and peaches are being wilfully destroyed today before the tear-

filled eyes of distracted Australian men and women, and half-starved Australian children. This same influence is also responsible for the poverty-stricken finances of our hospitals and all charitable institutions; our shocking slum areas; our "Frenzied Fridays," with their rattling collection boxes, illegal spinning jennies, loud speakers and every device for tempting the workers to part with their hard-earned wages; pathetic appeals for blankets for the poor, and cast-off clothing for heroes of the last war; and many other disgraceful and humiliating social conditions.

Reader, if you are a thinker and have studied present-day affairs in the light of the New Economics (and that is the only light which reflects realities), you will know that what I have said in that last paragraph is only too tragically true. If you are an adherent of the doctrine of "Borrow, and to hell with tomorrow"—in other words, "Sound Finance"; or if you are one of those who just haven't given the matter of our national economy any thought, you may be disposed to brand my indictment of the Hidden Hand as the exaggerated outburst of "one of these monetary reform cranks." But, whichever you are, I ask you, with all the earnestness and sincerity at my command, to enquire with an open mind and an honest heart into the ideas and principles on which the New Economists take their unflinching stand.

Let me confess that, up till some ten years ago, I was a believer (a blind one) in the orthodox system of debt finance, tacitly agreeing with its "principles" and accepting the mumbo-jumbo of its high

priests. Then came the full blast of the depression, and I, like so many others, had to take a blow, which knocked me flat. But I am glad it did, because it awoke within me a resolve to find out just what was behind the Great Slump. Had the world's harvests failed? No. Was there a shortage of oil, coal, manpower or machinery? No. Had people ceased to need houses, clothes, foodstuffs, or any of the necessities or amenities of life? Again, no. What, then, had gone wrong? Why and how had the whole world become poorer? It was while investigating along those lines that a friend persuaded me to look into the question of money and credit, with particular regard to their creation and manipulation. A short perusal of some literature which my friend advised me to read brought revelations which astounded me, and further study of the subject left me amazed and shocked beyond expression. It was as though I had lived down in a coalmine and had been suddenly brought up to the light of day. Documented, proved and vouched for—the exposure of the money racket was set out in cold print, and the cause of the so-called "depression," with its attendant disasters, sorrows and frustrations, stood revealed.

Yes, I can hear it coming; someone is saying: "All very well, but this is no time to be worrying about things of that kind; there's a war on, and we have to get on with the job of winning it"; and my answer to that remark is: "Too true, my friend, there IS a war on; that is why the adoption of a sane monetary system has become more than ever a vital necessity." It must be apparent to any thinking person that a continuance of our present method of financing the war must end, before long, in utter chaos. Debt Finance, controlled by the trading banks, whose activities, in turn, are controlled by the Threadneedle Street-Wall Street oligarchy, is the real brake, which is slowing up the wheels of our war effort; and so long as we allow this system to continue, so long can we expect the present grave state of things to last. Communism, industrial lawlessness and all the evils which follow in their train are simply the effects of the one real cause of national disruption—the manipulation of money—and these evils must continue to flourish until the Government exerts its sovereign right of control over the issue and cancellation of all moneys whether they be notes, coin or credit. As it is, the amount contributed to the Government funds in the shape of genuine loans by individual investors is only a mere fraction (probably 20 per cent.) of the national borrowings; the main part of the funds is created by the trading banks and "lent" to the Government at interest. There does not exist one single reason why this money (credit) cannot be created direct by the Government free of interest. The machinery for this procedure already exists within the charter of the Commonwealth Bank. Why then, is it not set in motion? The answer is, obviously, that the Government itself is controlled by the hidden government of the Money Monopoly, of which, as I have said, Montagu Norman is the visible symbol.

It would seem unbelievable that such a state of things could exist while democracy is fighting for its very existence. But there it is; and until the money-changers are scourged from the temple of our nationhood, all talk of "freedom," "equality of sacrifice," "all-in effort" and so forth is simply so much hypocrisy. How shall we greet those of our fighting sons who survive the present hell-on-earth struggle against the forces of aggression? Will we be able to say: "Thanks, boys, you've done a wonderful job; welcome home to a grateful country where every

chance to make good awaits you?" Or will it have to be: "Well, lads, we're glad to see you home again. You've paid for the war by your efforts; now you can start to pay for it out of your wages if you are lucky enough to find a job?" The Saviours of Democracy or the Victims of Victory? Which is it to be? The answer, reader, lies with you. Act now. The "New Times" shows you how.

"CRISIS" OR "SMOKE-SCREEN"?

(Continued from page 1.)

statements or disclosures made by a witness are not admissible as evidence against him in any civil or criminal proceedings. Evidence may be taken in public or in private at a board's discretion. Publication of reports by a board or commissioner appointed under the regulations or of the reports of proceedings is privileged."

The "Argus" (19/2/41) rightly states that this "virtually amounts to an open cheque to any Commonwealth Minister to appoint a board or commissioner to conduct an enquiry," but this comment, as will be shown, scarcely goes far enough.

There can be little doubt but that Regulation 42a and this later issue are intended to be complementary, and might well be termed "First OGPU Overture." Regulation 42a abrogates democratic rights, and the others abrogate long established legal safeguards.

"Taxation without representation" was an injustice upheld by tyrants in days gone by, and "taxation without criticism" means exactly the same thing.

This "open cheque" issue of regulations will undoubtedly tend to undermine the confidence British people have implicitly held in the Justice and impartiality of their courts of law.

Legal safeguards, which the experience of centuries has proved necessary to ensure justice and fair-dealing, are to be set aside, and methods more akin to the detestable systems of the OGPU and Gestapo are to be followed.

It will be now possible for a Minister to appoint a board of the right colour to ensure that the verdict will be just what he desires it should be.

ANY Minister, who is so disposed, can decide that criticism of his official acts is inimical "to the public safety," and "get a bit of his own back" by involving his critic in the expense and trouble of "inquiry" proceedings.

It would be interesting also to have an explanation of the reasons why a witness committing perjury at these "Inquiry" proceedings is to be exempted from prosecution for that offence. Coupled with secret sessions, this immunity should be stimulating to liars.

During the last war a "sacked" employee—pro-German and venomously anti-British—informed the authorities that his employer (a loyalist) was engaged in subversive activities. Investigations were started but soon dropped. Had any "Protection for Perjurers" regulations then been in force, they might have caused more trouble than did the emery powder and thick oil the pro-German poured over the machinery in his former employer's establishment.

It seems most remarkable that the issue of regulations, which embody methods contrary to recognised legal procedure, should be brought into force without bringing protests from the legal profession.

—"STIRREM."

A BOOK YOU MUST READ

"The Money Power Versus Democracy"

By Eric D. Butler. Price, 10d, posted.

