

ON OTHER  
PAGES

"BRITISH  
ARMY  
BEATEN  
BY  
TREASURY."

(See Page 7.)

# THE NEW TIMES

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

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

Now, when the  
padlocks for our  
lips are forging

Silence is crime.

—Whittier (1807-1892).

Vol. 7. No. 24. MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 1941.

## CHURCHILL CRITICISED

### BRITISH M.P.'s OUTSPOKEN

On March 4 several members of the British Parliament, despite different party allegiances, united in roundly condemning Mr. Churchill and his Government for reducing the number of critics and potential critics in the House by shunting them into Ministerial appointments, and into duties outside Parliament (even overseas), which would keep them away from Parliament—although just as suitable, or more suitable, men were available outside Parliament.

In answer to a question asked by Mr. Mander on February 20, it was then confessed that 22 new Ministerial offices had been created since the outbreak of war, and members now pointed out that more than 100 of their number were serving in the armed forces alone. Plainly, members feared that, before long, Mr. Churchill and his "yes-men" would automatically comprise the majority of those left in the House—thus bringing about a virtual dictatorship.

The suppression and distortion, by the Press and the B.B.C., of news of vital issues in Parliament, was also referred to. But let the critics speak for themselves. The occasion is the consideration, in Committee, of the "House of Commons Disqualification (Temporary Provisions) Bill" A clause, specifying by whom and in what circumstances certificates empowering the appointments objected to could be issued, is being dealt with. We quote from the Official Report ("Hansard"):

Mr. Lewis (Colchester): I beg to move, in page 1, line 5, to leave out "First Lord of the Treasury," and to insert

"Committee of Privileges of the Commons House of Parliament." . . .

I would ask that the Attorney General should tell us definitely what is in the mind of the Government with regard to the presentation of these certificates and the particular procedure that would follow. I ask whether the certificate would be debatable and, if so, how a Debate would arise. The Attorney-General (Sir Donald Somervell): . . . He asked what is the purpose of the Government in putting into the Bill this provision as to a certificate. In the first place, it will be noted that the certificate has to state not only that the appointment is required in the public interest, but also that it is for purposes connected with the prosecution of the war. Those words were inserted in order to make it clear that the Government did not intend and had no desire to use this power except for a purpose connected with the prosecution of the war . . .

Mr. Lewis: In view of the statement made by the Attorney General, I beg to ask leave to withdraw the Amendment

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Lewis: I beg to move, in page 1, line 5, at the end, to insert:

"owing to the fact that no-one else with suitable qualifications is available." . . .

. . . The Prime Minister seemed to take the view—if I am correct in this matter it appears to be extremely serious—that it is desirable in war-time to get as many Members of Parliament as possible away from their ordinary duties. He used these words: "There

are many traditions which justify the desire of the Government to find useful employment for hon. Members."—"Official Report," 27th February, 1941; col. 733, Vol. 369.] The most useful employment for the ordinary Member of this House is his duties as a Member of Parliament. It is very unfortunate that the Prime Minister took the line that he did upon that point, and if it is to be the basis of the Government's policy, it may lead to very undesirable—perhaps, indeed ultimately dan-

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### WHEN THE SOLDIERS COME BACK MALLEE MAN'S FORTHRIGHT STATEMENT

Mr. J. S. Stoddart, a leading member of the U.C.P. in North-West-Victoria, and president of the R.S.S.I.L.A. at Ouyen, told a farewell gathering that he was "not so much concerned as to whether the A.I.F. could live up to our traditions as to whether we could live up to theirs."

He said: "What we want for ourselves and for them is a straight out assurance that the credit of this country, so readily found to put them into khaki, will be as readily found when this war is over to rehabilitate them to civilian life. Where sacrifice in this war is concerned, either financial or physical, it is these boys (departing soldiers) who carry the community on their backs.

"Between us and peasantry of the most abject form our men of the A.I.F. are our sheet anchor, and in common fairness to them we must consider what is to be their lot when they return to this country. It is true that they will have preference, but preference is only an empty word when it is over-ridden by the fact that you must first have the employment to give them preference in.

"It is true that Mr. Spender, addressing the men in Egypt, promised each and all of them a job when they returned, but, as Mr. Spender was our treasurer at a period when unemployment was rife in this country, and never came forward with any concrete proposals for its alleviation, we would feel more satisfied if he furnished some proof of his optimism to provide jobs in the future.

#### WHAT OF INDUSTRY?

"And Mr. Menzies, proud of

The Hess incident has been the great mystery of the present war. Suspicion has been aroused in this and other British countries by the complete suppression of any information about what Hess has said, or what he really went to Britain to try and achieve. In fact, the present British Government, comprised of Socialists and other sympathisers with Soviet Russia, was apparently very agitated about Hess's arrival. Every effort has been made to have the whole affair hushed up. The following facts will help people in this country to understand what

Hess may have come to Britain to discuss or propose. There can be no denying the fact that such a sensational action was motivated by very urgent considerations. To suggest, as an obscure press report of June 13 states, that Hess came to Britain to tell the British people that it was hopeless to carry on the fight against Germany is too much to ask us to believe. And to tell us that he expected some assistance to go back to Germany is a little too much of a good thing—even from the daily press.

#### A BACKGROUND OF THE CONFLICT

It is becoming more widely recognised that, unless Britain can win this war decisively, the whole of Europe may be so exhausted that Soviet Russia, aided by the revolutionary possibilities then existing everywhere, will be in the position to dominate the whole of Western Europe. While there are definite cultural bonds, which exist between the peoples of Western Europe, the present slave-society in Russia is alien to everything, which Europeans have prized. The Jewish slave state in Russia has been the real menace to Western civilisation. Adolf Hitler, although financed and assisted by many sincere people—although the sincerity of the Bank of England is a matter of some doubt—because they believed he would prove a great bulwark against Russia, betrayed the whole of Europe to the menace, which he professed to loath. This was no surprise to those who had studied the matter instead of taking their views from the internationally controlled press agencies.

Russian foreign policy has never been a secret. That policy seeks the destruction of the Western European Powers by allowing them to exhaust themselves in a long, devastating war with neither side really victorious. In fact, in case Britain should win too easily, Russia has actually, with the collaboration of certain Jewish interests in America, sought to keep Germany sufficiently strong to carry on the struggle against the British Empire until both sides are exhausted.

I believe that Hess was a sincere anti-Bolshevik, and although no admirer of Britain, he would much prefer to see the conflict

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### THE HESS MYSTERY

#### WHY THE HUSH-HUSH POLICY?

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

I am not an admirer of Rudolf Hess; I detest "leaders" of any description—political or financial. However, whenever the actions of any individual, no matter how much we may dislike him, may possibly avoid a catastrophe such as that which now threatens Western civilisation, I think that we should look at such actions in a realistic light.

I never admired the financial views of the late Neville Chamberlain. That Mr. Chamberlain will be recognised as the man who gave the British peoples that much-needed breathing-space from Munich until the outbreak of hostilities, a breathing-space which may prove the salvation of the British Empire, I have no doubt.

## "THE RENEWED WAR EFFORT"

A Talk Broadcast from 7HO, Hobart, at 8.15 p.m., on Sunday, June 8, by JAMES GUTHRIE, B.Sc.

**The need for an intensified war effort is being urged from all sides. That the need is there is obvious; how to meet that need is where some detailed instruction is required.**

The ordinary private citizen can do a great deal to help in the war effort, but as the control of the war effort is largely in the hands of Government officials, he cannot go faster than the Government will permit.

**The people of Tasmania as a whole could give valuable services in making munitions, but there is no place in Tasmania where munitions are being made.**

The Government may have many difficulties in establishing munition works in Tasmania, but until these munition works are established the people of this State, as in other States, will not be in a position to exert their full war effort, and no amount of talk about the need for mechanised weapons for the army will get over this difficulty; and it is not fair to criticise the people of this State when the fault does not lie with them. We are willing to help, but until the control of munition making is decentralised and spread over Australia, the full industrial power of the Commonwealth cannot be used.

### STUPID TALK.

I mention this because there is a lot of stupid talk by men who should know better; men who suggest shutting down activities before there is any alternate place of employment in the munition-making industry. There is no reason for stopping building in Tasmania until the builders are required for erecting munition factories or building military works of some kind. Even in England today, there are hundreds of thousands of unemployed men and women.

I have spoken at length on this subject before because some enthusiastic people seem to think that the Government has a job waiting for every available person.

In order to get a maximum war effort, certain things are essential. First of these is that those who are capable of giving help should be permitted to do so; and this first important condition is a long, long way from being fulfilled.

Not only is the man-power and the equipment not being fully utilised yet, but there has been hardly any attempt to use the great reservoir of women's labour and skill.

