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# THE NEW TIMES

Vol. 7. No. 35, MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, SEPT. 5, 1941.

Now, when our  
land to ruin's  
brink is verging,  
In God's name,  
let us speak while  
there is time!

Now, when the  
padlocks for  
our lips are  
forging,

Silence is crime.  
Whittier (1807-1892).

## A Masterpiece of Bureaucratic Bungling

### Australia's "Grapple and Despair Fraud"

By N. F. ROLLS.

Since I am not engaged in the fruit industry, either as producer or distributor, I am in a position to contribute my analysis of one of Australia's greatest yet simplest rural "problems" with no more prejudice than may be attached to the humble (or humbled?) consumer.

In that capacity, therefore, I must ally myself - - safe from sectional controversy - - with that vast body, totalling nearly 7,000,000 people, whose collective apathy and apparent disinterest has been responsible for the continuance of one of the greatest scandals that ever blotted this country's economic history; namely, the affairs of the Apple and Pear Board.

Whilst it will be necessary for me to state the case briefly but generally for the producer, the distributor, and the retailer, as well as for the consumer, it is to the latter grouping - - which obviously includes all sections—that the following remarks are addressed in particular.

The Apple and Pear Scheme should have been instrumental in showing (if it did nothing else) that all sections of our community are inter-dependent; that after all, we only "take in each other's washing." It would seem, however, that not until we come to realise that the laundry is being removed from the line altogether, will we wake up and stop the sneak-thief in our midst. The analogy is not a good one, for there is usually a chance of catching the sneak-thief and retrieving stolen goods, whereas with bureaucratic "boardism," such as in the case of an acquisition "Committee" the onus is passed from this department to that department, so well wrapped in red-tape and officialdom that eventually the responsibility is borne by nobody and the consequences are shared by all.

#### "GRAPPLE AND DESPAIR FRAUD."

In a melee of maladministration, faulty distribution and the crime of restriction and wholesale destruction have marked the course of the greatest bit of bureaucratic bungling that our primary producers have ever had to contend with. Whilst Sydney shops were selling apples up to sixpence each, the Marketing Board was arranging an "apple festival"! At the same time the superintendent of the Board denied that apples were dear, and the president of the Commonwealth Fruit and Vegetables Industries, after supporting the festival stunt in a talk over a national station, refused to discuss apple prices at all. A press report stated that in Geelong (Vic.) apples for which the grower had received 3/6 a case were sold at 16/- a case. One grower who has a property near Melbourne expected to receive at least 3/- to 3/6 a case; he got 1/-, whilst the same apples were sold by the Board for 6/-!

The Federal Member for Calare told us in February that apples for which he had paid two pence each had been bought from the

growers for one shilling a case of twelve dozen. Doubtless this was an extreme example, but the Board appears to have done nothing substantial towards reducing the difference between what the growers receive and what the consumers pay. It is supposed to guarantee a reasonable price, both to the producer and consumer, and yet we have witnessed the plight of the underpaid producer and the over-charged consumer. (Continued on page 6.)

### COBURG'S DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATIVE

**When elected to the Victorian State Parliament in defiance of the Party machine (which put up an intense opposition to him) Mr. C. Mutton promised his electors that he would convene meetings of his electors periodically in order to give an account of his stewardship, and also to enable his employers (the electors of Coburg) to question him, and to tell him what they wanted him to do.**

He convened and held the fourth of such meetings on Thursday, August 28, in the library room, Coburg Town Hall. Whilst the meeting was not as well attended, as it should have been, having regard to its novel nature, those who did attend showed a keen appreciation of Mr. Mutton's action in convening it, and a determination to get behind him with their support. A completely non-party committee was formed with the object of preventing the party machines from foisting their will upon the people of Coburg, and to endeavour to enlighten the electors as to the merits of having a really democratic representative.

Mr. Mutton made it quite clear that he did not support the attitude of Mr. Cremean, M.L.A., in regard to electors sending letters, demanding results, to their Parliamentary representatives. On the contrary, he said that he wished that he received loads of letters from the people of Coburg, because, he contended, many of the jobs in Coburg cry out to be done would never be done until the people themselves exerted pressure; and whilst he had done, and was still doing, all in his power as an individual, and had been successful in getting several small things done, many

of these jobs were too big for one man, unless he had the tangible support of a sufficient number of electors; and he regarded the letters about which Mr. Cremean complains as tangible evidence of that support, so that when he speaks he has proof that he is not speaking as an individual but as the mouthpiece of the people who elected him.

