

ON OTHER
PAGES

PRIMARY
PRODUCERS
TO BE
STARVED
INTO
GROWING
LESS?
(See page 4.)

THE NEW TIMES

Vol. 7. No. 27. MELBOURNE. FRIDAY, JULY 11, 1941.

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

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

Now, when the
padlocks for our
lips are forging,

Silence it crime.

—Whittier (1807-1892).

The Bottle - Necking of Australia's War Effort

REMARKABLE SPEECH BY MR. MORGAN, M.H.R.

In the course of a speech in the House of Representatives on June 19, Mr. Morgan, M.H.R. said (we quote from "Hansard):

Mr. MORGAN. —On his return to Australia, the Prime Minister assured the country that no vested interest would be permitted to impede a total war effort. Everybody was pleased to hear that announcement, even though it may have been in the nature of a deathbed repentance. Our preparations to celebrate the prodigal's return to this House did not exclude even the sacrifice of the fatted calf, and we gathered expectantly to listen to his great message. But our hopes were dashed to pieces when we heard the plan that he outlined on Tuesday evening, because it is obvious that since his return he has dallied too long among his former associates and has fallen back into his old ways. He delivered what he very properly described as a prospectus. Its language was couched in the best legal terms and contained many flowery phrases. Some of the proposals for administrative reform are highly commendable, but were advocated . . . long ago . . .

Upon examining the prospectus, we have no difficulty in ascertaining the identity of those who prepared it. Obviously, it is in effect a Bank of England prospectus, and the principal participants in this country are the Baillieu group and monopolistic interests which support the Government. An examination of the part played by the Bank of England in the present war reveals the guilty men who are responsible for the present parlous position of the British Empire. A book entitled "Guilty Men" contains some staggering information upon this subject. After reading it, honourable members will realise that Australia also has its guilty men.

Before I deal with that subject, I shall make further reference to the Bank of England, the part it played in bringing about the war and its responsibility for placing Great Britain in such a position where it may yet encounter defeat. The following article recently appeared in the press: —

"SHIPPING SELL-OUT BETWEEN THE WARS

"Industrial sins of British shipbuilders in the between-wars period are recalled by many writers just now, when the situation is that the Germans have been able to sink British shipping three times as fast as British shipyards could replace it. When world trade languished in the Big Depression and ocean shipping was laid up, Big Interests in Britain resolved to "stabilise," by forming the combine called National Shipbuilders' Securities. The method was like that of the good old brick combine in New South Wales. The ring bought

out shipyard after shipyard, and closed them down, so as to keep cosy dividends for the survivors from available freights. Worse than closing the yards, they razed them to the ground, clearing off buildings and plant. The sites were sold, or leased for long terms on covenants that they must never again be used for shipbuilding. The once busy shipyard town of Jarrow (to quote only one example) became virtually a piece of wasteland. From all shipyards, fully 15,000 expert shipwrights were dismissed and scattered, so that Ernest Bevin last year had immense trouble in tracing and collecting even half of them. Quantities of machinery laid idle were sold to Germany! Result: that Britain began the war of 1939 with fewer ships than in 1914, and with only two-thirds the former capacity to replace sink-

(Continued on page 5.)

IF WE HAD SOME HAM, WE'D HAVE HAM AND EGGS... IF WE HAD SOME EGGS

During the past few years, the urgent need for building a tunnel to overcome the bottle-neck traffic hold-up at King's Cross, Sydney, has been stressed time and time again. Traffic congestion in this area has been a constant cause of tremendous loss of time, loss of business, AND LOSS OF LIVES.

It would be impossible to compute the total cost, including traffic control maintenance, which this public menace has involved. The only estimate put forward has been that of the "EXPENSE" to be incurred WHEN the authorities decide to get the job done. The following extract from the "Daily Telegraph" of July 1, throws further light upon a subject, which the "New Times" has brought into prominence frequently during the past few months:

"DOCK JOB WAITS WORK ON TUNNEL. —Unless work on the King's Cross tunnel begins soon, 140,000 tons of rock will be excavated too late for use as filling for the naval dock between Garden Island and Potts Point. A Government authority said this yesterday. Only bar now to an immediate start on the tunnel job —after eight months' delay—is the State Government's DIFFICULTY in FINDING THE MONEY REQUIRED."

Having decided that the job IS to be done, and having at last agreed to (inter alia) use award instead of relief labour, the Government and the City Council have drawn up another agreement, which appears to be satisfactory to the various "authorities." The men are there. The materials are

The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lyttleton): I will now deal as clearly and explicitly as possible with the subject of concentration of production, and if in doing so I am obliged to enter into matters of technical detail, I hope the House will bear with me. The principles, which underlie this policy, are very simple. We have now reached a stage in our production at which we can afford to waste nothing. All the ingredients of production are precious. A demand for labour on a very big scale is beginning to be felt. There is a strain on our raw material supplies and on our shipping space, and there is a strain on our capacity to produce munitions of war. . . . I think it is mandatory that we must economise in our use of labour and see to it that no men

or woman works part-time. . . . If that is once admitted as an axiom, and I suggest that it is an axiom, then concentration of production is the only solution . . .

. . . If we concentrate production in the ordinary way the total revenue surplus of any industry should be increased by saving in overhead expenses, saving of waste due to the under-employment of labour or machines, saving in part—I say "part" advisedly—of selling costs, saving by some standardisation of products and in fuel, power and transport. Further, the present position of industry will be improved to the extent that the Government have to use requisitioning powers. Under the Act, the Government pay compensation when they requisition a factory.

. . . The Board of Trade will indicate, from its knowledge of what the degree of concentration to be achieved is or, in other words, what the degree of redundancy in any industry is, and where the concentration should take place geographically . . . There are two main methods by which concentration is secured, either the commercial or the financial method. I will give two instances of the commercial method. First of all, a group of firms may arrange that one of them manufactures the actual product, which was being made by the other and for the account of the other, and by "manufacturing for the account" I mean that the nucleus firm manufactures at cost and sells the product to the closed-down firm at cost. The closed-down firm, with admittedly a reduced number of salesmen, will then sell its own product . . . There is another type of commercial arrangement, which might be mentioned. A certain manufacturer has been allotted, a supply of raw materials by the Ministry of Supply and may sell the rights to use that raw material to another firm for a cash payment.

These are the main lines on which commercial arrangements will go, but they are not a universal application . . .

Sir H. Williams: . . . I am not at all clear on what is the policy. If there are four factories making the same thing on a 25 per cent, basis, that, obviously, is uneconomical. The President of the Board of Trade says, "Put one factory on to making the same thing on a 100 per cent, basis," but I am not clear about what is to happen to the three empty factories. Are they to be used for the production of raw ma-

—"Scissors."

(Continued on page 4.)

CENTRALISATION IN BRITAIN

OPPOSITION IN HOUSE OF COMMONS

In recent issues we have published a good deal of facts and comment about centralisation in this country. By way of comparison, it is of interest to follow what is happening in this regard in Britain. Hereunder we publish part of a House of Commons debate on "Concentration of Production":

FEDERAL UNION

A Talk Broadcast from 7HO Hobart, at 8.15 p.m., on Sunday, June 29, by JAMES GUTHRIE, B.Sc.

Last Sunday night, Dr. Clunies Ross gave the last of his two broadcasts on post-war reconstruction, he put forward the plea that the greatest scourge the world has to face is war; he also stated that it was inconceivable that we should go back to the pre-war conditions of independent States capable of waging war on each other.

He reasoned that if all States were combined into one big State there would be no war. He, therefore, suggested that we must be prepared after the war to give up our sovereign powers. Each State must give up its power to a higher authority, which would control the world-co-ordinate effort, remove tariffs, and arrange for the economic development of all countries.

Lastly, Dr. Clunies Ross threw out a challenge to anyone who had any alternative to his scheme to state what it is. Well, I accept that challenge. But I first wish to point out that Dr. Clunies Ross is paid at least seven guineas for his fifteen minutes broadcast; I and my friends have to pay for the privilege of broadcasting.

That fact is important, and its importance becomes significant when it is considered that I believe very strongly that British people should retain the right to govern themselves after the war; and I, with many others, believe that the loyalty of the British people to the one crown is the most powerful instrument of unity and strength in the British Constitution.

Yet, neither I nor my friends are given any opportunity to put this idea over the National network — let alone to be paid seven guineas for it!

Yet Dr. Clunies Ross and the majority of the speakers of the A.B.C. continually propose international schemes of Government which, if put into practice, would destroy the sovereignty of the throne, and also the British Empire.

These schemes would place the British Empire as a small minority in an international Government to be easily outvoted by each of Germany, Russia, or U.S.A. separately. That these schemes are freely advocated over the A.B.C. and the B.B.C. network, and that they get lavish publicity in most of the great daily newspapers throughout the world, shows that they are backed by very powerful international groups.

The fact that our point of view is not placed in front of the people either on the National network or in the Press shows that our point of view is not looked upon with favour by those in power throughout the world.