### WHAT PROF. WALKER SAID.

The loose talk and haphazard advice given by public men in the sphere of munition making is also found in the realms of finance. Professor Walker tried to correct this loose talk when he addressed the Economic Society last month, when he said (I quote the "Mercury," May 21, 1941):

"The real function of taxation and saving in war-time is not to raise money, but to reduce consumers' demands for goods and labour, and to reduce the danger of price inflation." He also said that: "The Government might devote to more urgent tasks much of the time and energy absorbed at the moment in raising loans." Professor Walker is repeating here statements that have been made in the British press, and which should be repeated in public more frequently.

It is very wrong to say that our soldiers will go short of munitions unless we subscribe to war loans. Not only is it not true, but thousands of people know that it is not true and they resent such statements being made in war-time. The Federal Government has power to create as much money as required for any war effort; this you can verify for yourself from all the best known financial

authorities whom we have quoted on numerous occasions from this station.

The Commonwealth war effort need not be held up for one minute through lack of funds. The Government has complete financial resources at its disposal. The real purpose of taxation and loans is to take money out of circulation so as to reduce the demands on industry by private consumers. The money subscribed by private individuals in the form of loans and taxation has no possibility of financing the whole

to be withdrawn from the year's earnings of the nation in whatever form it is collected."

This statement has no name attached to it, but was probably supplied by the Department of Information. I have seen some of the circulars on finance from this Department, and they are simply the same propaganda as the private banks have been circulating for some considerable time.

### BANKERS' SMOKE SCREEN

In this quotation from the "Mercury," it states definitely the savings demanded were to provide money for the war; if they were not forthcoming the Government is expected to adopt some form of compulsory loan.

The question naturally arises why does the Government spend all this time and labour on begging for money? There must be some reason for it. The reason is this: During the last war, and during this war, in England and Australia most of the credit required was created by the private banks out of nothing. After the last war, England was left

## SCIENCE MARCHES ON

### HELICOPTER'S SUCCESSFUL TESTS

**Speaking at Boston recently, Igor I. Sikorsky reported that his recent experiments with the Vought-Sikorsky VS-300 helicopter have led him to place a great deal of confidence in the future of this type of aircraft.**

Mr. Sikorsky, who is Engineering Manager of the Vought-Sikorsky Aircraft Division of the United Aircraft Corporation, has made several hundred-test flights during the past eight months in the VS-300 helicopter, which he designed.

**A purely experimental craft, this helicopter has demonstrated its ability to rise vertically and obliquely, to fly forward, backward and sideways, and to hover over one spot under wind conditions ranging from a dead calm to fresh gusts of some 25 miles an hour. In its ability to hover, the machine represents fulfilment of the long awaited dream of controlled flight at zero miles per hour.**

The first public demonstration of the Vought-Sikorsky helicopter was made with Mr. Sikorsky at the controls. Some weeks later, a flight of over fifteen minutes was made, establishing what is believed to be the longest flight of a direct-lift aircraft in the United States.

In two later tests, the machine was flown for fourteen and fifteen minutes respectively, at forward speeds up to 45 miles per hour. Although the fastest speeds have been attained in forward flight, speeds up to 20 miles per hour have been reached in backward and sideways flight. During these and many other flights the helicopter reached altitudes of between 80 and 100 feet.

On numerous occasions the craft was flown to a landing place

hemmed in on all sides by obstacles. Hovering over a small cleared area, it then descended vertically under complete control by the pilot. The helicopter rose in the air with similar ease, clearly demonstrating its ability to operate successfully from areas congested except for a space not much greater than the diameter or the main rotor — a matter of some 28 feet.

As a result of these experiments it is thought, that the helicopter would be highly useful for operations from small spaces between buildings or trees, from a platform on top of a building, from the deck of a ship, or from the limited confines of a backyard.

The most spectacular performance of which the Vought-Sikorsky helicopter is capable is hovering. In one flight while hovering at a low altitude a small suitcase was put aboard. On this flight the helicopter flew directly up to the mm, then hovered before him, and finally backed off with its load without touching the ground during the entire process. The completely satisfactory control of the machine was thus demonstrated.

with a debt of £7,000,000,000, owed mostly to the private banks, and on which she is still paying £250,000,000 every year in interest, and has been paying it for over 23 years.

There have been strong moves inside and outside Parliament to force the Government to create its own credit and so prevent the country getting into greater debt; but in order to throw a smoke-screen over the whole of this transaction of the banks creating the necessary credits, tremendous effort is being made to make the people believe that if they do not subscribe to the war loans there will be no money for the war. This explains the great publicity campaigns for war loans, and I think it is time some of you wrote to your member of Parliament, complaining about this expensive and futile propaganda.

Some of the propaganda that has been put over the air is childish. It has been proved over and over again in this war that the suppression of facts can do nothing but damage; people find out in the end, and ultimately they take no notice of broadcast propaganda, or become cynics. And there are far too many cynics now. We are up against a tough problem, and the manner in which the authorities are handling propaganda is heartbreaking. We can stand the truth all right, but the question is—can the Government stand it?

### CONTROL OF PRICES

One of the principal objects of war-time savings and taxation is alleged to be to withdraw from the pockets of the people some of the extra bank credits that have been issued to finance the making of munitions, etc., so that there will not be a rise in prices due to "too much" money being in circulation.

As Parliament has power to control prices and also profits if it wants to, it seems rather stupid to smash the living standards of 90 per cent, of the people of Australia in order to control prices, when there are other ways of doing it.

The Government has no right to make a sudden slash at a man's income until they have given that man some chance of protecting himself and his family. Millions of pounds each year are being subscribed to insurance policies and mortgages on farms and houses; most of these securities passed into the hands of the financial advisers of the Government during the last depression. We are going to see the remainder fall into the same hands.

At the end of this war most of the land of this country and all the new industries are going to fall into the hands of those people who alone have the power to produce the necessary money—the banking fraternity and their friends.

Now, these facts are unpalatable; some people don't like hearing them. But they are being discussed all round town, wherever men congregate, and they have got to be answered now, because it is absolutely vital that men should know that when they throw in their jobs to join the army, and thereby suffer a heavy cut in their income, that the Government is going to do something to safeguard their interests.

We cannot wage a major war; find £200 million a year for that war, and pay over £100 million a year into the laps of the moneylenders. Surely the Government is going to do something about this money business. The least it can do is to take over our life and superannuation policies for the rest of the war, and thus relieve us of millions of pounds of payments each year.

### NO NEEDLESS SACRIFICES.

If there is any saving to be made, here is a good place to do it. It is much better to save at the expense of the insurance companies than at the expense of the food of the people. At any rate, whatever the Government does, it has no right to penalise 90 per cent, of the people of Australia by forcing them into a position in which they can't meet their liabilities, and thus place them in a position where they shall spend the rest of their lives in debt to a tiny group of men. Nothing but trouble can come from such callous indifference to the welfare of the people.

All this trouble arises over taxation, and the main object of taxation is alleged to be to prevent inflation of prices. I understood it was the job of Professor Copland and his various assistants in each State to stop price inflation. At any rate, if the Government wants to stop the rise to

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## CLOTHES-RATIONING NEXT?

By FOOTLE

"I suppose," I suggested, "that if Great Britain rations clothes, Australia, out of decency or whatever it is that causes imitation, will have to do the same. We're very quick to act on that sort of suggestion about everything else, doncher think? Seems we all like to turn when father turns. Look how cut-up the Earl Page bloke was when he found that a food surplus couldn't be made to disappear by rationing. . . ."

"What on earth is all this getting at?" demanded Aunt Ella severely.

"Well, you see, you asked me to do a few notes on this patriotic rally, and the trouble is I'm almost bound to be mixed up with the lads and all that, and I can't rely on doing my stuff on time. I always like to get a bit in hand and describe a few dresses so that all I've got to do afterwards is to tack on a few names and faces when I get the dope as they say. But this clothes-rationing idea is most unsettling really. I mean, if people take the President of the British Board of Trade (Mr. Oliver Lyttleton) seriously, like they do this "eat more food" wheeze, no one can say what is likely to happen. I think his wife must have been looking on when he wrote it, for I see he says the women would continue to look smart, but the men must not be ashamed at looking shabby."

"I never heard such nonsense!" snorted Aunt Ella.

"Yes," I assented eagerly. "He is rather wet, doncher think?"

"No, I don't," she snapped. "But you are. What's all that stuff you've written there?"

"Oh, just a few word sketches," I replied bashfully.

"Let's hear them," she demanded.

### FRUGAL FASHIONS.

I wasn't so keen, but I just had to do it, of course. I cleared the old larynx:

"The local rally was an enormous success from every angle. The recent rationing proposals, far from subtracting from the sartorial spectacle, actually contributed to an intriguing variety of personal embellishment. There was Mrs. . . . that well-known leader of suburban society dramatically draped in an Eau-de-Nil portiere, and this resourceful lady had cunningly turned the rings of same to practical account by using them as bracelets. She was moreover, set off to immense advantage by the Misses. . . . whose plain Millaquin frocks. . . ."