This book is being acclaimed by readers from all over Australia as the finest exposition of political and economic democracy to yet appear in this country. A former executive of the Queensland movement, now residing in Melbourne, told a meeting of Melbourne supporters in the Centenary Hall on Sunday, December 15, 1940, that this was the best book he had read during his ten years of activity. He urged supporters to buy copies and pass them around.

This book will save you a lot of talk. In forty-eight pages, the author has crystallised the philosophy, history and application of democratic principles. A handbook, which every supporter should have.

ALSO BY THE SAME AUTHOR:

"The War Behind the War." Price, 4d, posted

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.

"Elections Over—What Now?" Price, 6d per dozen, post-free.

A summary of political strategy. The campaign director of the N.S.W. Division of the Electoral Campaign has written as follows about this brochure: "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."

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

WHO SAYS "ANOTHER HELPING"?

By FOOTLE.

"What" asked Aunt Ella, "are we going to do about this 'Eat more meat' campaign?" It jarred a bit, I can tell you. Breakfast is not my strong point at any time. And this morning the grapefruit seemed as big as a jolly old watermelon.

I ought to tell you, perhaps, that when Pongo Pyke and I bunged off on the top of a patriotic wave, I had steeled myself against the displeasure of Aunt Ella, who refuses to believe that anyone below the rank of a captain is a soldier; to put up with the way the dye comes out of the beastly boots the Army sets its heart upon, and to endeavour to accommodate myself to the organised discomfort, which accordin' to Pongo Pyke, is the main concern of military arrangements.

But it was no go. There was something the Army didn't like about me. Whether it was because I refused to own up to any of the two hundred diseases they read out of a patent medicine book, or because it leaked out in the course of the "third degree" that my parents died of ennu, I don't know. The Army just said, "You must look me up some time when you're not busy," and that was that.

But "What," asked Aunt Ella, "are we going to do about this 'Eat more meat' campaign?"

"What d'you feel about it yourself, Aunt?"

She gave me a gargoyle look. "I certainly feel we should do something. I've ordered cutlets and a porterhouse steak to be served, in addition to bacon and kidneys for breakfast, but really, you know, it's the other meals that are a worry. You see, we could have fish and poultry, and maybe an entree before the joint, but I don't think they mean that, do you? I mean, poultry and fish aren't really meat, would you think?"

"But, I say, Aunt," I guggled, as the import of what she was sayin' blotted out the happy horizon. "You don't mean to say it is being suggested that we aren't doin' our bit for the meat trade."

"My dear boy, just use your commonsense for once. There is insufficient shipping space; therefore, there is a surplus of meat, which has to be disposed of—at market rates. The same applies to fruit and wheat and lots of other things."

This was ghastly. The old optics protruded so far that I obtained a good view of the sternum of a fly trickling along my bally parting.

"But this is terrible, Aunt. I can't eat any more of anything. Why should the old molars and bicuspid be speeded up in the war effort? Surely we can win without chewin' our bally way to victory."

"I suppose you know more about the question than the economists do," she snapped.

"I know more about my inside than they do. Besides, if we're goin' to eat more meat, more cereals and more fruit, what're we goin' to eat less of?"

"If you eat less of anything else, you ruin the whole scheme."

The world seemed very grim then. As a matter of fact, this aspect of war concerns me very closely. We Footles, are inclined decidedly to embonpoint. I wished Pongo Pyke could be there, Pongo isn't a bad old egg, and he's got nearly all the proper answers. I felt there must be a proper answer somewhere. Of course, a fellow could give more meat to the dog, but not more fruit. What's really indicated is a kennel full of dogs, a few billy-goats—not nannies, because that would doubtless bung up the milk outlook—a few kangaroos and, maybe, an ostrich or so in case the country needed to get rid of some hard bright

objects—you never know. My enthusiasm for the cause obscured the snag. It was Pongo who, later, uncovered it by pointing out that a moan had already gone up from the Aunt Ella cum Footle ménage over the price of puppy biscuits. It was Pongo, moreover, who pointed out that we should have to buy less War Savings certificates, even if we didn't have to sell out our jolly holding so as to stock up with pets. It was a frightful bally impasse. Like one of those tricks you have to do with matches; you know the sort of thing. You have to take away four without diminishing the bally number.

But dear old Pongo, who revealed the yawning chasm, indicated the bridge. You see, the trouble is, the poor are lettin' the nation down once again. It has to be admitted that if there is ever any trouble over money matters you'll find the poor mixed up in it somewhere. Besides, the trouble can't arise with people like Aunt Ella; there's such a few of them compared with the hordes of poor. So, as Pongo says: "If there's a stack of grub to be got rid of, the obvious way is to rope in all the poor; the more, the merrier." Good old Pongo. I reported back to Aunt Ella. She snorted.

"You've missed the whole point. The food has to be paid for. Not merely got rid of. It isn't a question of rich or poor, starvation or repletion; it's a question of money for value. Can't you grasp a simple thing like that?"

The blood of the Footles was up by now, I can tell you. I brought the same concentration to the problem in hand as I am wont to bring to my anagrams and crossword puzzles. I saw the solution in a blinding flash, as it were; and Pongo approved it.

I suppose I shouldn't tell you this, but quite frequently a little note arrives from the bank, and the heir of all the Footles toddles off for a few words with the management. An arrangement always ensues by which, I on my part assume that the "ready" is still on tap while the manager on his part assumes that I have assumed correctly. To square himself with his conscience he calls this arrangement an "overdraft." It still seems a trifle rummy to me, doncherknow, but it works out, so I've never really bothered about the legality, if any, of the business. When the old allowance comes along from Aunt Ella's account, all is joy and the correspondence ceases.

Of course, the snag with the very poor is that they are entirely improvident and lacking in the matter of Aunt Ellas. The only thing they have to back up an overdraft is their labour, and what I'm goin' to get Pongo to work out for me is some scheme to bring all the unemployed and under-employed into the war effort by workin' off the excess of beef and damper on them and hold them liable to contribute the

price of it in work, to the chappies who are mounding up the tucker dumps.

Aunt Ella's flatly against it. She believes in the sacred right of the individual to receive dividends if he wants to. She does not believe in traffic in kind, and resolutely refuses to take out her profit in spuds and what not. Of

course, I know you can't have barter really, if only because everyone'd need a lorry for his currency, but I suppose someone'll think up something.

What I mean is, dash it, the bally stuffs there and the people who want it are there. What're we waitin' for? . . . if you get me.

HOSPITAL'S PLEA FOR HELP

Conditions "Deplorable"

"There are no proper facilities at Balmain Hospital for isolating patients with tuberculosis, according to a letter from the hospital's directors, read by Mr. R. Mahony in the Legislative Council yesterday.