Yet the campaign for the Federation of States, or an all-powerful international Government, or "Federal Union" as it is called, grows in volume each day. Shortly, "Federal Union" will be pushed before the world as the principal issue of the war; and those who object to "Federal Union" are being refused access to the great organs of publicity.

You must admit there is something sinister in this; this is no haphazard campaign, but a well organised plan with tremendous resources of money behind it. That men like Dr. Clunies Ross are perfectly sincere and honest in their beliefs does not detract from the truth of that statement.

That idealists are very useful tools for men with a lust for power is a matter of history. The National Socialist Movement in Germany was built up by thousands of very capable and sincere men—men with very fine ideas. But that did not prevent the Movement from being used and exploited by the scum of the earth. It is no accident that an exceptionally fine man like Otto Strasser, of the National Socialist Movement in Germany, could get no financial backing; that he

had to flee for his life—while his brother was killed and that their subordinate, Adolf Hitler, had financial backing from the very start.

It is no accident that there is no financial backing for all those people who, like myself, believe in reducing the power of those who control the great financial and political monopolies, and in giving that power back to where it belongs—to the people, the individual man and woman. There is no financial backing for those who believe that man should control his own life in his own way. I think it is time you took a more active part in ensuring that those things that you believe in, that you hold dear, and for which you are paying a tremendous price—I think it is time you took steps to see those things are given more publicity in the Press and over the National Broadcasting Network.

After all, you pay for these organisations and you should have some say in what is given publicity. Surely it would not cost you much to write at least a letter a year.

Those who believe in "Federal Union" way have a right to state their views over the air; but surely we should be given a similar privilege. Accordingly, I have sent a letter of protest to the Australian Broadcasting Commission, Sydney; and hope some of you will also send a letter. Here is the letter I sent:

"I have listened to a great many talks which come over the National Network on 'Federal Union,' or some such methods to do away with sovereignty of the British People, and as I and my friends consider, in the face of the fact that we are fighting to maintain the British way of life as opposed to the totalitarian way of life of other countries, that these talks are not in the least likely to give us any enthusiasm in winning the war.

"Dr. Clunies Ross, broadcasting on Sunday night, June 22, threw out a challenge to those of us who did not believe in 'Federal Union,' and in the loss of State sovereignty, to tell us what our alternative is.

"I hereby accept that challenge, and ask the privilege of placing before your listeners the alternative views of myself and my friends.

"Having made an extensive study of Democratic Government for many years, and being accustomed to speaking over the air, I shall be able to throw some light on vital problems, which for some reasons are not touched by the lecturers selected by you.

"Should you not feel inclined to permit me to speak over the National Network, would you be agreeable to select a speaker from amongst names submitted by me?

"I have sent a copy of this letter to various organisations in other States; also a copy to Mr. Beck, M.H.R., and Mr. Frost, M.H.R. representatives of Dennison and Franklin respectively. Hoping you will be able to agree to my request, I am, yours faithfully, JAS. GUTHRIE. That is the letter I sent

to the Broadcasting Commission, Sydney. Dr. Clunies Ross stated that the worst evil that could be inflicted on mankind is war; a statement which many people doubt; and Dr. Clunies Ross inferred from his first statement that any means of preventing war must be good, no matter what the price; he, therefore, goes on to offer us servitude as the only alternative to war.

Let us examine this argument. First, let us take the statement on which all the rest of the argument is based, namely, that war is the worst evil that can be inflicted on mankind. If this statement is true it means that the British people would have been better off if they had submitted to Hitler and avoided war.

Well, some people believe that, but the British people as a whole do not believe it, nor have they ever done so. Most people like to live in peace, but there

are limits to what the most docile peace-loving man will submit to.

That a small State like Greece was willing to face a crushing military disaster rather than submit humbly to a dictator shows very clearly that there are some people who do not believe in Dr. Clunies Ross's foundation statement.

But his statement was so contrary to all human experience that one wonders how he came to make it. We know from our own experience that we prefer to live in our own house rather than under the roof of any other person, however kind and well meaning. We not only prefer to do it, but we are likely to become very warlike towards any person who tried to make us behave differently.

The economist may tell us it would save a lot of money if we all lived in barracks. Well, it may do so—but who cares?

Many cities, which now lie in ruins, and much bloodshed, (Continued on page 3)

OUR GREAT JAW EFFORT

By FOOTLE

I don't think we outsiders, by which I mean those of us who are not members of Parliament, have any idea of the stress and intensity of life within hearing of Hansard.

This unwilling observation is wrung from me whenever I contemplate those upsurgings into patriotism and altruism which are wont to afflict a middle-aged political breast denied any other expression of the will-to-more, the pash for perfection, than might be afforded by deploring some action or other, or by possibly only mingily viewing with displeasure, or hinting darkly at repercussions.

Frightful repression and all that. And no doubt you have to be a politician to realise what it means to plug in all the stops when your diapason shrieks for organisation for total jaw, as it were.

Hitherto unknown to me if not to you, there is, it would appear, I quote, "an intensive demand from both sides of the House for a moratorium to protect people rendered unemployed by the closing of non-essential industries." Of course, you would naturally think that if there were an intensive demand on both sides of the House, then that thing would be as good (or as bad) as law. A clear issue. What the Yankee detective, the cynical one who can't bear to take his hat off, calls, for some inscrutable reason, "open and shut."

Curiously enough, this intensive demand is apparently not shared by the Government, these having been weaned from the House long enough to be immune to any external impulse. But how intensive the demand must have been is shown by the fact that "the Government is carefully reviewing its plans." In fact, "the impression is growing that the diversion policy announced by the Prime Minister will be followed on a much more cautious and less sweeping scale."

You get the idea. They're not going to review the fundamentals. Any action they may take will, of course be in the usual Ministerial direction of dispossession. Don't ask me why this is so. Ministers are as hard to account for as the people who pull the wipers off before dropping the traces. So, having decided that men were required for the war effort they got together and swapped notes, and as a result, wherever groups of people intent on minding their own business are unlucky enough to be observed, immediate plans are cast for depriving them of their livelihood in case they should be wanted somewhere else. It's all very well to say that the poor blighters are only engaged in the production of luxuries. You can't kid me the army has taken to luxuries and needs these products for an offensive effort inside the army.

Any more than you can kid me that the crowd of lookers-on needs to be any larger than it is. Meanwhile, Ministers seem to have hit upon as good a plan as any to bring home the horrors of war and starvation to thousands of people who, but for their governments, would be quite unaffected by the noise and alarms without.

There's one thing I do find consoling, though, and that is that politicians are politicians and not generals. I mean to say, a nice thing it would be if the first thing a general did on the eve of a stunt were to deprive as many of his men as possible of their rations, and the next, to meet any intensive demand for "eats" by a careful review of plans which did not include "eats."

You'd hardly believe how careful these Ministerial blokes can be when they feel like it. "In high official quarters today (July 1), it was suggested that the plan might be adjusted and modified as experience was gained on its effect on unemployment." Very possibly, though the report doesn't say so, a sub-committee or other body may be appointed to observe the effect in turn, of unemployment on nutrition, and yet another to determine the effect of any failure of nutrition, upon mortality. I feel that if only these august Ministerial blokes can be kept at it they'll finish by discovering something or other about something. Though to be candid I don't rate my hopes too high.

For one thing, Ministers don't seem as sure of themselves as the modern representatives of the Sydneys and Macquaries ought to be. "The Government has invited the State Governments to an early conference on the extension of technical training to equip some of those displaced from private industry either for work in war industries or for enlistment as artisans in the forces." From which it is clear that having forbidden the livelihood of large groups of men, ministers do not expect to absorb them all in the great effort of sweat and blood and laryngitis which is to unite us into one great homogenous

(Continued on page 3)

Federal Union— Continued

could have been saved had we made terms with Hitler. But peace at any price never was a profitable investment, nor do I think it ever will be.

Peace will come when we build a real basis for it, and a real basis for peace cannot be built on brute force and legal documents, as the advocates of "Federal Union" suggest. Those who suggest that, "since only States fight with each other, and therefore, to do away with States will do away with war," are merely playing with symptoms of a disease. They are not removing the disease, and they show no signs of understanding the disease, which is destroying our civilisation.

They do not understand that acts of military aggression are not started by the great mass of the people, but by leaders who have been given more power than they have been capable of handling.

Leaders who cleverly exploit the troubles they have heaped on their unfortunate people by using these troubles as a goad to war for their own glorification and to satisfy their lust for power.

The small States and the small man are not the cause of trouble; it is the large States and the "big boys" which cause most of the trouble.

Dr. Clunies Ross suggests as a way out, bigger and bigger States, and more and more power to the "big boys." Well, perhaps the world is going mad, but it is hard to believe it can be as mad as this.

None of us wants to return to the economic chaos of pre-war years. There is room for a great deal more co-operation and goodwill, but it is very easy to suggest the throwing wide of tariff barriers to trade. It is just as easy to suggest the throwing aside of rheumatism or lumbago—it is a good idea if you can do it.