"Millaouin?" interjected Aunt Ella. "Never heard of it."

"It is a closely woven fabric," I explained, "used for making sugar bags."

### "THE RENEWED WAR EFFORT"—Continued.

prices it has full powers to do so. I can't see why anyone need worry because the people have some money to pay off the mortgages on their houses or place a few shillings in the bank. Consumers cannot buy too many boots if the Government is using boots for the army; they can't buy too much petrol if the petrol isn't there to buy; and even if the people buy more and better food—which most of them would do if they had the money—what of it? It is there to buy and we can't give it away because of lack of shipping.

This inflation bogey is just a bogey. You should not be deceived by it. There can be no inflation unless the Government decides to have it.

The civilian population has to be cared for as carefully as an army in the field; they have to be fed and clothed and made to feel that, however hard the road, all that they are asked to do is necessary and for the common weal.

A little more attention to this point of view would save a lot of unnecessary talks and threats and friction and recriminations.

I proceeded. "Mrs. . . . and the whole family were dashing in attire in costumes cunningly contrived from coupon towels, and although they had no stockings worth mentioning, only Prince Alberts, this deficiency was more than counterbalanced by the jazz garters they had fashioned from binder twine and the decorations from Easter eggs. There was an amusing contretemps when his worship the mayor, whose costume was admittedly excessively patriotic, was hunted from the main entrance and chased two blocks away by the police, but managed subsequently to gain entry through a window . . ."

"How can you be so frivolous and futile?" demanded Aunt Ella. "Besides, I would never

## THE HESS MYSTERY

(Continued from Page 1.)

ended now rather than see both Germany and Britain ultimately defeated by Russia. That he represents a powerful group perturbed by Hitler's flirting with Stalin I have no doubt.

### THE DUKE OF HAMILTON

If Hess was so perturbed by the position in Germany, with the hammer blows of the R.A.F. on German cities starting to make themselves felt, it is reasonable to suppose that he would try and contact "sympathetic" groups in Britain who might agree that if some plan to remove Hitler and his pro-Russian advisers were feasible, the whole of Western Europe might be united against the Russian menace. How would the present pro-Russian British Government accept such a proposal? Well, they promptly got Hess out of sight as if they were afraid of what he might say. Of course, this is only speculation; but it is a very interesting line of thought. It becomes more so when we recall that Hess was apparently trying to contact the Duke of Hamilton, who belonged to the Anglo-German Link, which existed for improving Anglo-German relations as opposed to the menace of Russian Communism. Unfortunately, the Duke of Hamilton and many other loyal Britishers didn't then realise that National Socialism was only another brand of Russian Socialism. And why did the papers suddenly reverse their earlier reports that Hess and Hamilton had been friends before the outbreak of war?

### A "MODERATE" NAZI

Interviewed in Sydney the day that Hess's arrival in Britain was announced, Commodore G. C. Muirhead-Gould, who was British Naval Attaché in Berlin from 1933 to 1936, described Hess as the most "moderate" Nazi in the Fuehrer's entourage." He said, "It would not in the least surprise me if this man hopes, by coming to London, to do something to stop the indiscriminate bombing of cities as a form of military reprisal. That, of course, is only a theory, but it would fit in with what we know of the man. He is educated, cultured, and, despite his fanatical devotion to Hitler, of a quiet and susceptible disposition. I should say that of all Germans occupying high positions in the Nazi Party he is the one who might be profoundly affected by, for example, the tremendous destruction caused by British bombs in Hamburg. He knows, as Hitler knows, what the

consent to wear a portiere, and you know perfectly well that I look a freak in bracelets."

### A SINISTER BLOKE

"Well, I don't like the look of things," I grumbled. "And this Oliver Lyttleton is a sinister bloke. He divides his time entirely between work and weddings. He says, 'I always put on my best clothes if I go to a wedding, but the moment I leave the church I look for the quickest way of getting back into my old clothes.'"

I did not pursue the argument with Aunt Ella. She never notices how eccentric politicians are. You can understand a bloke changing in the vestry to avoid his creditors; no one 'ud say a word against that, of course, but I don't think this sackcloth business works out in the ordinary run of things. I mean, I've noticed that an old suit wears out more quickly than a new one, and as far as I am concerned, if weddings afforded me the only chance I ever had to wear decent clothes, I should be choking everybody with the fume of moth balls and wearing side whiskers to carry off the effect of my outmoded morning suit.

### HONOURABLE DIRT.

He seems to have got a bit

morbid on the subject, for he says, "People admire a soldier whose uniform bears the marks of battle." From what Old Pongo tells me in his letters from Libya and from what I've heard from other sources, the commanding officers of the said soldiers do not share this admiration for dirty bloodstained uniforms. They tell me that the only people who appreciate the relics of blood and thunder are those who follow up the beer and skittles. Anyway, ask any quarter bloke how safe his clothing stores are among dirty, disheveled Diggers.

Let us return to our wet blanket. Because, reasons this Lyttleton blight, a soldier gets dirty through doing a dirty job, the least we can do if we can't be soldiers is to be dirty and fool each other into believing we've been doing a dirty job, too. "It is honourable," he says, "for a civilian to be seen in clothes which are not so smart."

He warms to his work: "We are contributing some part to an aeroplane, a gun, a tank . . . if our clothes are battle-stained."

Mind you, this bloke isn't so frightfully hygienic when you consider him in cold blood. He seems a trifle fixed in his notions concerning the merit of dirt. Besides which, he seems to be of the stuff that alchemists are made of, or else there's something in the old-clothes trade that I have missed — which is quite possible.

### TANKS FROM TROUSERS?

"What is it?" I ask myself, "that is common to a new coat, a tank and an aeroplane"; end I can't think of a single bally ingredient. I mean to say, if you're fond of that sort of thing, you can make a calculation of how many razor blades would be required to provide the metal for a tank and express your result in whiskers if you feel like it, but I defy anybody to express an aeroplane in terms of trousers.

It is my own considered opinion that the man was tight, and I don't think newspapers should take advantage of a man who makes public utterances when under the influence of an inspiration so remote from reality as to conceive an affinity between shoddy and hardware; and stained shoddy at that, mark you! I'd like to have a talk with him when he was sober. Something must have started the idea that you can build rag tanks or achieve honour through dirt, but until I get his explanation I shall continue to behave as though tanks are one thing and rags another, and as though dishonour is dirtier in the matter of stains than honour could ever be.

many can be dealt with later. Russia is still holding a key position.

### WALL STREET WORRIED

One of the most remarkable coincidences of the war was the manner in which Roosevelt's much-heralded speech was suddenly postponed upon the announcement of Hess's arrival in Britain. Was Wall Street worried? Let the following report from the Melbourne "Argus" of June 11, speak for itself. Mr. Churchill refused to give any information to the British House of Commons, but said: "I have nothing to say about this person at present, but the Government is keeping U.S.A. fully informed."

KEEPING U.S.A. FULLY INFORMED! The British House of Commons are not to be told. The British peoples who are fighting this war are not to be told. But apparently the Jewish Wall Street bankers must be "fully informed."

WHY? The whole thing reeks with suspicion. There are going to be some nasty remarks about those responsible for this hush-hush policy when the real facts are made known—that is, unless the Jewish-Communist plot succeeds.

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## WHY WEREN'T WE TOLD BEFORE?

**Transfers of money, collected in Australia for the purchase of war equipment in Britain, is now to be prohibited. This was necessary in order to prevent the drain on the Commonwealth's sterling funds, which these transfers were causing, said Mr. Fadden. "Such funds, however, could not contribute in any material way to . . . strengthening the United Kingdom against attack. Limits to the rate at which Britain was producing equipment for her own defences, WERE ENTIRELY MATERIAL AND PHYSICAL—"Argus," June 6.**

This means that England's war effort is limited only by the resources and the physical effort that the English people are capable of putting forward, and that "transfers" of Australian money from Australia cannot in any way affect that output. What Mr. Fadden omitted to say was that no such transfer of Australian money to England had ever taken place.

What does take place is merely a bookkeeping adjustment by the London banks, transferring an amount from one account to another. Not one penny of Australian money leaves Australia, nor is the amount of money in England increased. Australian banks receive and retain the Australian money extracted from Australian citizens.

Compelled by the severe limitations imposed by the financial monopoly, to give the lie to some of the bankers' hocus pocus about the money question, Mr. Fadden has stopped just short of telling the people the truth about the matter and contented himself with a half-truth.

We regret that we cannot share his confidence in the belief that the limits to Britain's production are now only material and physical. There is every indication to show that, on the contrary, England's war effort is still being hampered because of artificial financial restrictions imposed on it by private financiers through the Bank of England.