Whilst we do not agree with Mr. Mutton when he contends, as he did on this occasion, that socialisation is the cure for our economic ills, we wholeheartedly congratulate him upon his politically democratic action in being prepared to sink his personal beliefs (if necessary), in order to implement the expressed will of the majority of his electors. It is now up to the people of Coburg. Their elected representative is prepared and willing, even anxious, to do their bidding, and is not subservient to any party machine, but if he is not told by the people what they want, then he is forced to work for what he thinks they want. More than that, he again becomes a potential victim of party political juntas. Coburg electors must write to him, not once, but often, and let him know their wishes.

—F. C. Paice.

### WHY THE COMPULSORY TRAINING SYSTEM ISN'T POPULAR

#### FINANCIAL SYSTEM DOMINATES DEFENCE SYSTEM

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

I have been asked by so many people what I think of the universal military training scheme in operation throughout Australia, that I have taken some trouble to prepare the following article. The criticism offered may not be palatable to some of our "brilliant organisers" in this country; nevertheless, they would do well to try and obtain the opinions of those most competent to speak—namely, the trainees themselves. They would probably get a shock.

As a universal trainee, I have no hesitation in saying, after a thorough investigation of this matter, that over 90 per cent, of the trainees are strongly dissatisfied with the scheme. There are many reasons for this dissatisfaction, and I will deal with these later. Unless these causes of dissatisfaction are removed, I have no hesitation in saying that a general lowering of morale is inevitable. Taking all factors into

#### PERMANENT FORCE WANTED

consideration, this is not surprising. Richard Hughes, the Australian reporter now in America, has given some devastating facts about the compulsory system in America. Some of his recent articles in the Australian press must have destroyed a great amount of the smug complacency, which exists in this country about conditions in America.

Everyone who has had any experience of social and industrial organisation knows that the best work in this world is done by volunteers, receiving a reasonable remuneration for their efforts. Of course, I am not suggesting that Mr. Spender and some of his colleagues have had any such experience. If they had, they would have adopted the system of a voluntary force organised on a permanent basis. Now, there are some people who say that, as the universal trainee system is not very popular with the trainees, it would not be possible to obtain a sufficient number of volunteers for a permanent force of, say, 200,000. But they don't ask why. We don't have to look far for an answer. It is a question of pay. I am quite confident that, if the Government would offer a decent wage, the number of volunteers offering for such a scheme would astound most people. The same applies to enlistments for the A.I.F.

We have a new Prime Minister. But Mr. Fadden works for the same bosses that Mr. Menzies worked for—the private bankers. It is, therefore, quite obvious that we cannot expect any benefits until the electors decide to stir themselves a little more than they have stirred themselves in the past. If it is physically possible to raise and equip with modern weapons a permanent volunteer force of 200,000 men to defend this country, then it should be made financially possible to see that these men receive reasonable remuneration for their services. I am sure that such a force of voluntary experts specially trained in the methods of modern warfare would be much more satisfactory than the present system. There is only one obstacle to such a scheme: A reasonable

(Continued on page 7.)

## THE WOMEN'S POINT OF VIEW

A TALK BROADCAST FROM 7HO HOBART, by BARBARA GUTHRIE.

**The women's point of view is not supposed to be very logical; whether that generalised statement is any more correct than others of its kind I leave to your own judgment. All I have to say is that if the conditions under which we are forced to live today are the results of men's logic, then I think a little commonsense would be of vastly greater benefit to us all.**

I have read quite a number of books by so-called "intellectuals," and when I have finished them I feel the same as when I have seen a third-rate American film: I feel I have been nowhere and seen nothing.

The reason for this is not far to seek. The problems, which are discussed by the "intellectuals," by the press, and by the films, are not OUR problems; they are not the problems of a real world—a world of HARD FACTS. They are manufactured problems, synthetic problems, like the jigsaw puzzles we give to children. When we have solved them we have solved nothing of importance; all our real problems still remain untouched.

And that is how I really feel about the problems which politicians place in front of us; they are jigsaw puzzles, manufactured for our amusement, not for our profit. They are not the real problems that concern our welfare and happiness.

### PROGRESS?

The basic essentials of life are food, clothes and shelter. Without these things further development is impossible. And what is the value of education, engineering and modern systems of organisation if the people of this planet are struggling just as hard today for an existence as did their forefathers 400 years ago?