But it is a better idea to find out what causes these diseases. Unless we do that, we are just playing with words. Tariff barriers are the symptoms of a disease caused by a deep-rooted fundamental maladjustment in the economic structure of our society. Where men are not permitted to use the surplus goods of the world unless they work to create a greater surplus.

Competition under these conditions becomes so hectic that any madness is possible.

After all, if we believe our

Our Great Jaw Effort—Continued

boil on the neck of Nazism. Possibly a nucleus has to be left to enable a careful review to be made of the effect of starvation on the working classes, previous records of the less systematic starvation of the masses in the past having regrettably been mislaid.

"The Prime Minister will make a statement to Parliament later this week on plans for meeting the man-power shortage." This statement is not, however, expected to cover the reasons for disemploying the makers or purveyors of dolls' eyes and dominoes, stick-jaw and sal-volatile, prawns and piano-accordions, of all those things in fact which make life bearable on our ordinary occasions, and of which so far the research of science has failed to detect any trace among the ingredients of the modern army.

The plan favoured by Ministers in dealing with this problem which they, in collaboration with Sane Counterfeiting, have created, is that of imposing a moratorium. Inexperienced people such as you or I might avoid the issue by refusing to create the un-

A SOCIALIST SURVEYS AUSTRALIA

"This Land of Ours" is a recent book by Wm. Hatfield (Popular Publications, Melbourne), written as a "follow-up" to the earlier book "Australia through the Wind-screen."

Mr. Hatfield says of himself, that for the greater part of his life he has earned his living by manual toil, some rough and some skilled; and the theme of his book is that it is necessary for socialism to take the place of finance-capitalism.

Social Crediters are aware of the definite and immediate danger there is that centralised bureaucratic power, i.e., Socialism—may become established in Great Britain and the Dominions; therefore it is necessary to make it clear, widely and insistently, that Social Credit ideas are truly democratic, and in most ways as diametrically different from Socialistic ideas as they are from Fascist ideas.

Luckily, there are to be found signs that many Britishers are not finding to their liking the Socialist form of semi-slavery now being exercised. The attempts to "manage" commerce from Canberra, for instance, are not, and cannot be, a success. Unified regulations become irksome, spontaneous efforts to overcome local difficulties become stifled, powerful Boards of Control become a form of dictatorship. But what is more difficult is to induce people to realise that there would be no call or excuse for all this pestering officialdom if financial policies were realistic.

There is to be found, however, in Mr. Hatfield's book much, which every wide-awake person can agree with. The glaring anomalies associated with the phrase "poverty in the midst of plenty," are marshalled with good effect. Effective work is done in several places, in debunking the inglorious

main task is to get rid of surplus goods, war, of course, does this perfectly.

Engineers, scientists and business men have explained over and over again that it is impossible for countries to buy up the surpluses of other countries when their own people haven't sufficient purchasing power to buy all their own production. That is why Australia feeds her apples to the pigs.

Must we wait for "Federal Union" to allow us to distribute our apples to our own people?

rubbish which comes from the pens of official economists.

Again the author has the sense and the courage (which most Socialists seem to lack) to point to faulty financial arrangements as being somewhere near the root of many of our troubles; and he makes it clear that our Commonwealth Bank can be used to issue new credit money, free of interest, for such projects as war and public works.

If space and time permitted, much of Mr. Hatfield's analysis and pronouncements about the causes of our out-of-balance community life could be shown to be philosophically faulty and unreliable. He follows a Socialistic inaccuracy in decrying the profit-making motive *holus bolus*; many of his ideas about money, markets and finance are vague and/or misleading; and he retains the false "complex" about the provision of human industrialised work as being the main aim of those who manage affairs, and that reward for such work should be the main, if not the only, reason for distributing money incomes.

On page 72, figures are quoted from statistical records, showing that wages and salaries are only about 20 per cent, of the expenditure of producers in Australian industries. Now this interesting fact does give us a hint about the shortage of purchasing power. But the present methods and figures of statisticians are quite useless in making the proper analysis of the prices — income structure. Methods unknown to orthodox accountants are needed before one can demonstrate that new money must be issued to consumers direct, if the rate of flow of incomes is to be made about equal to the rate of flow of prices of consumable goods. Along with this issue we can have a satisfactory regulation of prices without arbitrarily fixing prices, and

without any compulsion on producers.

What are now a considerable library of Social Credit writings are not mentioned by Mr. Hatfield, but a sentence on page 246 is probably meant as a sly dig at what he thinks is a Social Credit idea. The sentence reads: "Not by any easy road of printing more paper money with which to buy the other fellow's produce will humanity discover its salvation."

Mr. Hatfield says on page 32 that "nothing in existence today just got that way," and if we all keep an open mind (as I feel sure Mr. Hatfield wishes to do), we may be able to see that electors as such are to blame, for they, by default, have allowed hidden power-mongers to get things in such a mess. Electors have not understood and lived up to their simple duties as electors.

—C. H. Allen.

Above Criticism

It was like old times—or what seemed like old times—to read what British editors, leader-writers and "diplomatic correspondents" wrote about the heroic misadventure in Crete. For an awful moment it looked as if one indignant scribe was about to criticise Churchill, but he restrained himself by a great effort, as did the others without approaching that dangerous ground. All hands must bitterly regret that Chamberlain is no longer here to be saddled with the whole blame.

—Sydney "Bulletin," June 11.

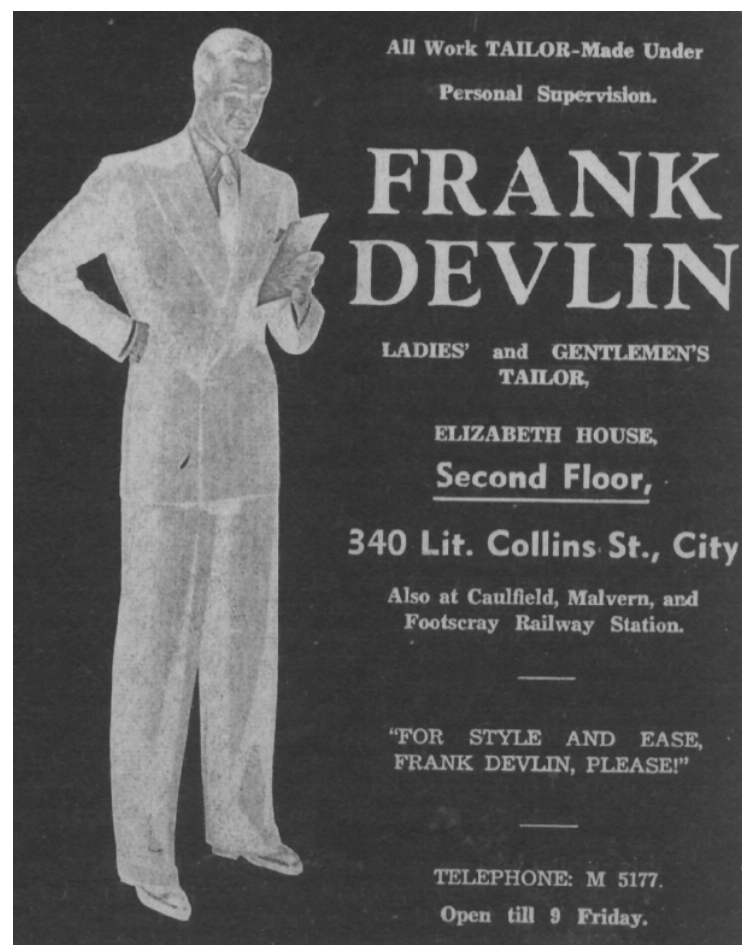
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PRIMARY PRODUCERS TO BE STARVED INTO GROWING LESS?

With his feet tucked comfortably into a pair of carpet slippers, and the assurance that a four-figure salary will be promptly paid by specific instalments, so long as he keeps to the straight and narrow path of monetary orthodoxy, we can always depend upon some economist to hatch out a scheme for the smothering of nature's abundance.

In the Melbourne "Herald" of July 1 another "plan" was mooted to deal with the present embarrassing surplus of primary products—incidentally, it appears that the farmers will also be dealt with, very badly, at the same time.

We do not know who was the brilliant intellect who hatched out the following plot (we can find no other suitable name to describe it): "Food Surplus Plan Should Solve Economic Problems." Thus the "Herald's" headline. "London, Monday, June 30. —The principles embodied in the new Britain-Dominions surplus food storage agreement may be a model for the solution of an important worldwide problem. The agreement has attracted the keenest interest because it is the first attempt to lay down principles dealing with commodity surpluses."

The "Financial News," from which the report was taken, then proceeds to point out the following: (1) That in order to keep Australian primary industries functioning producers must be paid, and export surpluses stored until after the war. (2) Internal and external financial problems are involved because part of this income paid out will be used to demand imports (as much of the imports are drawn from Great Britain) causing a drain on sterling funds. (The lament, we presume, to be that, after paying for imports, there will be nothing left for the bondholders.)