## MORE PLANNING

The growth of bureaucracy in Australia is going ahead at an alarming rate. Unlike dictators or politicians, it does not announce its presence or proclaim its actions with long-winded debates and national pronouncements. It comes into existence in a hundred different ways, often almost unnoticed and unannounced, and, with as little fuss as possible, usurps powers and privileges at will. The secret of bureaucratic control is not to be obvious and visible but to be in the position to exercise the necessary control whenever and wherever it is needed.

Melbourne's Milk Board conforms to the pattern. The following small paragraph, which appeared inconspicuously in last week's "Argus", is an interesting example:

"Zoning of milk deliveries in Melbourne to eliminate wasteful duplication will be undertaken by the Milk Board shortly. Regulations requiring retail dairymen in the metropolitan area to furnish details of their rounds were gazetted yesterday. The board will divide the metropolis into zones with four distributors operating in each. One reason for the zoning is the labour difficulties resulting from improvement in hours of employees. In addition to details of customers served, distributors must state the average daily quantity of milk distributed. Returns must be furnished within 30 days from receiving notice."

War provides a smoke screen for bigger and better schemes for controlling the lives of the people. It is also a very convenient excuse for national pirates disguised as "Planners" and "National Interest" men to push forward schemes for running our lives for us, which would, probably, be rejected without a second thought in times of peace.

## THE RIGHT SPIRIT

The Hawthorn (Vic.) Electoral Committee arranged a public meeting in the Hawthorn Town Hall on June 17 to enable Mr. L. H. Hollins, Independent MLA. for Hawthorn, to give an account of his stewardship to his electors. When seeking election, Mr. Hollins made it clear that he believed in Members of Parliament being controlled by their electors, and having no other political allegiance; furthermore, that he would make every endeavour to ascertain the will of his electors.

## World Record Power Drive

Lieutenant Andrew C. McDonough, U.S. Naval Reserve Pilot recently flew an Allison powered Bell Airacobra P-39 in a record shattering dive of 620 miles an hour.

The dive, which was part of a routine army test, took place at Buffalo, and the machine was equipped with aerial cannon, two large and two medium machine guns — full armament.

The exact speed of the machine was 909 feet per second or 107 feet per second faster than the speed of a .45 revolver bullet

## INSULTS TO YOUR INTELLIGENCE

### SPECIOUS NONSENSE FROM SIR CLAUDE READING AND THE NATIONAL BANK

**The closing of the £35,000,000 war loan brought forth fervent sighs of relief from the Commonwealth Government and Treasury officials, and, no doubt, sighs of regret from newspaper proprietors, bill-posters and others who had profited by the extensive—and expensive—advertising campaign.**

During the course of the war loan "appeal," the people of Australia came in for a good deal of pointed criticism from various public speakers and press writers, for their alleged lack of vision and enthusiasm.

According to press reports, Sir Claude Reading, of the Commonwealth Bank Board, deplored what he described as the "public's appallingly poor response to appeals to invest in Commonwealth war loans. In the last war the Commonwealth had raised ten loans, and for each there had been an average of 83,000 applications." In the present war the total applications totalled approximately one-half of that number.

If Sir Claude had carried his comparisons a little further, he might have discovered something which explains partly, at least, the alleged failure of the people to make "a full-blooded effort," as he termed it.

Until 1916 there was no Federal income tax. In 1914, Commonwealth and State taxes totalled £4/14/4 per head; but in 1940 they had increased to £20/12/10 (approximately five times greater). Furthermore, warnings of future heavy increases of taxation have been given, and the Prime Minister has, on more than one occasion, hinted that for Australia the price of freedom may be bankruptcy; and the prospect of being financially skinned alive hardly tends to produce enthusiasm anywhere.

(In any case, "filing its schedule" will be the inevitable result for the nation if the present financial policy is adhered to.)

In Great Britain, too, some seemingly unexpected results of heavy taxation have been noted. The "savings" total did not equal expectations there. A Melbourne "Herald" cable from London on May 5, stated: "Some authorities are beginning to fear that the stringent increase in direct taxation on the lower-income groups may be having a deterrent effect on savings."

In the course of a speech in Sydney, Mr. Spender (Army Minister) showed a trace of annoyance, and perhaps, a glimmering recognition of reality when he said, "It was no credit to Australians that their public leaders had to come into the city streets to take around the hat, and plead for subscriptions to a war loan." Not a few people will agree with this statement, but any discredit involved rests with the Government, rather than with the people of Australia. Clause 51a of the Commonwealth Constitution gives the Government absolute control over the creation and issue of money; and—if the private banks won't—the Commonwealth Bank can provide the funds required to finance the war, without debt, inflation or recurring interest charges, and without subjecting Australia or her public men to humiliation.

If Mr. Spender prefers a method, which involves Australia in a crippling burden of debt and interest charges, and imposes humiliation on her public leaders, he has no reason at all to reproach Australia for the consequences of his own deliberate choice.

## WHO GAVE THE SHOW AWAY?

"In ancient times it was the rage for kings and lords to keep a sage;

In present times it seems the rule for wealthy banks to keep a fool."

(Old doggerel—modernised.) While others may be uncertain as to the cause for the public's

chilly response to the War Loan appeal, the National Bank of Australasia claims to have discovered "the real nigger in the wood-pile."

In its "Monthly Summary" for May, it states, "the lack of public enthusiasm shown toward the recent loan is due to constant disparagement of the financial system by social credit and other monetary cranks.".... "People have been influenced by constant repetition—by persistent propaganda—toward the belief that something is wrong with the present monetary system."

This unsolicited testimony to the work of monetary reformers is, indeed, cheering and flattering;—but "honour to whom honour is due" is honours rule always. It would be both churlish and ungrateful not to acknowledge the (quite unwitting) assistance often given by bank apologists in exposing the inherent rottenness of the present monetary system. In particular, the writer of the National Bank's economic fiction columns seems to deserve special praise. Whether he be, as some think, the bank's junior clerk, or some suppose, a very, very orthodox political economist, he, no doubt, will be gratified to know that his help is duly appreciated. A typical example of his efforts in the way of bluff end ballyhoo appears in the "Monthly Summary" for May last, under the heading "The Facts of War Finance." Space forbids the quotation of more than a few extracts from this long and laboured screed, and for convenience and clarity these consecutive paragraphs are numbered here. (Our emphasis.)

(1) "The transfer of a great number of men and machines to making arms and other things necessary to the war effort INVOLVES a substantial reduction in the quantity and variety of articles available for purchase by the general public."

(Partly correct, but beware of the slingshot in his next.)

(2) "It also INVOLVES the transfer from the public to the Government, of the purchasing power necessary to pay for ALL the services, munitions and other goods, which the Government requires."

(Obviously a crafty attempt to INVOLVE unsuspecting readers in a sticky web of falsity. The public hasn't got sufficient purchasing power to pay for ALL the services and costs of this war, and only a rogue or a fool would pretend that it has.)

(3) "It AUTOMATICALLY follows that the war can be financed ONLY through some method which lessens the purchasing-power of the general public."

(This last is simply an AUTOMATIC LIE. Was the Boer war, for instance, financed by a method that lessened the purchasing power of the general public? It was not, nor was the last war. A Melbourne "Herald" report of 3/5/41, stated that at a meeting of the Economical Society, Mr. J. F. Nimmo, economist, said: "The last war was financed with the exception of war pensions and interest FROM LOAN FUNDS; and full subscription of loans was made possible by credit expansion and large increases in the loan 1s-

(Continued on page 5.)



## THE CENTRALISATION OF POWER

By R. L. NORTHBRIDGE, in the "Social Creditor" (England)

**The project of Federal Union derives most of its support among well-intentioned, though misguided, members of the public from the argument that it will render future wars impossible. It goes like this: it takes at least two to make a quarrel, therefore, make all countries into one big country and a quarrel between rival sovereignties becomes impossible.**

A parallel and equally logical remedy would be that every person in the world save one should commit suicide by the most convenient method; even more certain than Federal Union, this plan has gained no acceptance, which shows that **there are still some limits to human gullibility**.....

The "reduction to absurdity" shows at once that there is a fire as well as a frying pan: we have to remember that war, abominable though it is, is not the ultimate evil. There is something worse than war, something that men throughout human history have dreaded more than the hardships and dangers of battle. That is the loss of their liberty—their ability to think, act, and gain their livelihood in freedom. When the choice has been between, that death-in-life and war they have chosen war. Before the Federal Union argument can be accepted, then, it must be conclusively shown that the project will not cause a loss of freedom to the individuals of the uniting nations. Otherwise we are choosing the greater of the two evils, and the remedy is worse than the disease.

The advocate of Federal Union of course admits that the loss of freedom is an evil; indeed, part of his case is that small nations, whose freedom is consistently menaced by their larger neighbours, can only preserve their integrity by uniting to become as large as their possible aggressor. Again, the argument is singularly naive: there is no natural law uniting aggression with size. Moreover, a small and highly militarised state might be a thorn in the flesh of a much larger neighbour.