"Mr. Mahony asked the Government to help the hospital at once.

"Mr. Mahony said that he inspected the hospital and saw 15 beds, about 12 or 18 inches apart, on a balcony about eight feet wide. Two of the beds were occupied by tuberculosis patients.

"I was informed that the patients suffering from tuberculosis were in such a state that they had to be admitted," said Mr. Mahony.

"Mr. Mahony said that the Balmain Hospital served a big industrial area, and was seriously overcrowded. For three years, the directors had been pressing unsuccessfully for improvements.

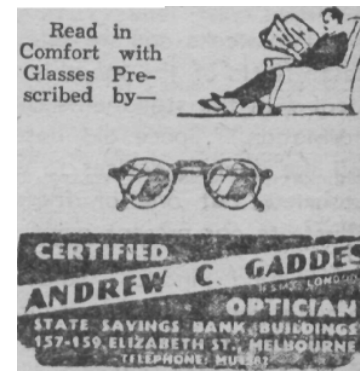
"At present, 150 people were

waiting to be admitted. The conditions under which outpatients had to wait at the hospital were deplorable. There was little or no shelter. The inadequacy of the operating theatre was another cause for complaint.

"Sir Norman Kater, who said that he spoke as a medical man; the leader of the Opposition, Mr. Concannon; and Mr. J. F. Coates, supported Mr. Mahony's appeal.

"In reply, the Attorney-General, Sir Henry Manning, said that he would ask the Minister for Health, Mr. FitzSimons, to deal with the representations as an urgent matter."

—(Sydney "Morning Herald," March 6.)



Don't Forget Next Sunday Afternoon!

An Important Meeting, Starting at 3.15 p.m.

CENTENARY HALL (3rd Floor)

TO HEAR

MR. ARTHUR CHRESBY

(Director of N.S.W. Electoral Campaign.)

Every Melbourne reader should make it his or her business to hear Mr. Chresby, who is well known for his splendid work in N.S.W. and is in close contact with campaigners in Britain.

ALSO

A Special Address

by

MR. ERIC D. BUTLER

ON

"Will the World-Government Plot Succeed?"

No supporter who can possibly attend should miss this address—a frank approach to the "Jewish Problem" and a considered opinion upon the possibility of Federal Union becoming a partial reality in the near future. Mr. Butler intends to deal with the action to be taken in the near future, and, in view of the increasing seriousness of the task in front of those of us who believe that we have the knowledge which can alone save civilisation from collapse, a big attendance is expected to hear what he has to say.



Eric D. Butler.

A Special Occasion

It is not often that two speakers of the calibre of Mr. Chresby and Mr. Butler appear on the same platform. In a recent personal letter Mr. L. D. Byrne, Technical Adviser to the Alberta Government wrote that:

"Of course, the excellent work of both Mr. Eric Butler and Mr. Arthur Chresby was well known to me."

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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FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 1941.

No. 10.

ORTHODOXY CONFOUNDS ORTHODOXY

The path of the bankers' apologists is becoming increasingly difficult. Time was, when daily newspapers and their "City" editors, financial journals and other such pillars of "respectability" could be relied upon to reiterate all the right lies or, at least, to keep off "dangerous ground."

Nowadays, thanks to such factors as the activities of monetary reformers, the increasingly glaring paradoxes that "sound finance" itself occasions, and the scale on which modern warfare must be waged to give a chance of victory, the bankers' apologists are often "betrayed" by their allies.

Two weeks ago we referred, in this column, to the hapless efforts of the monthly publication, "Sound Finance," to deal with the statements contained in a leaflet entitled "Information." Space did not then permit an examination of all the dubious devices to which the "Sound Finance" writer resorted, but one of these neglected gems will serve to illustrate our present point.

"Sound Finance" said: "Information' tells the public among whom it is being circulated, that the Commonwealth Bank could provide all war finance at not more than 10-per cent. We know, and every man who gives the matter five minutes' consideration will know, it could not." (Of course, "Sound Finance," did **not** proceed to give the matter ANY consideration, but hurriedly and immediately sheered off it, saying, "But that is not the point. The statement is in direct conflict with 'financial measures taken or to be taken by the Commonwealth for the purpose of the more effective prosecution of the war.' Does the Government propose to ignore it? If so, why disturb the peace of mind of law-abiding and loyal citizens with the high-sounding and far-reaching Regulation 42a?" Which is rather amusing, quite ridiculous, and a very low-grade substitute for reasoned argument based on facts).

Now, let us recall what the London financial journal "Economist" said about war finance on January 27, 1940:

" . . . It was suggested last week that for genuine savings, the Government should offer about 3 per cent. There would be no justification whatever for the payment of so high a rate on created credit. Normally, when a bank creates credit by making an advance on good security, it is performing the necessary and valuable function of turning illiquid wealth into liquid credit, and it is entitled to the going rate of remuneration for that service. But in the circumstances here envisaged it would be the community's credit that would be liquefied, and the community, represented by the Exchequer, would be entitled to require that the rate of interest should be no more than the cost of handling the funds—say ½ per cent., per annum."

More recently, Douglas Jay, "city" editor of the London "Daily Herald," wrote (November 18, 1940):

"The banks are only to blame if they resist—as I fear some have—the wish of the authorities that the interest paid on this new credit should be cut as near as possible to zero. If this is not done the banks cannot help making an illegitimate excessive profit out of the interest paid to them for this new credit. It does not matter whether the credit creation arises through lending on Deposit Receipts, or through buying Treasury Bills, or other Government securities. The point is that £415,000,000 of new Clearing Bank credit has been created since the outbreak of war. The interest received by the banks on this, less any smaller interest paid by them to depositors on the new deposits, is sheer extra profit to which they are not entitled. Much the simplest and fairest solution would be to reduce the rate of interest on all new Treasury Bills and Deposit Receipts to ½ per cent, or ¼ per cent."

Poor old "Sound Finance"!

IN BRITAIN'S PARLIAMENT

"Hon. Members" Concerned About War Finance and Anglo-U.S. Relations

The following passages are taken from The House of Commons Official Report ("Hansard") for December 3:

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. Stokes asked the Prime Minister whether he will give an assurance to this House that no further naval or military bases will be let to the United States of America, nor will any definite or implied Act of Union be entered into, or irrevocably committed, between this country and the United States of America without the Government first giving opportunity to this House for full discussion?

The Lord Privy Seal (Mr. Attlee): With regard to the first part of the hon. Member's Question, I know of no reason to depart from the long-established constitutional practice which governs the treaty-making power of the Crown and the opportunities of discussion and action which belong to the House. With regard to the second, part, I am not aware of any proposals of the kind mentioned by the hon. Member. But it is quite certain that if any such plans were to approach the confines of practical politics, it could only be after prolonged discussion in the legislative bodies on both sides of the Atlantic.