The "Financial News" then proceeds to add: "Production must be kept down to a reasonable minimum to ensure that surplus stocks are not raised above an **unavoidable minimum. One way of doing this is the avoidance of the payment of prices high enough to stimulate expansion of production.**"

Now, the first thing to notice about the "principles embodied" which are to be applied to the Australian agricultural economy is that they originate in London. We have often pointed out to the Australian public, manufacturers and primary producers alike, that the policy of this country was dictated from the banking parlours of the "Old Lady of Threadneedle Street." The second point is, that, while the "banning of imports" policy of the Menzies Government may be partly due to lack of shipping space, it is undoubtedly not entirely so. Imports are being banned in order to conserve London funds, because London funds are likely to be depleted because of a drop in exports of primary produce. We leave it at that. The third point with which we deal will be of some interest to primary producers, and will explain, in some small measure, just why primary producers are being brought under control by a variety of Boards. We must keep, says the "Financial News," production down to the unavoidable minimum. "One way of doing this is the avoidance of the payment of prices high enough to stimulate the expansion of production." This, if we interpret it another way, means starve the farmers off their blocks. A most kindly and Christian policy. But the question that seems to be the most important one to us, and we presume it so to be with any right-minded and sane human being, is: Has every man, woman and child in this country his or her daily sufficiency of first-class food? Now it is a well-known fact that the answer to that question is "No." Then we want to know why the primary producers are to be starved into a position of insecurity, to deter them from fulfilling their legitimate function. Such a policy is entirely devoid of sense and reason.

It has been suggested times without number that the Australian consumers cannot buy all the primary produce we grow. We quite agree that is so under the present financial set-up. We think that many of them could do with a great deal more if their incomes were expanded. This would benefit both consumer and producer.

It now seems, however, that we are to have a wholesale policy of restriction of production, storage of some part of the "unavoidable minimum" that nature will insist in thrusting upon us; much propaganda about "sacrifices to win the war" while rats and mice get sleek and fat and tons of good food go to waste.

All this, while welfare workers scramble with Red Cross, Comforts Fund, Lord Mayor's Fund and whatnot, for a few miserable pounds to feed the Oslo lunch to a bare handful out of a multitude of undernourished kiddies. It doesn't make

CENTRALISATION IN BRITAIN

(Continued from page 1.)

materials? That was not stated in plain terms. If they are, why not give them orders now, before you destroy them? A firm is not a collection of 400 people; it has a soul, an entity and is a real and living thing. It is a place with traditions. Ever since the war started some of us have been begging and beseeching Government Departments to spread contracts more freely so that small firms could have a share. What has been the attitude? Resistance all the time. Orders have been given only to the big firms. That has been the policy throughout. Many firms are engaged on mixed work, partly on the production of war material and partly on the production of civilian goods. I know one of the troubles, which is not the fault of the President of the Board of Trade. It is due to the bad advice given by the Air Staff, who drew a line on a map and said that factories on one side of the line were in a dangerous area and that those on the other were in a not so dangerous area. Coventry was one of the safe places ----

Mr. F. F. Davidson (Maryhill): So was Clydeside.

Sir H. Williams: Liverpool was safer still. That was the theory, and great factories were built without any consideration as to the amount of labour available, or houses for the people. No arrangements were made for transport, and in many cases factories were built where there was no electric supply available.

Mr. Andrew McLaren (Burslem): And no water.

Sir H. Williams: Now, as a result of the follies which have been committed, people are taken from one district and shifted to another, and are sometimes called unpatriotic because they do not want to move to places where conditions are deplorable. In some towns where there is undue concentration of war industries, conditions from every social point of view are deplorable . . .

Mr. Horabin (Cornwall, North): I yield to no hon. Member in this House in admiration for, and in an absolute belief in, the soundness of the British people. I know that whatever is coming to us we shall stick it out. If you add to the suffering caused by enemy action unfair treatment by the Government, then you are trying the people of this country too much. If you go round and talk to the small shopkeepers, the small business people the small capitalists, and the small rentiers, you will find that they are beginning to believe that there is no hope for them, even in victory. That is the position, which largely caused the downfall of France. Let us face up to it and not bury our heads in the sand. Why has

not the President of the Board of Trade tackled one of the most urgent problems and one of the greatest sources of man-power in this country? Why has he not tackled the concentration of distribution? There are hundreds of thousands of shopkeepers in this country who have built up their livelihoods, over a number of years, by great sacrifice and effort, who are being pushed out of business as a result of the Limitation of Supplies Order.

What is the Government doing? They are allowing them to die with the coldest savagery, which has only been equalled in the worst periods of "laissez faire." Why is nothing being done to help these people, whose commitments are causing them sleepless nights and days of misery? Is it because the problem is too difficult? If that is so, I would use the words employed by the Secretary of State for India on another occasion. I would say to the President of the Board of Trade and to the Chancellor of the Exchequer: "If you think this problem is too difficult, as I have heard outside, for God's sake go, and give way to men who have greater moral courage to tackle this problem . . ."

Mr. Shinwell (Seaham): . . . First of all, let us consider the amazing suggestion that if this scheme is adopted, industry will return to a normal condition at the end of the war. This statement is, no doubt, intended to appease the small manufacturers, but in my view it is a piece of downright deception, or, if that language is regarded as too strong, an indication of crass ignorance in face of the obvious developments in British industry. What is the purpose of the scheme if it is not to promote greater efficiency? Are we to understand that we intend to become more efficient during the war, and then, when it is over, we are to return to industrial conditions, where efficiency is of less consequence? It is obvious, if the scheme was found in practice to be efficient and satisfactory that we should never wish to abandon it. But does anyone really suppose, once the industrial power has passed into the hands of the large industrialists, that the small man will ever be allowed to go back? My right hon. Friend furnished the necessary indication in the course of his speech, reminding us of the existence of the Export Council, and informing us of its reconstruction. We were told the names of two industrialists who were to engage in the task of assisting in the concentration of industry under the scheme. One of them was a representative of the firm of Unilever, and the other a representative of the firm of Guest, Keen and Nettlefold—two monopolistic

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sense to us. Why not part with Montagu Norman's fantastic finance and make proper use of our National Credit?

We have heard it said, "Credit has been expanded to the limits of safety." Whose safety? We fail to see anything "safe" or secure in the foregoing rotten "principles" as laid down in the "Financial News."

If primary producers are to be offered prices low enough to deter them from producing, how will they meet their commitments? Will they be "safe" enough to meet any call for a reduction of their overdraft? We fear not. Neither does it appear to us to be a "safe" investment to refrain from issuing financial credit in order to assure that Australian kiddies are well fed.

But it is safe from the trading banks' point of view to refrain from a full and proper use of our National Credit. Make people prosperous and the money-lending racket will go into a rapid decline. Make them independent of the bankers' debt-and-interest racket and a worthwhile "new order" has arrived. Apparently every effort is to be made to keep it around the corner.

THE BOTTLENECKING OF AUSTRALIA'S WAR EFFORT

(Continued from page L)

ings. We behaved almost as badly in Australia. Walsh Island in New South Wales was dismantled; and the Commonwealth Line was sold off, at bargain price, to a noble lord who went to gaol without paying for it."

The Bank of England's activities in financing National Shipbuilders' Securities were not confined to causing the partial destruction of the British shipbuilding industry. Even after Hitler had seized Czechoslovakia, the bank endeavoured surreptitiously to smuggle £6,000,000 worth of Czech gold to that country. The Governor of the bank, Mr. Montagu Norman, and his international financial friends, were responsible for that act. The bank resolutely declines to publish the names of its shareholders. When members of the House of Commons recently requested the Government to compel the disclosure of that information, it refused to do so. The reason was obvious. Some of the shareholders are our enemies. Worse than that, until the eve of the outbreak of war, the Bank of England was granting financial assistance to Hitler and was helping him to re-arm Germany for the purpose of fighting the British Empire while Britain's defences were neglected. That is the institution behind the prospectus, which the Prime Minister produced on his return to this country. The "suckers" that the prospectus endeavours to hoodwink into paying for the war are the middle class and the working class. Usually the middle class has to bear most of the burden of taxation, but on this occasion, the workers also must contribute their share in blood and sweat and money. Even infants are included, because the right honourable gentleman stated—

"Seven million Australians can do a mighty and triumphant work in this war, but half a million Australians in the armed forces and munition factories cannot do that mighty work unless the remaining six and a half million devote themselves body and soul to their support."

The implication is that future generations as well as the present generation must bear the cost of the war. Like every other prospectus, this one contained a prospective balance sheet. I propose to analyse it. On the debit side, the contributors are the workers, the middle class and future generations who will bear the cost of the war in blood, sweat, toil and sacrifice. They will receive in return, an era of poverty, both during and after the war. On the credit side, the class that will reap the rewards are its promoters, the Bank of England, the Baillieu group, and monopolistic concerns which dominate the financial and economic life of the Commonwealth. The foundation of this prospectus is bigger and better monopolies. All of the smaller factories, which employ from 5 to 100 men, will, for the duration of the war, be put into "cold store." In England, where a trend towards monopolistic control is noticeable, 3000 factories have been put into cold store, and may never be re-established, because an era of stronger and bigger monopolies will follow the conclusion of hostilities. According to the right honourable gentleman capital is to remain "un-impaired" Money-power will be more firmly entrenched than ever. The profits of the financial institutions will not be taxed and the banks will not be called upon to pay their contribution towards the financing of the war.