But even conceding that a large State may be a potential danger to smaller ones, security may be gained just as well by splitting the large State into two or three autonomous units. The argument works both ways.

It would therefore appear that

### INSULTS TO YOUR INTELLIGENCE—Continued

sue." He further stated that "wholesale prices doubled and retail prices rose 70 per cent," but made no reference to the harvest the trading banks reaped from the deflation, which followed. Mr. Bonar Law told the House of Commons: "We had borrowed £8,000,000,000, we should require to pay £16,000,000,000." (Hansard, 2/5/22). A lovely rake-off for the "something for nothing" bankers. There need be no colossal war debt or inflation, and no destitute V.C.'s vainly searching for jobs.)

Now, to return to "Monthly Summary" fiction, number four.

(4) "This FUNDAMENTAL FACT of war finance is not admitted by monetary heretics and other cranks who advocate 'costless credit.'"

(The so-called "fundamental fact" being the LIE that the war can only be financed by reducing the purchasing-power of the general public. When the money monopolists feel constrained to issue such palpably dishonest and truth-concealing propaganda as that quoted from the "Monthly Summary," it is surely not at all surprising that the general public are becoming convinced "THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG with the present monetary system." A system, which relies on lies, half-truths and misrepresentation to support its case, is surely in a bad way, indeed.)

—Stürem."

the sponsors of Federal Union are concerned first and foremost with federation "per se," and that their solicitude for the prevention of future wars is merely up-to-the-minute advertising designed to capture public opinion for their real objective. Turning a deaf ear to the propaganda, then, what we have to decide is whether Federal Union is in the best interests (i.e., the increased freedom and security) of the individuals in the federating States.

It is a matter of common observation that, where a number of very small units exist together, amalgamation and centralisation will produce increased efficiency through specialisation and co-ordination of effort. That is the well-known "increment of association," and it yields a dividend whether the units be political, social or economic. But it is not generally realised that there is a very definite limit beyond which any further increase in size produces a decline in efficiency. The trend of biological evolution provides confirmation of this view, the field being held by creatures of very moderate size compared with the monsters of the Jurassic Age. As an association grows, the distance increases between the thing to be done and the man empowered to do something about it, resulting in ever-lengthening red tape and a loss in efficiency that may be concealed, but not in any physical sense offset, by paper efficiencies such as bulk buying or readier access to bank credit. Moreover, within the association psychological tensions increase through the individual member becoming more and more a mere cog in the wheel, while the individual outside suffers from the growing power of the organisation which becomes able to neglect his wishes and assumes at last the monopolistic aspect of the trust or the dictator. This is not mere theory, but a matter of common observation, which any dispassionate onlooker may verify for himself. The growth of any association beyond the point of maximum returns in the way of freedom (both social and economic) for the individuals composing it serves one purpose, and one purpose only—the gratification of the will-to-power of the individual or group controlling the organisation. By means of departmental centralisation and the playing-off of one group against another ("divide and rule") effective protest by individuals or minorities becomes more and more impossible, their franchise is diluted to vanishing-point, and they are at length rendered impotent by the mere size of the organisation they wish to reform.

"The danger which at the moment threatens individual liberty far more than any extension of individual enterprise is the Servile State; the erection of an irresistible and impersonal organisation through which the ambition of able men, animated consciously or unconsciously by the lust of domination, may operate to the enslavement of their fellows . . . The real enemy is the will-to-power, the positive complement to servility, of which Prussianism, with its theories of the supreme State and the un-

importance of the individual . . . is only the fine flower. . . . It (centralisation) has its counterpart in every sphere of activity: the coalescing of small businesses into larger, of shops into huge stores, of villages into towns, of nations into leagues, and in every case is commended to the reason by the plea of economic necessity and efficiency. But behind this lies always the will-to-power, which operates equally through politics, finance or industry, and always towards centralisation." "Economic Democracy," chapter III.

In Federal Union we are witnessing the latest and most grandiose attempt towards world centralisation and control since the collapse of the Roman Empire. Probably most of its supporters are well-meaning dupes, but its direction and main financial support come from sources to which that term certainly does not apply. Many banks and financial houses are to be found on its list of subscribers, along with advocates of internationalism and a "planned economy"; and the ultimate objective is, quite undoubtedly, world government and a regimented population. National sovereignty interferes with this plan therefore national sovereignty must go.

There can be few people in these

### SYDNEY READERS-ATTENTION

Readers and supporters of the "New Times," residing in the **Western Suburbs** districts, are urged to attend a special meeting at the residence of Mr. B. L. Gibbins, 5 Norton-street, **ASHFIELD** (near Fire Station) at 2.30 p.m. on **SUNDAY, June 29.**

**OBJECTS:** To finalise preparations for a big public meeting in Ashfield (probably Wednesday, July 16), to be addressed by Mr. Eric Butler, and to discuss plans for urgent local activities. This is **YOUR** opportunity. **DO NOT MISS IT!**

Convenor: N. F. Rolls, 5 Norton St., Ashfield.

islands who, faced by the prospect of a centralised World Super-State or the chance of war, would not choose the latter: indeed, we are fighting now because we believe there is something worse than war. Yet such a choice, as we have seen, is by no means necessary. A real peace, as distinct from a state of suppressed revolt, is far more likely to come from a number of autonomous nations small enough to ensure that the individuals within them are close enough to their political representatives to control them and thus ensure the freedom and economic security made possible to any civilised nation today by the progress of the industrial arts. A contented people, in control of their own Government, will not engage in any war of aggression; such a peace is based on natural desire and not on the unstable foundation of an enforced obedience.

The British and French Governments at the close of the last war wished to divide Germany into the independent and self-governing States which were welded by Prussia into one whole in 1871, an example of the will-to-power in action and in defiance of the differences in the tradition, culture and temperament of the peoples involved. \* In two generations, by centralised control and

\*Hanover especially gave trouble. Wilhelm Stieber, Bismarck's chief spy, records having received from the Chancellor a bonus of 200 thalers for managing to suppress a bitterly anti-Prussian newspaper article before it appeared in the Hanoverian press.

glorification of the State at the expense of the individual, the external characteristics of a population of 65 million were completely altered.

"From the house of idealism typified by Schiller, Goethe and Heine, it has become notorious for bestiality and inhumanity only offset by a slavish discipline. Its statistics of child suicide during the years preceding the war (of 1914-18) exceeded by many hundreds percent, those of any other country in the world and were rising rapidly. Insanity and nervous breakdown were becoming by far the gravest problems of the German medical profession. Its commercial morality was devoid of all honour, and the external influence of Prussian ideals on the world has undoubtedly been to intensify the struggle for existence along lines which quite inevitably culminated in the greatest war of all history."—"Economic Democracy," Chapter II.

The reconstitution of Germany into its original States was opposed by America at the Peace Conference and the project was dropped. The centralised Federation of German States was left intact, and its aggressiveness restored and Hitler brought to power by the economic pressure of the early 1930's, which originated in Wall Street. It is worth noting that the world-wide starvation and misery produced by the economic "blizzard" did not occur through any breakdown of the productive mechanism, such as might be caused by a succession of vast natural disasters, but was purely a collapse of the financial mechanism of distribution. There are grounds for suspecting that it was deliberately contrived, but at the very best it was nothing short of criminal incompetence on the part of those international financiers to whom the sponsors of Federal Union would hand over absolute, and in practice irresponsible, control of the finances of the uniting countries.

Towards the end of the "American White Paper," an account by two journalists of recent American diplomacy, the following curious passage occurs:

"The unification of a nation releases an extraordinary dynamic energy. After France was unified by Richelieu, all Europe had to go to war against France every thirty years or so, until France's energy was finally exhausted in the great campaign of Napoleon. An even greater energy was produced by the unification of Germany in the nineteenth century, from one aftermath of which the world is now tragically suffering. And as the Napoleonic campaigns ended by uniting Germany, so a German victory will surely end by uniting the only outwardly United States . . . But when we are truly united, the release of dynamic energy will follow. . . . It is stirring to try to imagine what may happen then."

While we can agree that unification and centralised control are probably the one infallible method for perverting and over-riding natural human desires and plunging the nations into war, those who are "now tragically suffering" may find the authors' detachment difficult to attain. However the writers are at least under no delusions as to the historic consequences of former Federal Unions.

It cannot be too firmly borne in mind that war is a symptom only of a disease in the body politic, and not the disease itself; to repress a symptom is to aggravate, not cure, the malady. Permanent peace can only be achieved by removing the causes of war, which are centred deep within the economic and political structure of the community and which can be effectively dealt with only by the aroused will and conscience of individual members. Federation; by making the Individual ever more impotent, would render such democratic reforms impossible.

## STIRRING COUNTRY MEETINGS

### GROWING INTEREST IN WAR-FINANCE

Reports to hand from the country clearly indicate that there is a growing public interest in the subject of finance and its relationship to the war-effort. In spite of the bitterly cold nights and petrol rationing, well-attended meetings in most centres are giving Mr. Eric Butler a remarkable reception.