Mr. Cocks: Does the right hon. Gentleman still adhere to the principle that treaties should not be ratified until they have been fully discussed by the House?

Mr. Bevan: Has our diplomacy over recent years achieved such striking success that the right hon. Gentleman can stick to the old principles?

National Finance. Treasury Borrowings.

Mr. De La Bere asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether, in connection with any funding operation on a four or five years' basis which may be undertaken to deal with Treasury deposit receipts, he will take steps to ensure that the rate of interest that is to be paid does not exceed 1 per cent, per annum in view of the fact that these interest charges are moneys paid out of the pockets of the taxpayers throughout the country; (2) whether, since approximately £300,000,000 has now been lent to the Treasury by the banks in the form of deposit receipts carrying interest at 1½ per cent, he will give the House an assurance that it is not the intention of the Government to fund these amounts into a four-year security, carrying interest at the rate of 2 per cent, or any similar scheme of funding?

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir Kingsley Wood): As I indicated in my reply to my hon. Friend the Senior Member for the City of London (Sir George Broad-bridge) on 4th July, it is one of the conditions of these advances by the banks that they may be repaid at any time for the purpose of investment in new national issues, and some advances have already been repaid for that purpose. I see no reason for any change in these arrangements. Subject to that, I clearly cannot anticipate the terms of any future issues of Government securities.

Mr. De la Bere: Could my right hon. Friend state whether the Government will do everything in their power to prevent the issues being funded, as it is undesirable that they should be funded?

Sir K. Wood: I am sure that my hon. Friend will appreciate that I could not accept that suggestion, and that I cannot anticipate the terms of future issues.

Mr. De la Bere: But my right hon. Friend is not going to suggest that these credits cost the banks anything at all? Are they not completely costless?

Sir K. Wood: I am afraid that I cannot argue with my hon. Friend on that point.

Mr. De la Bere: I am afraid that my Question was too good for the Chancellor.

Mr. De la Bere asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the difficulties which are being experienced at the present time in permanently financing the borrowing necessitated by the war on a three or six months' basis, such as Treasury bills or Treasury deposit receipts, and, bearing in mind the present demands for increased wages to meet the rising cost of living, he will now make a statement as to the steps the Government propose to take to check this inflationary movement?

Sir K. Wood: I am not aware that any difficulties are being experienced at the present time in borrowing by means of Treasury bills or Treasury deposit receipts. I cannot anticipate future policy in regard to Government borrowings, but my right hon. Friend may rest assured that, in shaping that policy the Government will have regard to all relevant considerations.

Mr. Craven-Ellis: Is there any objection to the mobilisation of national credit?

Sir K. Wood: I know some of the ideas that my hon. Friend has in mind, but I do not think they would be generally acceptable.

Mr. Craven-Ellis: Perhaps my right hon. Friend will discuss them with me.

* * *

German War Expenditure

Sir W. Davison asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the fact that the war is now costing this country about £9,000,000 a day, he can give the House any information as to the methods by which Germany is financing her war expenditure?

Sir K. Wood: Germany is financing her war expenditure by taxation, internal borrowing, and various forms of plunder, in cash or goods, from the conquered countries, many of which have a strong inflationary effect.

Sir W. Davison: Is it not a fact that Germany has been practically bankrupt for many years, and does not my right hon. Friend think that the House should have a little more information as to how the immense supplies required for her war effort are being financed, a large part of such supplies having to be obtained abroad?

Sir K. Wood: It is difficult to deal with this matter by Question and answer. Perhaps at some time in the course of Debate we may go into it.

Mr. Stokes: Perhaps there would be less difficulty if we had less difficulty with the Treasury?

Sir W. Davison: Can we have a White Paper on the subject?

Sir K. Wood: It would hardly be suitable.

What a Wonderful World It Would Be, IF-

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Written by

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United Electors' Report

Weekly Lectures. — On Tuesday evening we had the pleasure of hearing a most informative lecture by Mr. A. Chresby, one of the leaders of the Electoral Campaign in New South Wales. Mr. Chresby's analysis of the present system, and the future trend of events in the world sphere showed a most exhaustive knowledge of the power that reformers are up against, and has given us some new angles on this problem. Supporters are invited to attend these weekly lectures whenever they possibly can, and to let their friends know so that they can attend and listen to well-known speakers' views on current, political and economic problems. Address: Housewives' Association Rooms, First Floor, Howey Court, Collins-street, Melbourne. Time: 8 pm. All are welcome.

Country Supporters. —Mr. Chresby would welcome any opportunity to meet country members of the U.E.A. and his services as a speaker are available to those members who feel that a public meeting is needed to arouse enthusiasm in their district.

Literature. — Although copies of "Australia's Balance-Sheet," compiled by Mr. D. J. Amos, F.A.I.S., are not yet available, we hope to be able to have some copies in hand by the end of next week. Copies of "Money," by Stanley F. Allen, are now on hand, price 1/-. Address

SAGO FUEL-PUBLIC TEST

"The Associated Motor Transport of N.S.W. will conduct a public test of synthetic petrol made from New Guinea sago palm, the president (Mr. D. Swadling) said yesterday. A formula for manufacturing the petrol has been invented by Mr. G. H. Buckman, combustion engineer, of Watson's Bay. The Commonwealth Government, under its war-time financial powers, has refused him permission to float a development company: Mr. Buckman claims that the petrol passed a test made last year by the Commonwealth Fuel Adviser (Mr. L. T. Rogers), at the direction of the Commonwealth Government. Members of the motoring public will be urged to attend the test, and the reports will be sent to every member of the Federal Parliament, said Mr. Swadling. The association will then ask the Commonwealth Government to reconsider its decision not to allow a public company to be formed."

—Sydney "Sunday Telegraph," February 23.

all enquiries to the hon. secretary, United Electors of Australia, Room 9, Fifth Floor, McEwan House, Little Collins-street, Melbourne, C 1.

OPPOSITION TO APPLE AND PEAR BOARD IS WIDESPREAD

(Continued from page 1.)

apples, both on the trees and unpacked, which were condemned by the Board after they had been passed by the local inspector as fit for human consumption and marketing. Quantities of these had been packed under the inspector's supervision, placed on the train, taken off and unpacked and repacked, and upon arrival in Sydney were rejected by the Board! Why do they have inspectors? The growers in Albury are quite satisfied that their local inspector knows his job backwards. I was informed that at the same time that these apples were rejected, an inferior apple was being sold at 10 for a 1/- in a local chain store for several hours, until pressure was brought to bear upon the local Board representative to have them withdrawn.