I have presented to the House the debit and credit sides of the prospectus. What will be the method of collection? First, the

Prime Minister will endeavour to cajole, as he usually does, and when that does not prove effective, he will threaten. If threats are abortive, he will act in good totalitarian style, because he has made it perfectly clear that he will introduce legislation to deal with the trade unions, and if necessary, he will confiscate their funds. That method is quite in line with the action taken by the Nazis in Germany, who abolished the trade unions and confiscated their funds in order to extinguish their influence in politics. The press will not escape. Already a tendency is evident to muzzle even those newspapers that are friendly disposed to the Government. A threat that supplies of newsprint will be reduced by 60 per cent has been issued, though the Government has indicated that it may revise that figure. Why it should re-consider the matter I cannot understand. If such a drastic reduction of supplies be necessary, the Government should not shirk its responsibility. When Sydney newspapers exposed the true condition of affairs in Greece, the imposition of an iron censorship was threatened. Another section of the press incurred official displeasure by disclosing that war

Government has been marked by rackets galore.

We have heard about the military footwear and clothing contracts, and the bread scandal, the company responsible for which has not been prosecuted by the Commonwealth up to the present time. We also know that the millers are taking vital nutriment out of the flour from which bread is made for our troops. When I brought this matter before the Minister for Health (Sir Frederick Stewart), he merely smirked and passed it off as a big joke. The same attitude was adopted in regard to the clothing supplied to our troops. Newspaper articles and complaints made by clothing manufacturers have disclosed that nobody can obtain big clothing contracts from the Department of Supply in Melbourne unless the matter passes through the hands of certain financial interests. These concerns, which seem to have inside information, approach manufacturers who want contracts and offer to arrange finance for them. One financier now controls 40 different concerns. He stipulates, when he arranges the contracts, that he must have a certain share of the profits—usually about one half—and now he virtually owns a number of these clothing manufacturing businesses. The same sort of thing applies to the manufacture of boots for the armed

But these rackets are only small change compared with the big booking that is going on. I wish to deal with these big boodlers now. First of all are the Ministries of Munitions and Supply. The Minister for Munitions (Senator McBride) recently announced the names of the people who are in charge of the activities of his department. In supreme charge as Director-General of Munitions Supply, is Mr. Essington Lewis, of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited. In charge of the materials section is Sir Colin Fraser, of the Electrolytic Zinc Company of Australasia Limited. The director of the machine tools section is Colonel Thorpe, of Associated Machine Tools of Australia, the McPherson-Bevin monopoly group. Mr. L. J. Hartnett, general manager of General Motors-Holden Limited, who have vested interests in Australia and the United States of America, is in charge of the transport section. Mr. W. J. Smith, general manager of Australian Consolidated Industries Limited, is director of the gun ammunition section. The honourable member for Melbourne (Mr. Calwell) had something to say about Mr. Smith last evening, and an official of the Department of Trade and Customs recently stated that Australian Consolidated Industries Limited had been profiteering, and that certain proportions of its funds should be confiscated.

In charge of the Shipping Board is Mr. Kneeshaw, who is associated with the cement combine, and Mr. Donaldson, of Imperial Chemical Industries, the chemical monopoly, is in charge of the explosives section, the representatives of the major oil companies dominate the liquid fuel supply section. I shall deal individually with these gentlemen whom I have mentioned.

In complete charge is Mr. Essington Lewis. The Prime Minister told us that Mr. Lewis is given a completely free hand. In fact, he enjoys the unique privilege in this country of being entitled to write cheques for £250,000, not once but as often as he wishes, on the resources of this country without being subject to question. The Prime Minister has said that Mr. Lewis places sheafs of papers before him and that he signs them without question. The Commonwealth Government has provided nearly £1,000,000 for the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation's works at Lidcombe in which the Broken Hill Proprietary is interested and which is controlled by the Baillieu group as its directors. There is nothing in any of the agreements entered into to protect the people of this country, and the Government is not even represented on the board of directors of the concern. The factory has not yet entered fully into production. I cannot imagine any businessman advancing £1,000,000 to a company without obtaining some document, at least, as a protection. We know what would happen to any man who carried on, business in that way.

Mr. Essington Lewis has the right to give money with one hand on behalf of the people of Australia, and to take it with the other hand on behalf of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited. Shipbuilding has been delayed for nearly two years, while our ships are being sunk and our products cannot be sent to the other side of the world. Why is this? It has been done simply in order to give the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited a monopoly over shipbuilding not only for the duration of the war, but also for the years that will come afterwards.

But there is worse than that to come. Recently the Government

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A HIGHLIGHT FROM "HANSARD"

Financial Institutions Shielded

House of Representatives, June 20

Mr. J. Langtry (Riverina) asked the Treasurer, upon notice:

"1. What amount of money has been given, as a free gift for war purposes, by the following financial institutions and companies:— Commercial Bank of Australia, Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, Bank of New South Wales, Union Bank of Australia, Australian Mutual Provident Society, Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Company, Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society, and National Mutual Life Association of Australasia?"

"2. What amount of money has been loaned free of interest by these institutions and companies?"

"3. What amount of money has been subscribed to war loans, carrying interest, by these institutions and companies?"

Mr. Fadden—"It is not the practice of the Treasury to publish

materials were being sent from Australia to Japan. As the result of the exposure, the censor was instructed to allow no newspaper to publish any matter relating to the export of war materials from this country. The Government will not hesitate to muzzle its own press. Presently it may be forced to take that action. Only a few weeks ago the Sydney "Sunday Telegraph" published an article written by Mr. Godfrey Blunden, who formerly sat in the press gallery of this House. Whilst pressmen do not always see things in their true perspective, apparently this man was very far seeing; in fact, he must have had second sight, because, as he looked down from the press gallery, he wrote these words about the Government—

"There seems to be a big, invisible, fat hand dangling over them, and the Ministers seem like so many puppets dangling therefrom."

We have only to trace the Government's record in order to learn to whom this big, fat hand belongs. The whole regime of this

details of this nature except with the permission of those concerned."

* * *

(Mr. Langtry appears to be on the right track, though he still lacks sufficient pressure of public opinion behind him. Granted he won the votes of a majority of the Riverina electors recently, BUT there are still far too many people who are blindly satisfied with merely electing. What about REJECTING? By refusing to answer Mr. Langtry's questions, Mr. Fadden has outwitted the majority of the electors in the Riverina; one man versus thousands! Mr. Fadden's policy—as witness his answer above—is dependent upon PERMISSION from a few banks and insurance companies. Until THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES take constitutional action, the position will be "as you were."

—"Scissors."

forces. We know what happened to the troops in Greece, who had to trudge back, bare-footed, from the mountainous regions of that land. Only recently I obtained some enlightening information from a well-known tanner who is disgusted because certain members of the Hides Appraisal Board, who are interested in the supply of hides to their own concerns, make sure that they get the best of the hides that are available. The remaining rotten materials are left for the Government and their competitors. The hides that should be providing equipment for our troops go to these men, who send them overseas. What their ultimate destination is I do not know. I should be interested if the Minister for Trade and Customs (Mr. Harrison) would enlighten me on that point. Statistics show that during the six months ended the 30th December last, 184 350 calf hides and 167209 cattle hides were exported from Australia. I am assured by men engaged in this business that the best quality hides are being sent overseas.

The Bottlenecking of Australia's War Effort

(Continued from Page 5)

has agreed to subsidise the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited up to an amount of £3,000,000 per annum in connection with rail freight charges from Whyalla to Newcastle and Port Kembla in consequence of shipping difficulties; but the public has not been told the facts, and its interests have not been protected in any way. Although so much public money is to be put into this concern the public is to have no financial interest in the undertaking. This great monopoly is being allowed to go on its way unimpeded. [Leave to continue given.]

I wish now to deal with the activities of another monopoly with which Sir Colin Fraser is connected. This gentleman is in charge of the materials section of our munition enterprises, including aluminium and other raw materials. Many people in Australia are deeply interested in the development of aluminium manufacturing, because they realise that aluminium is vital in the construction of aircraft. We are all well aware that the great lack of our troops in Greece was aircraft. Our men were entirely unprotected by aircraft, although the sky was black with Nazi airplanes. The incessant appeal of our soldiers was for more Spitfires and other aircraft to protect them. It was the Dunkirk cry over again! Why has the manufacture of aircraft in Australia been impeded? Here are some of the facts of the situation. After the outbreak of the war many prominent citizens became deeply interested in the production of aluminium. One in particular, is Dr Bradfield, who is well known to many honourable members by repute, if not otherwise. He is one of the greatest engineers in this country and was the engineer for the Sydney Harbour Bridge, so he needs no recommendation from me. He approached the Commonwealth Government soon after the outbreak of the war, and made certain representations in relation to the production of aluminium.