What is the use of intelligent education and logic if 90 per cent, of the world lives in fear of the future? Is it not amazing that men struggle in cutthroat competition with each other for the wherewithal to maintain their families, when power machinery and modern methods can produce so much food and clothes that we don't know where to dump the surplus?

Do you remember in the last depression when Australia and other countries had so much surplus goods that they could not give them away to foreigners, and when our economists and bank directors and other oracles told us that we were poor and must tighten our belts and make sacrifices—and we did it? Well, these same oracles are still oracling today, and getting very well paid for it, too. You and I, if we made the blunders they make,

would be in the same place as the locomotive driver who took the wrong turning.

### THE PROBLEM

I cannot understand how our so-called intellectuals and our publicised public men haven't enough common sense to see that the problems before the war and the problems after the war have nothing whatever to do with the production of more and more goods or with the control of the means of production, as the Socialists call it. The problem is to find means to distribute these goods into the homes of the people. That is the problem of our age; that is the most important problem; that is the problem, which the last war did not solve, and, therefore, it had to be fought all over again. And if this war does not solve it, this war will have to be fought all over again.

You cannot build a permanent society on a falsehood any more than you can build an engine that does not conform to certain fundamental laws of nature, or canons, as they are called. The old idea of righteousness meant rightness. A thing was right when it complied with certain fundamental laws of nature.

Today, men and women know instinctively that there is no righteousness, or rightness, in the society in which they live. It is not right that men should keep on toiling like slaves when their granaries are overflowing; it is not right that a man should be bankrupt when he is producing enough food to keep 100 people; it is not right that a country should feed its population on third-class food and send its best food overseas.

It is not right that mothers should have to deny their children good food when food is being fed to pigs and dumped in the sea. Nothing can make this right, because it is an outrage of our intelligence and contrary to all laws of nature.

### ELECTORS MUST ACT

You don't require to be a professor of economics or a so-called intellectual to know that this is wrong, and you don't require to be a political expert to know that the Government, which permits such things, is betraying its people, no

matter what excuses they may give. And you shouldn't require to be told that unless you use your vote to put such a Government out of power you, too, are doing wrong.

How does it come about that we have to suffer so many stupidities? Why do we, as ordinary men and women, have to do so many things, which are contrary to reason and to the dictates of common sense? We seem to have lost all power to decide anything of importance; everything is decided for us. This may be partly necessary in wartime, but it was not necessary in times of peace.

It appears to me that unless the ordinary man and woman can obtain some say in the building up of his or her own life, then all talk of freedom, democracy and the sanctity of human life is just moonshine; and I think most of the talk on these subjects is just moonshine.

The dictators have built some amazing structures in the form of roads, factories and irrigation schemes; but is the price paid worth it? Are a few soup kitchens for poor people a sufficient reward for the shooting of the finest men and women in the country? Is the standard of living of the people to be that of well-fed cattle? A standard above that no man dares rise without peril to himself and disaster to his family? This is the position, which is taking shape in many parts of the world.

In other words, unless men and women of intelligence and responsibility are prepared to make their voices heard in the community, there will be no place in that community for them to live—unless as slaves.

### SLAVERY

In France and Czechoslovakia the factories are busy working for Hitler; the Frenchmen and the Czechs are not compelled to work in these factories—they can remain outside and watch their families starve! So most of them prefer to work in the munition factories!

That, also, is the position of the ordinary wage slave; his work may be uncongenial, monotonous and anti-social, but it is a job, and this is the only manner in which he is permitted to have an income. That is the industrial religion of the civilised world, and it is based on falsehood. It is wrong, and no amount of Socialist propaganda can make it right.

Throughout most of Europe today, every man and woman must work for Hitler or starve. In other words, one is only permitted to live

if one obtains a permit from the bosses of the National Socialist Party of Germany—or the Nazis, as they are called for short.

Does it make much difference if we alter the dictator's name from Hitler to the name of National Socialist State, or the men who are behind the National Socialist State?

The men in the munition factories in France work for Hitler because they are forced to; they are producing things of no value to themselves, but they are paid for doing it. They get fed and clothed in return. That is something—but is it enough?

And the millions of men all over the world who are performing soul-destroying tasks every day of their adult lives for twenty, thirty, forty years—and for no useful purpose. What a fund of misery they are creating for this world? A world of mediocrity, a world which is used to destroy those who dare rise above the standard of living.