I shall not readily forget the look in the eyes of "mine host," as with no visible rancour, he gestured towards his orchard and said: "Look! The work of a lifetime gone in a flash by the decree of a Board. I'm too old, too weary, too sick, to fight any more."

His eyes were looking back over the years of toil, of suffering, of struggle against the elements, of sweat and hardship experienced, the rearing of his family. I saw his home—plain and simple. His grandchildren, eager, grubby-faced little chatterboxes, combining in

themselves the wealth of ruggedness and self-reliance born of generations of land pioneers.

These men are not just grumblers; not agitators; but of the stock that is typical of those who have engendered in Australians the spirit and morale exemplified in that hallowed word, "Anzac."

They lie who say these men are unreasonable and petty complainers. All that these men desire is the recognition of their Anglo-Saxon prerogative of "the inalienable right of man to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." To the extent to which these qualities are repressed, social and economic conditions stand condemned as undesirable; "and while co-operation is the note of the coming age, our premises require that it must be the co-operation of reasoned assent, not regimentation in the interests of any system, however superficially attractive."

The Federal Cabinet must be pressed to make the members of the Board personally responsible for actions and statements which are a direct contravention of Regulation 42A of the National Security Act — i.e., they "cause disaffection amongst His Majesty's subjects."

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158 Already Received

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THE NEW TIMES

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

FURTHER MOVE TO "BOLSHEVISE" BRITAIN

By HILTON ROSS

The terrific effort being put forward by the representatives of International Finance in Britain to "Sovietise" the British people is daily becoming more audacious and more open. The latest plan, suggested by a Mr. Kalecki, of the Oxford Institute of Statistics, appears to be a further move to more completely regiment the people under the domination of the State.

The "Herald" reports in its issue of Tuesday, March 11, as follows:

"Financial circles consider that possibilities of further indirect taxation are severely limited, partly because the supply of luxuries, which would naturally be singled out for special attention, is being drastically reduced, and partly because to increase indirect taxation on necessities would merely give a fresh twist to the vicious spiral by raising the cost of living, and, thereby, intensifying the pressure for wage advances. Really substantial results can only be obtained from direct taxation, and, here, city opinion lays main emphasis on the revenue - raising possibilities of greatly increased taxation of the lower and middle range of incomes by an appropriate revision of the income tax system . . ."

Such utter nonsense has seldom, if ever, been uttered by an orthodox economist and even the briefest glance shows the reasoning behind this scheme to be utterly false and ridiculous, and that this is simply a thinly-disguised attempt to subjugate the British people to a State-regulated policy. Whatever form new taxation is going to take, TAXATION IS STILL TAXATION, and whether direct or indirect, it means less purchasing power in the people's pockets - - which really refers, roughly, to "the lower and middle range of incomes."

This will mean that the average family will be forced to further cut down its spending, even on available necessities, in order to meet the increased taxation, although many of them are already living far below the standard set by health requirements.

Decreasing the standard of living in this way has exactly the same effect as decreasing it by raising the cost of living, which is what this scheme is ostensibly "intended" to avoid, and will naturally result in some effort being made by those people affected to meet it by striving for a further increase in wages. It is precisely action of this sort that will "intensify the pressure for wage advances." In normal times the working man is quite content to chase the will-o'-the-wisp of a rise in wages, because "the cost of living has gone up," so it is obvious that steps will also have to be taken, if this scheme is to be put into effect, to see that the working man cannot have recourse to action through his union as he has done in the past, otherwise the situation will remain as it was before.

Past events have shown us that the British people, as a whole, resent strongly any interference with their individual liberties, but when we find this interference accompanied by financial proposals which are intended to reduce by nearly one sixth, their already greatly reduced income, then we can feel certain that it will meet with violent reaction on the part of the people who will not be very particular about whose corns they tread on in the process.

Whether this is a deliberate attempt by subversive and anti-British elements hiding under the cloak of semi-officialdom to goad the people into open revolt against the Government, as the first step

towards imposing a new "Planned Economy" backed by the entire legal and military authority of the State, remains to be seen. Although the scheme appears to have been fairly well received in Government circles, nothing definite can be expected until such time as the Government takes action along these lines, if it approves of the scheme. Nevertheless, such "plans" are a menace to the British Commonwealth of Nations, and must be exposed as such. The cause of Democracy will not be forwarded in any way by "plans" of this nature, whether they be Federal Union, P.E.P. or any other scheme for depriving the people of their liberties and the right to rule themselves, and placing all power in the hands of a centralised form of government.

Movements of this kind can only be regarded as deliberate attempts to sabotage the British Commonwealth of Nations, and to wreck the British Empire as such, before incorporating it in some form of International State dominated by a central world government. So long as we permit schemes of this nature to be foisted upon us we are laying ourselves open to disruption within. If we are going to retain our traditional rights and privileges as members of that great family of nations, then our first job must be to deal with any would-be attempts to "bolshevise" the people in this manner, under the excuse of war emergency.

"TERRIFIC LOADS OF TAXATION"

MR. MAIR'S NIGHTMARE, AND SOME PRE-ELECTION PROMISES

"I will always be remembered by the people as the one who brought in terrific loads of taxation during my term as Premier. This was against my principles, as I believe it is wrong to reduce the purchasing power of the people, but money had to be found somehow. We had 50,000 people on the dole and 50,000 more registered unemployed. There was only one course open, but I pledge my word that these tax burdens will be removed when it is possible to do so."

Thus the Sydney "Morning Herald," March 4, reporting a speech made by the Premier of New South Wales to a U.A.P. meeting at Oatley on the previous night. The question is: Does, or does not, Mr. Mair know who creates and controls the nation's money supply? If he does, then he dare not deny that as leader of the Government of New South Wales he is either condoning or wilfully prosecuting a bankers' "borrow and bust" system which has already imposed an overwhelming burden of debt upon the entire community, pawned so much of our public and private assets, and mortgaged our future as a nation to a bunch of Irresponsible financiers.

Because the money "had to be found somehow," Mr. Mair proceeded to tax it out of the people's pockets—just as though each individual was a creator of money. Supposing all those 100,000 people had jobs, where would the extra money needed to pay them come from? Would the Premier assume that the public was the source of money supply, and suggest that they pay themselves? Or would he admit that the private banks create approximately 98 per cent, of

the following interesting report appeared in the Sydney "Sun" of February 28. It offers further evidence of the appalling results of centralised financial domination in the U.S.A.: "Legislative action, against United States insurance companies is recommended by Securities and Exchange Commission officials, who have been investigating the insurance business for months past . . . The commission's officers, who have made their report to the Federal Monopoly, Committee on Life Insurance Companies, recommend legislative action to compel insurance companies to free part of their vast reserves for loans to small business and for the stimulation of new enterprises."