He was sent to interview Mr. Essington Lewis, and Mr. Lewis sent him to interview Sir Colin Fraser. But Sir Colin Fraser gave him no encouragement, for he threw cold water on the proposals submitted to him. Dr. Bradfield was deeply interested in the development of the bauxite deposits of Queensland, and desired to show how they could be exploited for the production of aluminium, but no one was prepared to listen to him. He offered his services to the country free of charge for the purpose of developing the production of aluminium, but they were not accepted by the Commonwealth Government. Dr. Bradfield then approached the Labour Government of Queensland, and through its co-operation and the active interest of the Queensland Department of Mines, he was able to demonstrate that there existed in Queensland large deposits of almost pure aluminium. But still neither the Commonwealth Government nor its officials engaged in developing the production of munitions were interested in the matter.

Some young students of the Sydney Technical College devised a process for the manufacture of aluminium from Australian bauxite, but still the Commonwealth Government was not interested. I support all that the honourable member for East Sydney had to say concerning aluminium supplies and the inaction of the Government. A group of gentlemen of Berrima who had had experience in the production of aluminium in Yugoslavia, Greece and other countries, also interested themselves in the subject. They offered to the Government the services of two experts and also undertook to provide copies of blue prints, which would have been valuable in the development of our aluminium resources and to obtain the concessions over the bauxite deposits. But still the Commonwealth Government was not interested. I have seen copies of the

correspondence that passed between these people and the Commonwealth Government and I know that what I am saying is true.

Why has the Government been unwilling to encourage the development of our bauxite deposits and the manufacture of aluminium? Truth like murder, will out. Only recently I read the following article in the financial columns of the Sydney "Sunday Sun": —

"ELECTROLYTIC ZINC SHARES GIVE WIDE SPREAD OF INTERETS.

"One of the basic principles of sound investment is a spread of interests. This is particularly desirable at a time like the present when the war's effect upon individual industrial enterprises is difficult to gauge. In addition to capital security, investors naturally want to assure themselves, as far as possible, of a reasonable and steady return on their money. To a person of small or moderate means, these requirements are of more importance than they are to the "big" men who may be in a position to afford risks. The investor with only a few hundred pounds at his disposal obviously cannot spread the amount over a large number of different shares. There are, however, certain companies, which have investments in subsidiary and other industries, and a buyer of shares in a company of this type automatically secures a spread of interests, even if he merely takes 100 shares. One such company is the Electrolytic Zinc Company of Australasia Limited. In addition to carrying on its own profitable business as a refiner of zinc, it holds shares in a large number of associated companies, most of which are at present working to capacity and which, moreover, are likely to continue to fill an important role in the post war industrial activity of the Commonwealth."

It appears that this organisation is interested not only in its present operations, but also in the possibilities of firmly entrenching itself in this country after the war. The company has many subsidiaries. The list, which shows how wide are the ramifications of the organisation, is as follows:

Associated Pulp and Paper Mills Limited.
Australian Aluminium Company Proprietary Limited.
Australian Fertilizers, Limited.
Amalgamated Aircraft Corporation Proprietary Limited.
Commonwealth Steel Company of Australia Limited.
Imperial Smelting Corporation Limited.
Imperial Chemical Industries of Australia and New Zealand Limited.
Imperial Magnesium Corporation Limited.
Metal Manufactures Limited.
Tasmanian Paper Proprietary Limited.

An investor in E.Z. shares obtains an interest in soundly established, as well as new and rapidly expanding, industries.

I ask honourable members to take particular note that the names of the Australian Aluminium Company Proprietary Limited and also the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation Proprietary Limited, in which organisation the Government has invested about £1,000,000, appear in the list. These companies are new and expanding rapidly because of the war. The articles proceeded as follows:

"Australian Aluminium Company Proprietary Limited, located at Granville (N.S.W.) in which E.Z. has a 20 per cent, share-holding, will be producing aluminium alloy sheets and strip for exclusive supply to the Australian aircraft industry next month. Extrusion operations are expected to commence a few months later. Production of air-craft material by this company will make Australia secure in regard to

fabricated aluminium now widely used in aircraft manufacture."

It is obvious to me that just as the Government retarded shipbuilding operations in this country in order to benefit the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited, so it has discouraged the production of aluminium in order to benefit the Electrolytic Zinc Company of Australasia Limited, and give it a monopoly over aluminium production. It is significant that Sir Colin Fraser, the director of the materials section of the Munitions Department is a director of a number of these companies and chairman of the Electrolytic Zinc Company of Australasia Limited.

I wish now to deal for a few minutes with machine tool production. My time is too short to devote to the subject all the attention that it deserves. The Director of Machine Tool Production is Colonel Thorpe, who is the nominee of the Machine Tool group of Melbourne. The Prime Minister has told us that at the outbreak of the war there were only five machine tool manufacturers operating in Australia. It is significant, however, that the Minister for Supply (Senator McBride) should have made three different statements on this subject. At first, he said that only one machine tool company was manufacturing in Australia at the outbreak of war, but later he said there were two, and later again, he increased the number to three. Yet the Prime Minister now tells us that there were five. Why was it not possible to obtain accurate information on this subject? The reason is that another big monopoly is involved. The Associated Machine Tool group is, of course, linked up with the McPherson Bevin organisation, which for twenty years has been holding back the production of machine tools in Australia. By its undesirable association with the Commonwealth Government and the Customs Department, this organisation has been able to prevent other interested enterprises from engaging in machine tool production, for it was not possible for them to import machine tool-making equipment except through the McPherson Bevin monopoly or through the payment of prohibitive rates of duty. Consequently, only one type of lathe out of 10,000 in the whole world was available in this country for the manufacture of machine tools at the outbreak of war. When the war broke out this big organisation and its subsidiaries were hard put to it to cover up their sins. In fact, it was only possible to do so with the connivance of the Ministry for Munitions. Actually, we have Japanese and German machine tool-making equipment operating in Australia, but the position is so bad that even the technical colleges have been stripped of their most modern machines in order that they may be used to supplement our slender resources. Obviously the technical college equipment should have been left in the colleges for training the youth of this country. But not only have the colleges been stripped of their original equipment, they also have had taken from them machines which have been built by the youths within the colleges to replace the original plant. I cannot deal at great length with this subject, but I wish to refer to a certain individual who stands behind the machine tool racket. Not long ago, the financial position of Phillip Bevan was anything but flourishing, but now he is a millionaire. He is "on top of the world" because of his activities in machine tools.

Another gentleman to whom I must refer is Mr. L. J. Hartnett, the chief executive officer of General-Motors-Holden Limited, who is also interested in the Commonwealth Aircraft corporation and many other directorates associated with the Baillieu group. In this connexion, I remind honourable members that a year or so ago, the army authorities were much concerned about the breakdowns that were occurring in their motor transport units. Motorised equip-

HOUSING COMMISSION AND BANKERS

COBURG M.P. INFORMS HIS ELECTORS

At a public meeting called to inform his electors on matters of their Government, Mr. C. Mutton, M.L.A., stated at Coburg on 22nd ult. that improvements needed for education, railways, tramways and roads could not be obtained owing to the lack of money due to restrictions imposed by the Commonwealth Coordinator of Finance.

The same conditions applied to housing. The Housing Commission, said Mr. Mutton, should be guided by the members for Heidelberg, Coburg and Essendon, where open spaces were awaiting development. He had personally inspected land known as "the racecourse," at Richmond, which was a quagmire surrounded by factories and chimney stacks, costing about £1900 per acre. Land in Preston had cost over £667 per acre. In Coburg land sold recently at £193 per acre.

The houses built by the Housing Commission were merely glorified slums. For two families only one washhouse was provided. He had been trying to help a family whom he knew to have been in distress during the depression. They were living in a condemned house, and sought assistance from the Housing Commission. The father and some of the children had, since the war, obtained work, and were now able to get a frugal living. The water service pipe to their home had burst, but nobody would repair

it, as the house had been declared unfit for human habitation. In reply to an appeal for help, the Housing Commission wrote: "Your income is such that you should be able to obtain housing without assistance."

The Commission's letter went further: "The owners of the house, the Bank of Australasia, have received an offer for its demolition. The Commission will not hesitate to institute proceedings against you for non-compliance with its order if you do not vacate the premises immediately."

In fear of this threat the tenant did not dare to reply. "Unless we are very careful," said Mr. Mutton, "the power of the Housing Commission will override the power of our municipal councils. We do not want cottages of the Captain Cook or of the Barrackville type. We want one house, on one block, for one family, so that they may have the freedom to move about in the fresh air. There are many things to be done, but unless the people become interested in these things, we shall not get anywhere."