Mr. Butler is finding some of these meetings a tremendous physical strain. Two meetings last week went on until well after midnight. Literature sales have been very good, while there has been an excellent response to the appeal at meetings for more direct subscribers to "The New Times."

#### ALBURY MEETING

Although organised at very short notice, this meeting, on Monday, June 9, was very satisfactory. Eric Butler was in excellent form, holding his audience in rapt attention for well over two hours. The chair was taken by Mr. J. King, who very nearly defeated Mr. Mair, the ex-Premier of N.S.W., at the recent State elections. In opening the meeting, Mr. King said that he was proud to be associated with Eric Butler, whom he considered one of the finest Australians he had ever met. "It may interest those present," he said, "to know that Mr. Butler's two younger brothers have gone overseas in the A.I.F. He is doing more than his share on the home front"

Special mention must be made of the splendid co-operation given in the form of hospitality by Mr. and Mrs. H. Atkinson and Mr. and Mrs. Massey.

#### SMALL DENILQUIN AND MATHOURA MEETINGS

Mr. Norman Rolls left Mr. Allsop and Mr. Butler at Albury to return to Sydney. The meeting in Deniliquin (N.S.W.), on Tuesday, June 10, was rather small, although very attentive. It was a very cold night. However, the local paper, the "Independent," gave Mr. Butler's address good publicity, not only in its columns, but also over the radio in its news session. Mr. Allsop and Mr. Butler were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. E. Muller and Mr. and Mrs. W. Butcher for the two days spent in Deniliquin. The meeting at Mathoura, on Wednesday, June 11, resolved itself into an informal chat and the sale of literature.

#### GOOD TONGALA MEETING

As confidently expected, the meeting at Tongala on Thursday, June 12, was very good, although not as well attended as the famous meetings of last year. Those present were in attendance because they were perturbed about the present situation. In spite of the cold, they maintained great interest until the conclusion of the meeting. As usual, Mr. R. G. Caldecott was "well on the job." The local paper sent a reporter, who gave a good write up.

#### BIG ATTENDANCE AT KYABRAM

The attendance at Kyabram the following night, Friday, June 13, was remarkable. Although there had been a big function in the town the night before, over 100 people sat until well after 11 p.m. listening to Mr. Butler answer the many different questions asked. Although he has addressed bigger meetings at Kybram, Mr. Butler said that this was the soundest meeting he has yet seen in this centre. Mr. W. Pearson did the great bulk of the organising, and is confident that he can obtain a still better meeting for Mr. Butler when he next visits the district.

#### BERRIGAN, N.S.W.

Leaving Tongala on Saturday, June 14, Mr. Allsop and Mr. Butler made a dash of nearly 100 miles north to Berrigan, N.S.W.,

to attend a special meeting arranged by Mr. R. A. O'Neill. Mr. O'Neill only started to become interested in the campaign as a result of being put on our subscribers' list by his brother in West Australia. Upon arrival, Mr. Allsop and Mr. Butler were taken to the local golf club, where they were quickly engaged in argument and discussion with leading citizens. After a hurried tea, Mr. Butler started to address the meeting arranged for 7 p.m., in order to get finished before the pictures. Although the meeting was not large, many leading citizens of the town and district were present. Once Mr. Butler warmed to his task the pictures were forgotten, and keen discussion took place until nearly midnight. New readers were signed up and excellent results can be expected in the future. Although the meeting officially ended before midnight, upon adjournment to the parlour of one of the local hotels,

Mr. Allsop and Mr. Butler were again engaged in keen discussion by local citizens. They retired to bed rather exhausted, but feeling that some splendid results had been achieved.

#### ENDURANCE TEST AT LOCKINGTON

After some further discussions in Berrigan on Sunday morning, June 15, Mr. Allsop and Mr. Butler left for Lockington—a trip of over 120 miles. After calling on Mr. F. Casey, of Echuca, where they had tea, they arrived in Lockington in time for the meeting. The local supporters were surprised at the response. It was easily the best meeting ever seen at this centre. The hall was packed to capacity. Mr. John Vise, in introducing Mr. Butler, said that it was pleasing to see that such a great interest was now being aroused in the necessity of a change in financial policy to allow a maximum war effort. He said, "Mr. Butler is doing a great job for Australia today. Although Mr. Butler is of military age, and is prepared to offer his services to the R.A.A.F., I and many other thousands of Australians feel that his real job is here in Australia doing the national work he is doing. Australia cannot afford to allow him to go overseas."

Eric Butler gave a particularly fine address. Tremendous interest

and enthusiasm were aroused, with the result that he was still answering questions well after midnight. Those present showed signs of sitting on all night, in spite of the bitter cold, but the speaker was almost physically exhausted. Literature sales were splendid, while many new subscribers were obtained.

#### SERGEANT OF POLICE CHAIRS ROCHESTER MEETING

The meeting at Rochester, on Monday, June 16, was not largely attended. However, this centre is notorious as a "tough nut to crack." Still, progress is being made by the local enthusiasts. The chair was taken by the local Sergeant of Police, Sergeant Nolan, who passed some very complimentary remarks at the conclusion of the meeting.

### Mr. Spender Insults A.I.F.

There is no denying the fact that the recruiting position in this country is not what it should and could be. The financial causes of this situation have been stressed time and time again in these columns. The following report appeared in the Melbourne "Argus" of June 11. "Although Victorian enlistments were lowest for months, recruiting in other States was satisfactory, Mr. Spender, Army Minister, said yesterday. **He believed the lag in Victoria was due to almost total absence of unemployment**" (Our emphasis.) Does Mr. Spender imply that men are not sufficiently patriotic to join the forces unless they are unemployed? If so, Mr. Spender has insulted tens of thousands of men who have given up good jobs to answer the call to action. We don't want men to fight as economic conscripts. We want them to fight as free men, assured of the security of their dependants. Is Mr. Spender fighting to see that the security of our fighting men is being made a real thing? No.

He has never yet made a protest against the pawning of this nation to private financial institutions.

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serving today will agree with me, that there is a shortage at the moment of what I call the "middle-piece officer"—the senior company commanders, who are vitally necessary in both the old Army and the new one. The middle-piece officer is at the moment too young and the reason for the lack of this most essential part of the modern Army will be found in the offices up and down the country. The staff officers, the more brilliant young Regular officers, go to the Staff College and are then put into the staff, and under the present system in war-time they remain there the while time until they get a command. I venture to make this appeal to the Secretary of State. He has only recently assumed his high office, but I ask him, in view of the urgency of this matter, to decentralise at once, and not merely to decentralise to command, but to decentralise right down to the divisional brigade. A divisional commander is trusted with the lives of 15,000 men, but is not trusted with a postal order for £1/11/-. I had one letter to deal with which took from November to February in connection with a sum of 9/- that had been paid to a camp reception station a year before. Everything involving any money has to go to the War Office, and the Financial Secretary to the War Office has no power to delegate to the divisional or brigade commander, both of whom have to be leaders of men and have to have a knowledge of accounts to get to their position. I used to trust far more financial responsibility in peacetime to my farm baliff than can be entrusted to anybody less than a corps commander in the British Army. . . ."

## BRITISH OFFICER-MP. EXPOSES ARMY RED TAPE

### Tells House of Commons He Is Alarmed

The following extract from a debate (Supply: Army Estimates) in the British Parliament on March 6, speaks for itself. We quote from the Official Report ("Hansard"):

**Mr. Turton (Thirsk and Malton):** "I should like to pay my tribute to the very great speech which we had from the Secretary of State, especially his description of the victorious campaign of General Wavell in Africa and his account of the training that is going on in this country. . . . For some months I was an adjutant of a battalion in this country and in France. I served in the administration in the General Headquarters of the British Army in France. I served in the administration of the War Office here, and for the last six months I have been serving in the administration in a division. Those are my references.

#### "VERY REAL PROBLEM"

"After that experience of 18 months in the war, my conviction is that no civilian business could possibly be run on Army lines without going bankrupt in a very short time. The amount of paper, of time and manpower that is wasted fill me with tremendous alarm. Today we have an Army, which, in training and fighting, is absolutely magnificent, but yet we are detracting from its value by making officers and men undergo civil service methods and red tape that binds them up throughout the whole of their Army career. I therefore very greatly welcome the small crumb of comfort which the Secretary of State held out regarding the Standing Committee for Administration which, he said, was practising decentralisation. This problem is one in which we have to adopt not the old methods of committee inquiry, but revolutionary methods if we are to solve the very real problem which exists in the Army.