The following statements are also made in the report:

"Insurance companies select directors who are already directors of large corporations.

"Thus they are in a position to make personal gains through acting in a dual capacity.

"Five of the largest companies interlock with about 780 corporations.

"Each director has an average of six directorships. Some of them are directorships of banks in which the insurance companies have large deposits."

The following is from the Melbourne "Herald" of March 4: "U.S. Taking Over British Plants. Washington, Monday. —It was authoritatively stated today that the United States Government was taking over British owned arms plants in the United States as part of the aid for Britain's programme."

You do notice who is winning the war, don't you?

The latest demand for Federal Union comes from Mr. M. Camille Huysmans, former president of the Belgian Chambers of Deputies. He is reported as saying: "I know that here in London statesmen of other small European nations are thinking similarly." (No mention is made of what the PEOPLE of these

countries think.) "They regard the Commonwealth as the nucleus of even a larger federation, of democracies, and the basis of a defensive organisation which will compel Germany to renounce aggression and become, eventually, a good European."

The Socialisation of Britain proceeds. The latest move is the concentration of industries scheme. After stating in an editorial that this revolutionary move is urgently necessary—no logical reasons are given—the London "Times," mouthpiece of the "City" of London, speciously talks about the widely expressed sympathy for the firms "condemned to be concentrated for dormant bankruptcy," especially those which have spent large sums over a long period in building up trade-marks carrying their reputations for fair dealing with customers and which may find themselves obliged to work through or submit to extinction by jealous and, perhaps, less efficient rivals.

You all know how there is going to be no profiteering as a result of this war—at least, your (?) Government has told you so.

The following report from last Monday's Melbourne "Age" needs no comment: **"Woolworths Ltd., Sydney, made a record profit of £282,566 for the year ended January 31, 1941, after deducting all working expenses and making adequate provision for depreciation. Directors recommend dividend on ordinary shares 11½ per cent, making 17½ per cent, (unchanged) for the year."**

Won't it be a glorious "new order" when we have chain store monopolies all over the country, with small, independent firms liquidated! Just like they have in Russia and America.

The internationalists are hard at work in the Australian Labour Party. Labour organisations all over the world are collecting around the Federal Union bait like flies around a decaying piece of meat. Mr. Evatt has joined the growing ranks. According to the Melbourne "Age" of last Monday, he says: **"Australia's problem of post-war reconstruction could not be completely solved internally, but must be part of a fair international organisation."**

Wouldn't it be terrible if all the other countries of the world suddenly disappeared! I suppose we would starve to death amidst our own abundance!

The "total" war effort forges on. Apparently a lot of people in Tasmania are getting a little sceptical concerning the Government's statements. Mr. Beck (U.A.P., Tasmania) caused a sensation last week by stating that the Government would lose his support unless Tasmania obtained more Defence orders. He urges more decentralisation. It is hopeful to know that some common sense still exists even in the U.A.P.

In case there should be any lingering doubts regarding the harmony between Germany and International Finance, the following report, which speaks for itself, from the Melbourne "Argus" of March 7 will be of intense interest:

"Germany's funds in the United States now total 300,000,000 dollars (£A.100,000,000), according to official data on international finance made available today. These funds are said to be increasing faster than they can be spent, but part was being diverted for propaganda purposes. A large share of the assets held here were purchased with approximately 500,000,000 dollars of gold the Germans obtained from reserves seized from occupied Europe.

. . . Reliable sources affirm that Germany's financial position is so favourable that some dollar assets for which the Germans find no use are being transferred to the financially-hard-pressed Japanese."

—"SCISSORS."

WHAT "CAPITAL LEVY" MEANS

Certain newspapers, of which the Labour "Daily Herald" of London is a typical example, are busy working up a campaign designed to force acceptance of the imposition of a levy, or tax, upon capital. Alleged, or presumed by well-intentioned persons whose grasp of economics is insufficient to protect them from exploitation, to be aimed at the big capitalist, such a measure is aimed not at the big capitalist at all, but at the independent trader and the middle classes generally.

These classes do not share even the illusory expectation of some vague betterment resulting from the exceptional measures which are being pushed forward under cover of the war, and if their attention can be gained, they may be instrumental in averting a social catastrophe towards which they are marching in uneasy company with the "workers" themselves. To dispel some illusions entertained concerning the true nature of a capital levy, who would pay it, and the immunity of the big capitalist from its effects, the following chapter from Douglas's "Credit Power and Democracy" is reprinted without alteration. It was written in 1920:

CHAPTER VII. OF "CREDIT POWER AND DEMOCRACY."

Another of the clichés to which the official Labour organisations have committed themselves is that which goes by the name of the Capital Levy, in its various forms. It is so superficially familiar to everyone interested in these matters that no extended description of it is necessary; with variations it may be described as a graduated and ostensibly non-recurring tax on the money-value of individual property, real and personal, such value being estimated, not by its earning power, but on some basis such as market price or expert estimation.

At first sight such a levy is an attractive expedient to a party concerned with the flagrant disparity in worldly circumstances to which "Capitalism" has at the moment brought us. If we can believe that there is a fixed amount of wealth in the world, and we see, as we do, that some have the good things of life while many have hardly the necessaries, it would appear an easy path to greater "justice" to take some of the "wealth" off the fortunate ones, even though you do not directly give it to the remainder. Let us examine the project more closely, therefore.

The law recognises two main classes of capital: "real"—i.e., land, houses, etc.; and "personal"—i.e., stocks and shares, cash, etc., which latter are ultimately claims to some sort of "real" property. That is to say, ultimately all property of any kind or description is a claim on realty. Now, imagine all money values above, say, £5000, held by individuals to be subjected to a capital levy. What actually happens? The levy, remember, is on individuals by the "State." The State has no concrete use for realty; it does not, broadly speaking, administer productive undertakings; consequently, what it requires is a transfer of credit, which it can apply, say, to the reduction of the National Debt, which in itself is an agency for distributing purchasing power.

Now, however steeply you graduate a tax, it must leave some men "richer" than others. Remembering this, consider the course of events when the tax is collected. The owner of land has to sell to "raise" the money for the tax. **Who buys that land?** Similarly, the owner of stocks and money parts with these. Who gets them? There are two answers.

If the titles to the land or shares are thrown on the market together there will be a slump in "values" which will affect not only those who are taxed but those who are not taxed, in so far as they have any possessions other than money. At first sight this seems a desirable result, but on further consideration, it will be seen that as the National Debt is a money-debt, not a "realty"

debt, such a slump in values increases the real weight of the debt, because it requires a larger transfer of property at the lower price to liquidate a unit quantity of it. Since, as we have agreed, this transfer of actual property cannot be to the State "in propria persona," it must be from persons with less money to persons with more money; and the greater the fall in values, the greater would be this transfer of real wealth from the less rich to the more rich. That is one possible answer.