The Bottle-Necking of Australia's War Effort—(Continued),

ment, as honourable members are well aware, is of great importance to our troops in the Middle East. I read a few days ago that certain wounded soldiers who were being transported in a particular area during the retreat in Greece were travelling in a lorry, which broke down. They were removed to another lorry, and that also broke down. When they got to their destination, the Germans had arrived and they were cut off. It is extraordinary to me that our motorised equipment should, fail us in this way, when we have persons like Mr. Hartnett in important positions. Here again, there is room for complaint. Some time ago the Army authorities approached in Melbourne a young engineer named Wales, who had devoted ten years of his life to the study of a new type of differential, which he contended would prevent breakdowns of the kind to which I am referring. The Army tested his differential device thoroughly on vehicles that travelled thousands of miles in rough country, and they were satisfied that it would meet all their requirements. So pleased were they, in fact, that they requisitioned all available units through the Supply Department. That was a year ago. Month after month, although the Army authorities had tried it out, the matter was held up by the Supply Department, and the Contracts Board in Melbourne. [Further leave to continue given.] Why has that installation been held up? The explanation is a simple one. It would mean the demanding of another differential put in by vested interests, which supply the equipment to the department at a cost of £15. But in its place there would be Australian equipment costing only £10, and its use would result in a considerable extension of the life of these vehicles. John Storey, recently a high executive officer of General Motors-Holden Limited, who left Australia with the Prime Minister on his recent tour abroad, and spent several months in America, said publicly on his return that Australia was not getting war material from America, because the manufacturers of that country thought that there was political disunity in this country in the prosecution of the war. Answering a question that I asked him yesterday, the Prime Minister informed me that John Storey dissociated himself from General Motors-Holden Limited upon his appointment to the Aircraft Production Commission. Yet we find that General Motors-Holden is a shareholder in the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation Proprietary Limited, which is financed by this Government!

Then we have Mr. W. J. Smith, of Australian Consolidated Industries Limited, Mr. Kneeshaw of the cement combine, and Mr. Donaldson, of Imperial Chemical Industries, and the major oil companies. The operations of those major oil companies have been one of the principal factors responsible for the present parlous condition of Australia's war effort. They have contributed to the closing down of works, and to the ruin of primary producers and businessmen in our community who are unable to obtain oil supplies. Because of the influence exercised by those companies in years gone by, Australia has failed to become self-supporting in respect of oil supplies. They not only have made enormous profits from sales of petrol imported in the ordinary way, but also have taken advantage of certain customs regulations which have enabled them to smuggle in petrol under the guise of rich crude oil. By means of this practice, they have robbed our people of many millions of pounds. What influences have operated to discourage the production of flow oil in Australia and New Guinea and other places, which would have made Australia self-supporting? They have been exercised by the major oil companies, which dominate the life of this country. Although the Government has advanced nearly £1,000,000

in respect of the Newnes project, distribution of the oil obtained has already been handed over to the major oil companies. If these things can happen while the war is in progress, what is likely to happen after it is over? Why has there been discouragement of proposals for the extraction of oil from shale and coal? Why is the registration of companies held up by the Capital Issues Board when they desire to embark on undertakings that are designed to increase local production? The same influences are at work from top to bottom. A prominent member of the Capital Issues Advisory Board, Sir Walter Massy-Greene, is a nominee of the Baillieu group, and is associated with companies whose capital aggregates £13,000,000. The whole of the financial set-up is connected with those people. The chairman of the Commonwealth Bank Board, Sir Claude Reading, is connected with the tobacco monopoly, and another member is Sir Clive McPherson, who recently received a knighthood on the recommendation of the Government. The Government cannot make up its mind as to who is to be the next Governor of the Commonwealth Bank. It is waiting to see who is preferred by certain financial interests. Would it not be a simple matter to appoint the present Deputy Governor? The resources of the Commonwealth Bank are needed to finance the war-effort, yet this important appointment has been delayed for three months! The Government is standing in the way of the people. It must, of course, serve its real masters. It cannot serve two masters—God and Mammon. While serving vested interests, it cannot serve the interests of the people of this country.

Then there are the Supply Groups superimposed on the whole outfit. We have not been given any information as to their constitution, but we do know that Sir Clive Baillieu represents one group in America, and that no war materials can come into this country and no worthwhile exports can leave it unless they pass through that particular group. I know that war materials have been held up because they have not been obtained through the group. Certain manufacturers wanted to import fifty-four Pratt-Whitney machines that were vitally needed for war work, but they were banned by the man who is in charge of the machine-tools section. The import of other vital machines and materials was also banned by him, but when the matter was ventilated the ban was lifted and those machines are now installed at the Small Arms Factory at Lithgow. I am acquainted with another case in which eight tons of aluminium was needed by a manufacturer for war work, and a ban was placed upon its import because it was not ordered through the Supply Group. Similar conditions exist in London, where apparently the High Commissioner, Mr. Stanley Bruce, is in charge of affairs. The ramifications of these groups are international, and so far as the war is concerned, it is a case of "Heads they win, tails we lose." A year or two before the war, a representative of the Skoda armament works, one of the largest armament works in the world, offered to place their resources at the disposal of this country. He was here for months cooling his heels. He put a proposition to the Government, but it turned him down flat, and he gave up in disgust. A month or two later, orders were placed by the Defence Department for foreign-made tools which were placed through Associated Machine Tools (A.M.T.A.) in Germany. I recently brought the matter to the notice of the Minister for Munitions. He investigated it and replied to me in the following terms:

"I have been advised that about the end of 1938 orders were placed with Hahn and Company and Kolb, Stuttgart, Germany, by the Australian High Commissioner in London on behalf of the Defence Department for a number of index automatics

required for fuze manufacture in Australia. Although E. P. Bevan and Sons Proprietary Limited were at the time agents for Hahn and Kolb you will note that the order was placed by the Australian High Commissioner." Last, if not least, there is our good old friend Sir Bertram Stevens, who was appointed by the Commonwealth Government to the Eastern Group Supply Council at New Delhi. Parliament was not consulted before the appointment was made, and we have not been informed of the basis on which he has proceeded overseas, but we do know that he is receiving over £4000 a year. He stipulated that he should be paid in sterling, whereas the Australian troops are paid in the currency of this country and thus lose the amount of the exchange. Millions of pounds worth of material are leaving Australia. We want to know where it is going, and on whose behalf it is being supplied. There is one illuminating piece of information, which may have a bearing on the matter. A day or two after we had seen in the press photographs of the send-off given to Sir Bertram Stevens at Rose Bay, a buying and selling company was registered in Sydney. Its directors were Sir Bertram Stevens and Mr. Westray H. Peace, who is the secretary of Australian Consolidated Industries Limited, which deals largely in war materials and according to a report made by experts, has indulged in profiteering. He is also secretary to Australian Glass Manufacturers Company Proprietary Limited and to Mr. W. J. Smith, Director of Gun Ammunition. What conclusions do honourable members draw from that? Moreover, materials are being sent from

Australia to Japan, an Axis Power, and are finding their way to the enemy. Honourable members, even Government members, may be surprised to learn that only recently the Government put through a National Security Regulation to legalise such transactions. During the last war, when I was a clerk in a solicitor's office studying law, numerous prosecutions were launched against individuals and firms for having traded with the enemy. There is none of that today. The provisions of the law have been altered to enable trading with the enemy to take place if it does not take place in actual German territory. Goods must not, of course, be sent to German territory—in any event, they could not reach it—but they can be sent to Japan—which is a member of the Axis Powers—or any other neutral State, and it does not matter a tinker's curse where they go from there. There are Nazis and Fascists working in our munition factories today. The only way in which we may win this war is by the Government scrapping the prospectus issued by the Prime Minister, and giving to the people of this country a real plan. Profiteering must be stopped. The nationalised munition industry must be placed on a co-operative basis, so that the workers may have a voice in its control and a share in its profits. Control by the money power, which has dominated the financial policy of the Government, should be abolished, and the credit of the nation should be utilised in promoting the war effort. The people of this country should be given a taste of the new era of social justice of which we have heard so much.

CENTRALISATION IN BRITAIN

(Continued from page 4.)

undertakings. . . Are we to suppose that these gentlemen, possessing great skill and knowledge in matters of this kind and believing, as they must believe, in the desirability of concentration in industry and in the creation of monopolistic trade undertakings, are going to pave the way for a return at the end of the war to a whole series of heterogeneous trading units? It is inconceivable. My right hon. Friend himself furnished the reply to his own case. In my opinion this scheme sounds the death-knell of the small men. There is to be no resurrection for them . . .

Mr. Burgin (Lutton): . . . It is very much easier to talk in Debate of concentration of industry than it is to apply it in practice. It is very difficult to apply in practice; it is probably impossible to apply without considerable injustices being caused. The point to which I wish the President of the Board of Trade to direct his attention is the increasing frequency with which power and knowledge are divorced. The President in his speech referred to his Industrial and Export Council; he told us some of the names of the leading members and referred to their impartiality. Their impartiality is not in doubt, but the President went on to say that their impartiality would not be tested because in almost every case they were dealing with industries with which they have nothing to do. The point I wish to emphasise is that this increasing frequency with which power is vested in some executive body, which has not at its elbow detailed knowledge of matters over which it is exercising power, is one that is causing distress to the rank and file of this country . . .