#### EXAMPLES

"I shall give the House three cases, which have to be anonymous, but which are true cases which at any time I could show to the Secretary of State as evidence of what I mean by this waste of time. A postal order was sent to a paymaster before

Dunkirk. That was in June. The battalion later wrote to the paymaster, who said he had never received it, and it did not in fact arrive. The paymaster decided that authority must be sought to write it off. The battalion thereupon wrote to the brigade, the brigade had to write to the division, the division had to write to the command, and it was not until November that that postal order for £1/11/- had been written off at a cost far exceeding the sum involved. There was another case just after Dunkirk of a warrant officer who had not proved himself a sufficient leader of men for those very trying times, and in June his company commander was anxious for him to be tried in a less onerous position. The recommendation went up from the company commander to the battalion commander, from the battalion commander to the brigade commander—none of them are allowed to take any action on this matter—from the brigade commander to the divisional commander, from the divisional commander to the corps commander, from the corps commander to the Army commander, and eventually to the War Office. During the whole of that time the warrant officer remained with his unit. Everybody knew that there had been these reports against him, and it was not until February of this year that a letter was received saying that the War Office had agreed to the course that had been suggested last June. That is not good for the Army. It is a system, which is sapping its vitality, and I ask that something should be done urgently on this matter. I appreciate the experiment that is being made, but really it is time for quicker action than that. . . ."

#### "DECENTRALISE AT ONCE"

"The personnel in the Army, from the private to the general, is very fine, but I have noticed, and I think that those who are

## CHURCHILL CRITICISED

(Continued from page 1.)

gerous—consequences. We are often reminded, when the Government come to ask us for exceptional powers, that we retain in this House the ultimate responsibility and, the ultimate power. That seems to make rather important the question of who remains in the House. Over 100 Members are serving in the Armed Forces of the Crown, and many of them find it difficult to attend important Debates. If they were serving overseas, they could not attend.

... The Press today is so regulated that this House is the only place in which public opinion can be brought with any force to bear upon the Government of the day. If that force is to be effective, it is essential that there should be present in this House a large majority who are not Ministers, Under-Secretaries, private secretaries or others connected with the Government. What is happening today is that that proportion is being steadily reduced. Take the case, which is the immediate cause of this Bill. If the right hon. Gentleman is sent to Canada, at first sight it would seem that we should lose a Minister. We should not. If another Member is appointed in his place, what happens is that by his going to Canada we lose, not a Minister, but a private Member. If the policy is to be followed of seeking room for a Member of Parliament, where—to use the Prime Minister's expression—useful work can be found for him to do do, and if that process does not stop, circumstances might arise where we should find the majority of Members holding office under the Crown or intimately connected with the Government. That would be very undesirable and might be a source of danger

... We see all over Europe our embassies being closed because of the war, and people with the right kind of experience and capacity without employment. Is it suggested that not one of those would have the qualities sufficient to fit him for the position of High Commissioner of Canada? Is it that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Ross and Cromarty (Mr. Malcolm MacDonald) is the only or, indeed, the best man to fill that post? We should bear that distinction in mind. I do not say for a moment that he cannot do the job perfectly well. I have no doubt that he will make a success of it, but it is absurd to suggest that he is the only man who can do so, or that it was necessary to come to the House to find anyone to fill the appointment. I would urge the Government, if they resist this Amendment, at any rate to give up the idea that it is their job to seek employment outside the House to occupy the time of Members, and that they should regard the Bill simply as a permissive Measure to enable them to make use of a Member's capacity in some exceptional post. Earl Winterton: I believe that it is now the practice of a large number of members of the public, being unable to obtain any accurate report of Parliament in the Press by reason of the curtailment of space owing to the war, to buy the "Official Report." I hope that, if they do so, they will read the speech, which has just been delivered by my hon. Friend opposite. It is of great, and almost of historic, importance. . . . But my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, has suggested that in wartime, at any rate, it should be the object of the Government to co-operate in endeavouring to find positions outside this House for Members of Parliament. That is a completely wrong principle. There may be exceptional cases where it might be justified. . . . I deplore the suggestion that it is the

duty either of the Government to appoint, or of Members of Parliament to seek, work for the Crown outside this House in time of war, with the sole exception of service in the Armed Forces of the Crown. . . .

**Sir P. Harris:** I should like to endorse what has just been said by my noble Friend about the speech we had just previously heard. With the gist of his arguments I think the whole Committee will agree, namely, that the main duty of a Member of Parliament is to attend to his duties in this House. . . .

**Mr. Bevan:** I should not be in the least worried if the Amendment was carried and did impose such strict limitations upon the Prime Minister's powers that only in very exceptional cases indeed would he be able to issue his certificate, because I think the House last week wanted him to use his powers only in very exceptional circumstances. I very much regret the speech, which the Prime Minister made on Second Reading about the House of Commons. I think the House was stampeded by a cacophony of rotund Churchillisms which made up one of the most unfortunate

portion of Members hold offices of profit under the Crown.

... I hope that there will emerge in this "House a far greater spirit of independence than has been shown in the last 12 or 18 months. . . . It is becoming, not less, but increasingly difficult for independently minded Members to state their point of view, and to exert influence upon the Executive. Such space as the public Press is able to give to the Debates is almost invariably devoted to the reporting of the official speeches. The criticisms passed upon the Government, although those criticisms represent the views of millions of people outside, do not get any publicity at all. At the same time, the critics are unable to mobilise and focus pressure of public opinion upon the Executive, because means of communication are entirely cut off. This is rather a dangerous situation. An anti-toxin can be found only in increasing vigilance by hon. Members in attendance, and in a loosening of the bonds of party allegiance. I have suggested more than once in the House that the only way that we can correct this unwholesome condition is for the Government to be compelled more and more to collect its majorities from free discussion and free votes in the House. . . . I think it would be

this scandal ended. It is not the first time that it has happened.

**Mr. Maxton:** The other point I wanted to make was this I was shocked on reading the newspapers to learn that the Prime Minister was making this a matter of confidence. I agree that the Prime Minister had the right at some point to ask all his supporters in the House for a greater loyalty than he had been having. I do not agree, and never have agreed, with being in an in-the-Government and out-of-it position. My position, and that of my hon. Friends, has been quite clear from the start; we are outside, and I only regret that through my absence on the Second Reading there was no Division; there would have been if I had been here. . . . I shall support the Amendment if the hon. Member for Colchester (Mr. Lewis) presses it to a Division, and if he does not do so, I hope that some other Amendment on the Order Paper in the names of other Government supporters will be pressed to a Division.

**Mr. Granville (Eye):** There is growing up in the House of Commons a tendency, which has shown itself throughout this Debate, to regard the House of Commons as being unimportant during war. One hon. Gentleman opposite said that it was the place where the Prime Minister required a sounding board, with big battalions to come and cheer when necessary, and then to go away and be good boys in the meantime. I have heard it said that the Mother of Parliaments has become an old woman. I have heard it said by Government supporters and even by hon. Gentlemen on the other side of the House that during a war you do not want Debates. . . . if Parliament is a reality in time of war, if you believe in democracy, if you believe in the working of democracy, if you believe in free government as represented in this House of Commons, then you ought to debate the great issues of war. During the Debate on manpower on 22nd January, the Prime Minister said:

"I think I have said before that to try to carry on a war, a tremendous war, without the aid and guidance of the House of Commons would be a superhuman task. I have never taken the view that the Debates and criticisms of this House are a drag and a burden. Far from it. I may not agree with all the criticism—I may be stunned by it, and I may resent it; I may even retort—but at any rate, Debates on these large issues are of the very greatest value to the life-thrust of the nation, and they are of great assistance to His Majesty's Government." — ["Official Report," 22nd January, 1940; col. 257, Vol. 368.]

Therefore, if I say that some of the recent activities of the House of Commons have made one wonder whether democracy is going to function, it is because, when we are pressing for a Debate on the vital issue of food production . . . we are told there is no time before Easter, although we get up at an early hour after discussing Scottish land drainage.

I personally give 100 per cent loyalty to the Prime Minister. I do not care whether it pleases him or not; I am stating my view on behalf of my constituents. . . . There has been a wide discussion in Committee, and I am merely trying to adduce the argument that an extension of the appointment of these ex-Ministers, or even of Members of Parliament, is weakening the effectiveness of Parliament in fighting for democracy. I am not pleading that there should be any alternative, but that there should be no great extension of these powers once the Bill has received a Third Reading. The hon. Member for Cambridge University (Mr. Pickthorn) gave a long description of what he thought the function of

(Continued on page 8.)

## "BRITISH ARMY BEATEN BY TREASURY"

**An English paper tells how the Commander-in-Chief of the British Army is beaten by the Treasury, and valuable time is wasted: "His most urgent request will be considered in a leisurely manner. In all probability it will be shelved. New pressure may result in reconsideration. Months will pass. At this stage the red-tape cocoon. Then, at last, the butterfly will appear and decision will have been made. An urgent increase in establishment, asked for six months earlier, is at last agreed to. But, too often, the crisis to deal with which such an increase as had been requested has already matured and ended disastrously for lack of the equipment needed. For lack of sense of values there cannot be found the will to waive formality—so another battle is lost. The time-honoured procedure of their Lordships of the Treasury must, it seems, persist unruffled. It would often seem that officialdom would rather the enemy be allowed to land unharassed than forego writing a single minute or scribbling a single chit. While the Treasury counts in money the cost of each item of the Army's needs, it is too often wasting something far more precious. It is throwing away the Army's chances of early success by the profligate expenditure of that priceless war commodity—time."**

HOW LONG, O LORD? HOW LONG?