But there is a modification of this process possible. In order to avoid the fall in values that the liquidation of large blocks of securities would entail, the banks would be besieged for overdrafts with which to meet the calls of the levy. Which class of applicants would receive preference in this scramble for credit-issue? Undoubtedly those whose prospect of repayment seemed to rest on the surest foundation; and, unless the previous arguments have failed of their purpose, it will be plain that whatever costs may be incurred by a producer who controls a market can be recouped

by him in prices from the consumer. Consequently, the banks would extend credit most readily to those whose power of price-making gave assurance of their ability to collect the levy, in so far as it affected them, from the public, together with the bank's interest on the loan. Such persons would not only not have to part with any property, but would probably be found in a position of commanding advantage from which to acquire the property thrown on the market by their less fortunate neighbours—a result which, though differing slightly in method, results in the same conclusion as in the previous case: that instead of such a levy being a transfer from the rich to the poor, it becomes a transfer from the consumer to the price-maker and the credit-issuer.

This is another way of stating the theorem on which stress has previously been laid in these pages. Under the existing economic arrangements, industry cannot be carried on unless the price of an article includes all the costs—i.e., dispensations of purchasing power—which have been incurred during its production. If a cost is not included in the price, then the price-maker becomes poorer, and eventually goes out of business. You cannot tax a capitalist-producer effectively, because his existence as a producer depends on his ability to pass on any expense incurred to the consumer. And it will be admitted by any unprejudiced observer that no excessive reluctance to avail himself of this privilege is noticeable in the behaviour of the average entrepreneur.

It is, however, possible to attack the Capital Levy on more general grounds also, if it be realised that the situation with which we are faced is only accentuated by, and not fundamentally due to, the destruction of war. If the economic system under which we are working is a sound system, then it is a flagrant "injustice" that such persons as do well out of it should be penalised; and if it is

unsound, as it is, then the Labour Party, which clearly regards itself as the sole political concessionaire of justice, should be too high-minded to believe that an unjust system is improved by working it unjustly.

The capitalist system is tottering to its fall, but, like the Bolshevik Government, which (according to official communiqués) began to totter at its birth, and continued to totter until it has infected half the world with its congenital instability, it may carry on for a long while, if its opponents obligingly demonstrate at short intervals their inability to supplant it by something better.

Bendigo Easter Rally

If sufficient support can be obtained, it is the intention of the Bendigo group to arrange a rally of "New Times" readers, who will be in Bendigo during the Easter holidays. Metropolitan speakers will be invited to lead a discussion on future campaign activities.

Notice of intention to attend and suggestions for topics for discussion would be gladly received by the hon. secretary, Mr. J. J. Jordan, 35 Stewart-street, Bendigo. "New Times" publications may also be obtained by communicating with the secretary. ("The Answer to Tax Slavery" may be obtained from Mr. W. Hampton, newsagent, Bendigo)

U.E.A. Actionists

Help is still urgently needed at headquarters to meet the terrific volume of work now in hand, and anyone who can assist in any way whatsoever is requested to get in touch with the hon. secretary. There is a big job of work to be done and it can only be tackled successfully by us all co-operating and getting down to it.

United Democrats' Report

From Headquarters, 17 Waymouth Street, Adelaide.

A meeting of members and supporters on Saturday night listened to a speech by John Hogan. John proposed a State-wide leaflet campaign, replying to recent electioneering statements by the Premier (Mr. Playford) on national credit, and bringing the issues before all electors before polling day (March 29): This to inaugurate a permanent campaign of renewed activity by the movement on the biggest possible scale. The meeting unanimously approved suggestions, and nearly £20 was subscribed to launch the campaign. Executive members and actionists gathered again at headquarters the following night to arrange details. Proposals for a complete re-organisation, thorough country and metropolitan organisation following John's visit, a membership fee of £1/1/-, and the appointment of a secretariat with individuals responsible for specified duties, were unanimously endorsed as recommendations to a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF ALL MEMBERS to be held at 17 Waymouth Street (lower hall), on Saturday next, March 15, at 8p.m. Everyone is urged to attend this meeting. Messrs. Hergstrom and Severin were appointed to collaborate with John Hogan in finalising the publication and distribution of the proposed leaflet, of which at least 50,000 will be issued all over the State in the next fortnight. Candidates, producers' organisations, and many others will collaborate. Your help is needed, too—and more finance to finish the job properly. John will address a final public meeting in the Adelaide Town Hall on either Saturday, March 22, or Monday, March 24.

HOSPITAL FINANCE "HEALTHIER"

BUT THE PEOPLE'S PULSE-----?

From recent press reports it would seem that our hospitals are playing a new role in the life of the community.

According to the Sydney "Morning Herald," Mr. FitzSimons, N.S.W. Minister for Health, said, "public hospital finance was now healthier than it had ever been. Debts were fewer. The Government had done its share for Sydney Hospital by contributing £81,000 to its funds last year, and by guaranteeing a £50,000 overdraft."

Apparently it is now considered more important to safeguard the financial system than to succour the sick.

The president of the board, Sir Norman Paul, declared that there was urgent need for new nurses' quarters. In spite of this and other urgent necessities, however, the Minister said any plans for moving Sydney Hospital from its present site could only be decided in the future. He doubted our ability, either as a State or as a nation, to rebuild a hospital at a probable cost of £750,000 in wartime.

The Sydney Hospital is a public institution. Assuming that Australia IS a Democracy, the Government is also a public institution: the people administering their needs through their elected representatives. How comes it then—with a great army of unemployed men marking-time in Sydney, and no real shortage of materials for brick-making and other requirements—that Mr. FitzSimons dares to

suggest that this nation lacks the ability to build a hospital, the most essential service in any community? Or does he mean that we build hospitals with MONEY and that this elusive substance cannot be found?

Some light might be thrown on the question if the people were told: HOW THE OTHER £50,000 CAME INTO BEING; TO WHOM WE (through our Government) GUARANTEED REPAYMENT; and WHAT THE FINAL COST TO THE PUBLIC WOULD AMOUNT TO.

That public hospitals throughout Australia are in a deplorable position is now common knowledge. But Mr. FitzSimons says that FINANCE is healthier; no doubt it will be up and about again shortly; merely its system out of order; probable diagnosis: "Lack of vitamins £.s.d." Poor old FINANCE; I always thought it was "SOUND."

—"SCISSORS."

Letter to Editor

Feeding 5 on 39/6 Weekly

Sir,—

It is not very often that I am tempted to write a letter to the Press.