Mr. G. Strauss (Lambeth North): . . . The President of the Board of Trade has been in a dilemma. He has made a promise which is appreciated, by those managers and directors of industry who believe they will benefit, although I am

doubtful whether they themselves believe, having made this omelet, it can be "unscrambled" again and all the eggs put back as separate units. Anyone who watches the tendency of industry must see that it is to concentrate industry, not just during the war, but permanently, under big control and in some form of monopoly. I think that the man who sees his factory closed under this scheme, whether he is a worker, manager, or director, does not really believe there is any likelihood of it being reopened as the same sort of concern as it was before. It may be—and I ask the President of the Board of Trade to bear in mind the social undesirability of such a thing—that these units, which are placed in the wrong parts of the country, may open again, when there are a thousand-and-one reasons why they should not be reopened. I hope in any future declaration he makes in that respect he will bear that point in mind.

United Democrats' Report**From Headquarters 17 Waymouth Street, Adelaide.**

Annual Meeting: Members, please note the date, Saturday, July 26, at 2.30 pm. Members who have paid their fees for 1940-41 are financial until July 31, and are therefore entitled to vote. After the business is disposed of tea will be served, and the rest of the evening spent in conversation or games and supper. The Director of Club Activities will be glad to receive gifts of cakes and scones for the tea, for which a charge will be made. Lunch Hour Speaker: On Friday, July 11, Mr. Clarence Goode will read some interesting correspondence he has had with prominent people on the subject of Federal Union. This attempt to bring the British Commonwealth of Nations under the domination of Wall Street has sudden-

(Continued on page 8.)

VICTORIAN COUNTRY TOUR CONCLUDES

ERIC BUTLER LEAVES FOR SYDNEY

After one of the most successful tours in the history of the Movement, the Editor of the "New Times" (Mr. Allsop), and Mr. Eric Butler arrived back in Melbourne last Sunday evening, July 6. Over 3,500 miles were covered in seven weeks. Mr. Butler addressed 48 meetings in that time.

Apart from producing the "New Times" while on the tour, Mr. Allsop and Mr. Butler left tangible results of their efforts in every centre. Over 200 new direct subscribers were signed up — apart from many more who are now obtaining their "New Times" from local newsagents. This result in itself was a great constructive step forward in Victoria. Over 1,000 copies of Mr. Butler's books, "The Money Power versus Democracy" and "The War Behind The War," were sold. This result easily eclipsed all past records. Meetings were well attended and outstandingly enthusiastic. "The best series of meetings I have ever addressed," reports Mr. Butler. Local newspapers gave excellent publicity to Mr. Butler's addresses.

Country supporters are to be complimented on their splendid co-operation. Many centres are already asking when Mr. Butler can visit them again. New contacts desire meetings in new centres.

"SOUND FINANCE" WORRIED.

The possible results of the Victorian country tour had the bankers' organisation, "The Sound Finance League," very worried even before the tour started. The following extracts from an article in the paper "Sound Finance," reprinted in some country papers, are most significant: "Between May 18 and July 2, two leading Social Credit advocates will visit and hold meetings in over forty country centres in Victoria. One of them will then continue these activities in New South Wales. . . . The newspaper which advertised the Victorian itinerary and the proposed visit to New South Wales, clearly indicates the views these men will propagate in an open letter to the Federal Treasurer, which appeared on the front page of the same issue. It repudiates the necessity for taxation; it ridicules the Government's appeal to the people to save; and it classes war loans as an attempt to perpetuate the domination of humanity by financiers'....It is proverbially easy for many to believe what

suits them best. In addition, the credit expansion theories, perverse though they may be, are nevertheless very persuasively explained. The official view, on the contrary, though put forward in striking statements, has scarcely been explained at all. . . . The most democratic, and probably the most effective way of dealing with the problem is to tell the true story by precisely the same means as the offenders tell the false. Those who listen to the one will listen to the other."

Yes, they will listen all right. And then they will ask some very nasty questions. We would advise the bankers' apologists to stay well away from the country centres.

Further evidence of the fact that we have the bankers' apologists worried appeared in the Melbourne "Sun" of June 21. The report states that the Sound Finance League is worried about the Federal Government's failure in its financial "publicity campaign." "The Government, states the League, could do worse than copy the technique of the Social Credit propagandists. In spite of the stupidity of their theories, THEY HAVE MADE MORE IMPRESSION ON THE FINANCIAL VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS THAN THE WHOLE COMMONWEALTH OFFICIAL PUBLICITY, AT THE PRESENT RATE OF GOING, WILL MAKE IN THE NEXT TEN." (Our emphasis.) That is one of the finest compliments we have yet received from the opposition.

All supporters should be encouraged and throw every ounce of effort into the present struggle.

HAMILTON MEETING.

Leaving Stawell on Wednesday, July 2, Mr. Allsop and Mr. Butler attended a meeting in Hamilton that night. Although it was not large, the meeting was well worthwhile. The campaigners were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. Schultz, of Montajup.

WARRNAMBOOL.

A very cold, wet night was

largely responsible for the rather small meeting at Warrnambool on Thursday, July 3. However, new subscribers to the paper were obtained, and new contacts made. Mr. Jim Thompson is doing some splendid work in this centre.

COLAC.

In spite of a cold night, well over 200 people gave Eric Butler a splendid reception at Colac on Friday, July 4. Mr. Butler gave one of the best addresses for the tour. Literature sales were good. Many new subscribers were signed up. The campaigners were the guests of Mr. C. Turner and family, of Pirron Yallock. Excellent progress is being made in this centre.

GEELONG.

This hitherto difficult centre was rather a surprise. A splendid audience was in attendance on Sunday afternoon to hear Mr. Butler. This was the best meeting yet held at this centre, and is indicative of the growing interest everywhere.

SYDNEY.

After arriving back in Melbourne after the Geelong meeting, Mr. Butler left by train for Sydney on the following day, Monday, July 7. He opened his campaign in Sydney last Tuesday night. He is addressing meetings every night while in Sydney. Reports of meetings will appear in next week's issue. The following is his programme:

Friday, July 11. — 2.30 p.m.: Women's Division, Electoral Campaign, at Campaign Centre, Room 9, 3rd Floor, 296 Pitt Street. 8 p.m.: — "Realistic Club," No. 2 Room, School of Arts, Epping. Subject: The Enemy Within The Empire."

Saturday, July 12. — Private Meeting. Business. Professional, Educational and Public Service Men, 8 p.m.

Sunday, July 13. — Guest of Influential Public Service Men. 8 p.m.: Public Debate, "Russia and International Finance," Rationalist Association. Monday, July 14—8 p.m.: Public Address, Railway Institute, Hurstville.

Tuesday, July 15. — 8 p.m.: Public Address, A.B.C. Hall, 285 Liverpool Road, Ashfield (nearly opposite Town Hall).

Wednesday, July 16. — 8 p.m.: Public Address, Dispensary Hall, corner Enmore Road and Reiby Street, Enmore.

Thursday, July 17. — 6.15 p.m.: Address to Sydney Apex Club. 8 p.m.: Address to Electoral Campaigners. Campaign Centre, Room 9, 3rd Floor, 296 Pitt Street.

United Democrats' Report

(Continued from page 7)

ly sprung from the sphere of academic discussion some two years ago into that of practical politics today, and it strikes at your liberty. The action taken by Mr. Goode suggests a direct method by which, if we act at once, we may combat its insidious and widespread propaganda. In South Australia Federal Union has been taken up enthusiastically by eminently respectable sections of society—Church leaders, University professors, members of Parliament; it is being taught at W.E.A. classes within the University, the "Model Parliament" is studying and propagating "Union Now," and all the while we are having it dinned into our ears by the "Watchman" and other radio speakers. There is, moreover, a strong Federal Union Movement in Adelaide, and we seem to be having a surfeit of visitors from overseas who, one and all, advocate some new order, which usually spells centralised control. Perhaps we cannot hope by counter propaganda alone to stem the flood, but by denouncing the motive to the seat of authority as disloyal and subversive, and a deliberate attempt to break up the British Empire and destroy our National sovereignty, we may be able to cut off the noxious growth at the root. In other words, a letter, written in the strongest terms, could be sent by our United Movements throughout Australia to every member of every Parliament, demanding that immediate action be taken under the National Security Act to outlaw Federal Union propaganda.

Bridge and Checkers' Evening: Keep in mind Saturday evening, July 19, for another enjoyable evening—each one better than the last.

Special Afternoon Meeting: On Friday, August 1, at 3 p.m., an afternoon meeting will be held at the Club Rooms. Mr. W. Macgillivray, M.L.A., will speak on "Current Parliamentary Topics." Afternoon tea, charge 1/-.

Friday, July 18. — Public Meeting, Newcastle. Saturday, July 19. — Meeting of Electoral Campaigners, Newcastle. Sunday, July 29. — 3 p.m.: Public Address, Lower Adyar Hall, 29 Bligh Street. 8 p.m.: Debate, "Political and Economic Planning," at Rationalist Association.

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