—Sydney "Truth," June 8.

Mr. Montagu Norman, Governor of the Bank of England, once stated that the relationship of the Bank to the Treasury was that of Tweedledum to Tweedledee.

speeches I have ever heard fall from the lips of the Prime Minister. In some of its passages I think it was a disgraceful speech. No one who is proud of our Parliamentary institutions could possibly have listened to some of its generalisations without a sense of shame. They could only have been uttered by Lord North or somebody like that who was intending to buy the House of Commons in order to carry some particular Measure.

**Sir I. Albery:** Lord North was far too frightened of the House of Commons.

**Mr. Bevan:** And the right hon. Gentleman, I hope, will have increasing reason to be afraid of this House. Many people seem to forget that the liberties which we are now supposed to be defending were never won against a foreign foe—although they might be lost to a foreign foe—but by civil strife, inside and outside this House. The Prime Minister seemed to me on Thursday to have insulted a very large number of Members of this House. . . . he said that the House was rising once more in the public esteem because a larger and larger pro-

a tragedy, and a disgrace to our people, if we allowed the observations of the Prime Minister on Thursday to pass unchallenged, and allowed it to be assumed that the latter part of that speech represents our idea of constitutional government in this country.

**Mr. Maxton:** . . . I was interested in the Second Reading Debate from far off, but my first knowledge of what has taken place was not from the newspapers. It was through the wireless, and all that I gathered from it was that the Prime Minister had made a brilliant speech and that the Second Reading had been carried without a Division.

**Mr. Bevan:** That sort of thing always happens.

**Mr. Maxton:** I think that was a shocking thing. Hon. Members have talked about newspapers not being able to give a show, but surely an organ of State like the British Broadcasting Corporation could have said that dissent was entered by certain Members, if only to give us an indication----

**Earl Winterton:** I think all of us in all parts of the House might well co-operate and have

## CHURCHILL CRITICISED

(Continued from page 7.)

Parliament was. He said it was something with which to measure the Prime Minister's stock. I believe that the function of Parliament is to represent the people. It is the authority of the people behind any Government. I do not believe it should be any of the things which the hon. Gentleman described. In this Bill we may be giving away something, which our forefathers fought for during hundreds of years. If you do not believe in the working of democracy, be honest and say so; but if you do believe in democracy, you cannot shelve it in time of war, and hope to bring it out just as it was . . .

In a total war, Parliament is, or should be, the political front-line. If there is one lesson from this war, which affects democracy, it is the lesson, "Do not destroy the power of Parliament." In giving this Bill a Third Reading we shall be doing something, which is revolutionary in the democratic practice of this country. We may be taking away the foundation stone of representative government. We may damage the structure in that process. For my part, I think that this House of Commons should at all costs guard our institutions of democracy. We are the last bulwark of free government. This Parliament is the voice of democracy, which should be heard by millions. I believe that if democracy is worth fighting for, it is also worth preserving in the process.

**Mr. Cocks** (Broxtowe): . . . The Attorney-General will no doubt remember the great speech, delivered to electors of Bristol, by Edmund Burke on the position of a Member of Parliament, in which he proclaimed the independence of Members of Parliament, and declared that Members were here as representatives and not as delegates. In that speech he also defined our duties to our constituencies. He said:

"It ought to be the happiness and glory of a representative to live in the strictest union, the closest correspondence and the most unreserved communication with his constituents. Their wishes ought to have great weight with him; their opinions high respect; their business unremitted attention. It is his duty to sacrifice his repose, his pleasures, his satisfactions to theirs; and, above all, ever, and in all cases, to prefer their interests to his own."

I fail to see how these high and arduous duties, this "strictest union," this "closest correspondence" and this "most unreserved communication" can be carried out if the waste of the wild Atlantic rolls between a Member and his unfortunate constituency somewhere in the North of Scotland. But these defects of the Bill—and there are many—seem to me to pale into insignificance and, in the words of the author of the "Young Visitors," to be "piffle before the wind," when compared with the brilliance and glory of the appointment which rendered it necessary. It has been said in the Press that Members of the Labour party have been animated by personal or political prejudice against the right hon. Gentleman in question. Surely there never was a more grotesque suggestion than that. . . . Nobody has ever said that about the sudden rise of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Ross and Cromarty (Mr. Malcolm MacDonald). We always knew that his position was not due to any family influence; we always knew that his promotion was due to his native brilliance, which had never before been adequately recognised outside his family circle. We knew it must be there, or he would not be where he was placed. We admired his swift rise to power as we admire the ascent of a rocket, and when he comes back from Canada with his breast glittering like Goering's, with decorations, we shall admire the rocket's stars. We have watched his career with interest, we have admired the masterly way in which this statesman handed over British naval bases to Ireland, and although he received little popularity for that feat in this country, I am sure that any little thing of that sort he might do in Canada will gain for him greater popularity in the New World than he has ever achieved in the Old. Again, in considering this Bill, I admire very greatly the ingenious way in which the Prime

Minister one by one is getting rid of what are called the "Munichers." One by one they are all departing—

"All, all are gone, the old familiar faces."

One is presiding at the Old Bailey, instead of standing in the dock, another is sitting upon the Wool-sack, a third has gone off across the Bay of Biscay to Madrid, and now a fourth has booked his passage to Canada—the latest play-boy of the Western World. It is true that most of them, although they have left us, have gone to take up remunerative appointments. They have fallen politically, but they have fallen on velvet. That is the Prime Minister's way . . .

## United Democrats' Report

From Headquarters, 17 Waymouth Street, Adelaide.

**GENERAL MEETING:** There was a good attendance of members at the general meeting, held on Saturday afternoon, May 31, to hear the recommendations of the Advisory Council appointed at the conference on April 5. Mr. Dodd, who was in the chair, asked Mr. Seamark, as chairman of the council, to read the report and recommendations drawn up as the result of their deliberations. The Advisory Council had approved a revised—or, rather, a re-written—constitution on the lines of the secretariat of former years. This new constitution Mr. Dodd asked the meeting to accept in its entirety. The constitution was read and duly accepted by the members present, all offices were declared vacant, and an election of officers followed. The officers elected were: Mr. M. E. Dodd, president; Messrs. L. Seamark and C. Baker, vice-presidents; Miss Mary H. Gray, secretary; Mr. D. G. Day, treasurer. These officers form a selection committee, whose business it is to co-opt suitable persons to fill the various positions on the secretariat. The positions filled and accepted, the secretariat becomes the executive body of the organisation, and will report quarterly and at the annual meeting of members of the United Democrats. Already several have shown their keenness to get to work under the new conditions, which will give scope for much individual effort. We have every reason to hope for new vigour in the activities of the movement.

**BRIDGE AND GAMES EVENING:** The second of these sociable evenings will be held on Saturday evening, June 21, at 8 o'clock, at 17 Waymouth-street. As before, there will be checkers for those who do not play bridge. Basket supper and collection. The success of her first effort has induced Mrs. Brock to make these evenings a monthly event during the winter, so come along and support her.

**STUDY CIRCLE:** Every Wednesday night, from 8 to 10 o'clock, a Study Circle, under the leadership of Mr. E. H. Hergstrom, will meet at headquarters. The first meeting was held on June 18. All are invited. No fee.

## Actionists, Take Note

To support the work of the country tour and to stimulate activity in the metropolitan area, a special collection of leaflets is now being brought out by The United Electors, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, C.I. In order that the widest possible field can be covered, the nominal price of these leaflets has been reduced, and they are now available in lots of four for three pence.

They consist of reprints of three addresses on the monetary question by leading members of Parliament, and a broadcast talk, "Hitlerism," by Mr. J. Bradshaw.

These are all recent publications, exposing the manner in which Australia's war effort is being restricted by artificial monetary limitations, and they suggest an alternative to\* the present bungling methods of taxation and borrowing.

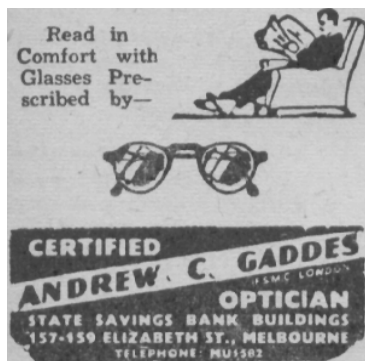
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Obtainable from the "National Welfare Campaign," The United Electors of Australia (Non-Party), McEwan House, Little Collins-street, Melbourne. (Price: 6d, per dozen.)



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