I can light-heartedly leap over such news items as "Bradman out for 0"; my responsive chord is untouched by cable flashes of Market reports; my pen is unstirred by the challenging statements of Society Columnists—but this bright morn I simply must get out my typewriter. I've just learnt how to feed five people on £1/19/6 per week. My information is from a usually reliable source (as the communiqués have it), namely a pamphlet issued by the Commonwealth Department of Health.

Now I don't know the gentlemen who constitute this Department, but I imagine them to be hardheaded practical men of experience. That is, not the type to rush into print without being sure of their ground. But this notwithstanding, I'm afraid I must accuse them of undue generosity in this matter of £1/19/6 per week to feed five people. I mean to say—just look, for instance, at what these gentlemen of the Health Department allow a family of five for a week's supply of vegetables—the munificent sum of 4/4½. Come, come, gentlemen. This is sheer extravagance. It is surely obvious that if a member of the Health Department were married, and if he had three children, that he would not find it necessary to squander 4/4½ every week on vegetables alone.

The Milk ration is another example of excessive waste. This family of five is allowed 17½ pints per week, i.e., half a pint per day per family unit, with two pounds of powdered milk (which all dieticians acclaim for its great food value) to augment the week's supply. Dear Mister Editor, ½ pint of milk a day, and a couple of tablespoons full of powdered milk for a couple of working people and their growing children! This is super abundance plus. No other comment needed.

Space will not permit me to say much more, but please allow me to quote one delightful passage from the Health Department's pamphlet.

"The Vitamin C content of dried peas, lentils, and beans can be increased by allowing them to generate in a layer of moist earth or cotton wool."

The next time I visit the home of a Federal health expert I suppose I'll have to tread wearily to avoid trampling on the small plots of moist earth neatly spread over with haricot beans and dried peas, which, no doubt, will be enthusiastically sprouting Vitamin C. For, of course, these practical gentlemen practise what they preach.

Allow me to conclude by wishing all concerned in this £1/19/6 per week venture every success. If, perchance, anyone finds a diet of fried bread, powdered milk and dripping a trifle difficult to exist on, let him reflect that, after all, any Australian "Year Book" will prove that the production of food-stuffs in this country warrants nothing but the strictest economy. Fools who talk of our real wealth as if it is sufficient to give all our people a decently high standard of living obviously have not the first-hand information available to the Commonwealth Health Department. On with the, good work! Let thinner and unhealthier citizens be our watchword! Bunkum to those who would have it otherwise. Yours sincerely,

D. L. BUTLER.

Croydon, N.S.W.

THE TRADE OUTLOOK

"Money can't buy everything." "Someone must have told you that. You'd never think of such a platitude all by yourself. What can't it buy?"

"Oh, well, I don't know—not happiness or love, anyway."

"Generally it can; and when it can't, it can buy some of the most remarkable substitutes."

"And you have so much money, Captain Butler?"

"What an ill-bred question, Mrs. Hamilton! I'm surprised. But, yes. For a young man cut off without a shilling in early youth, I've done very well; and I'm sure I'll clean up a million on the blockade."

"Oh, no!"

"Oh, yes! What most people don't seem to realise is that there is as much money to be made out of the wreckage of a civilisation as from the up building of one."

"And what does all that mean?"

"Your family and my family and everyone here tonight made their money out of changing a wilderness into a civilisation. That's empire building. There's good money in empire building. But there's more in empire-wrecking."—"Gone with the Wind." by Margaret Mitchell.

HOUSEWORK IN THE FUTURE

The American kitchen, as portrayed by the advertisers, is an exquisite radiant chamber, where utility and art fuse in a symphony of white, red, and chromium. Every device, which can simplify the housewife's labours, is built into its inviting recesses or sunk beneath its flush and streamlined panels. From the red and green lights which flash above the electric stove to the elaborate control panel which graces the front of the hidden sink, it is a testimony to American civilisation in the year 1941.

With wartime production turned over to the purposes of peace, every housewife could have a kitchen like this—and a house to match. It will only be necessary to assure sufficiently big incomes to everyone to enable them to call on industry to provide what they want.

"THE BRIDGE OF SIGHS"

"The capital cost of the Sydney Harbour Bridge at June 30, 1940, was £9,871,600. During the year the earnings were £391,188. After deducting administrative and operating charges, £49,246, the operating surplus was £341,942. This was converted into a net deficiency of £35,893, after allowance was made for the following: Interest on capital, £292,535; sinking fund, £43,868; exchange, £39,891; and loan management expenses, £1540."—"Sydney Morning Herald," February 26.

These figures are interesting. They help to show why the Harbour Bridge is (financially) a liability instead of being an asset, and how it is constantly being used as a taxing medium, benefiting a handful of private money-lenders at the expense of the travelling masses. The bridge came into being because it was urgently needed by the people as a whole, and not merely by a few; it was created as a PUBLIC utility. Had PUBLIC funds been used as capital, the huge interest payments would not have, been necessary; obviously, people do not desire to charge THEMSELVES interest. In which case (allowing ALL the other amounts

W.A. Electoral Campaign Report

Further to the meetings held at Bunbury, Beverley and Perth, another meeting of businessmen was addressed by Mr. V. J. Dury (Campaign Director) in the Nedlands Masonic Hall. Much discussion followed and "food for thought" was the verdict of the meeting.

Campaigners are requested to help make a success of the next ocean boat trip to Rockingham and Garden Island. "All hands" voted the last trip a success. Tickets, which are obtainable at Headquarters, 81 Barrack-street, are: Adults, 2/6 each (which is half the ordinary fare for this special trip) and children, 1/- each, payable on the boat. If fifty people will sell four tickets each our quota for the trip will be sold easily. Finance is needed badly at present, so all who can are requested to help in this way. Tickets can also be obtained from Mr. C. R. Willcocks, 114 Gloster-road, Subiaco, and Mrs. Lorieamar, 23 Hammond-street, East Fremantle.

All groups who have affiliation fees outstanding should forward to headquarters as soon as possible. Membership is 5/- per year. Let us "buck in" to this campaign with renewed vigour, knowing that we are gradually attracting more attention and support.

Have you written your personal letter to your M.H.R. in respect to Section 42A of the National Security Regulations? It is your job to do so, and it is no good "passing the buck" on to the secretary of your group. If you will exercise your sovereignty over all your institutions, you can expect to get the results you want. If you will not bother, then you must take the results, which other people think you want.

Dry "Dust Bowl" Humour

A Mallee farmer stopped at a bank to see if he could get a loan on his farm. "I'll drive out and value it," said the banker. "You don't need to bother," said the farmer, noticing a cloud of dust coming down the road, "here it comes now."

as legitimate costs), we would be showing, not a deficit, but a credit balance of no less than £256,643 for the year. —"Scissors."

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