### THE FUTURE

If that is the world, which is ahead of us—a world of work for work's sake, no matter what that work is; a world in which nobody is allowed to live unless he works for the Party boss, or whatever the head of the gang is called; then it doesn't matter who wins the war. I imagine making munitions or tilling in red and yellow coupons is much the same in most parts of the world—and the results, no doubt, are also much the same.

But if we can destroy Hitler, and with him destroy the power of any group of men to force their conditions of life on others, then that war is worth fighting until no house stands upon the face of the earth, because, then, men could work for themselves, and with primitive tools, build up a higher standard of living than would be found in most great cities. At any rate, they could hardly build a lower standard of living, not unless they tried very hard.

I think that if there is to be any really worthwhile change after this war men and women who have sufficient intelligence to see clearly the real position will have to take a more active part in the affairs of the community. They will have to cast aside their childlike faith in the inevitability of "progress" and "evolution" and astrology, and try the experiment of applying to politics the same successful methods that they have applied to other activities of life. If the best brains in the country remain aloof from politics how can we expect anything better than we are getting!

## INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION: "OUTRAGED BY ILL- CONCEIVED LEGISLATION"

**In Britain deep concern at the "lagging" of war production in the engineering industries is expressed by the Engineering Industries Association in a memorandum placed before the Government. Some of the essential principles of industrial production, it is claimed, are being "outraged by ill-conceived legislation."**

"Those charged with industry's productive efforts are worried and encompassed by doubt, confusion and injustice," asserts the memorandum. War production involved engineering firms in immediate and ever-increasing expenditure on premises, plant and equipment; but any enlargement of a company's plant and equipment was almost certain to be a milestone round the necks of its directorate and management the instant it ceased to be engaged on war production. Financial legislation has, however, made it impossible for many engineering firms to buy such plant and equipment — the normal machinery of finance has been disturbed, and no adequate substitute provided.

"New capital cannot be obtained, since Excess Profits Tax has hit hardest at those industries which have had to expand for war production. Loans cannot be obtained, since the expenditure in question has little post-war value. Even the banks are now refusing further advances. As a result of this situation, businesses are being forced to avoid all expenditure, which would increase their output and the efficiency of working, "and have to resort to uneconomic expenditure which can be charged to revenue.

"The effect of all this is that costs rise, output per man and woman falls, and there is slackening of effort and drive. How, in these circumstances can Parliament ex-

(Continued on page 3.)

### TO OUR READERS

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## MR. CASEY WANTS TO KNOW

By "FOOTLE."

**I had begun to wonder what had become of our R. G. Casey. We have heard so little of his activity of late that I had really started to reconsider my previous views of our special envoy to Washington, and to contemplate the possibility that he was up to a spot of good somewhere and had thereby incurred the wrath of the money magnates and the publicity princes.**

I see now that I needn't have worried, for he was hobnobbing with Dr. Millikan, who, you might remember, is the bloke who knew so much about balloons that the A.B.C. invited him to lecture us on social conditions and the absurdity of looking for a way out.

**Dr. Millikan, doubtless recognising in Mr. Casey one whose attainments are also of the kind which would adequately prevent him from understanding what the deuce is the matter with the people, could hardly do less than invite this blood brother to speak at the annual commencement of the California Institute of Technology.**

Mr. Casey commenced by giving an account of the Australian war effort. Of course, he has been gone a long time, but this, from his point of view, would be an advantage because he would be spared those harrowing doubts, which since his departure from Australia, have afflicted such sticklers for facts and figures as Mr. Beasley and certain others. He then said: "We are in no doubt as to what this war is about." I took a good look at that. And I'm not certain even now whether he was about to add, "unlike some fat-headed blighters I could mention," and thought better of it, or whether he said it because his erudite audience had been hitherto of the opinion that it was quite plain we didn't know anything of the sort. At all events he followed up hastily with a catalogue of those who were not in doubt. The catalogue was not completely comprehensive though, and this lends colour to the guess that there are some people who don't know what the war is about.

### LOSS OF FREEDOM

"We all know that if democracy loses this war we will lose our political and economic freedom." What we haven't all realised so far is that if we win this war we may lose our political and economic freedom just the same. But we must give credit where credit is due, for Mr. Casey then said

something he needn't have said at all, namely, "that it is not necessary for us to be invaded for this to come about."

That's what I call a nasty knock for Mr. Menzies, and coming just now on top of all this barracking for a bloodless sacrifice of our political liberty, it won't help his party in its fanatical desire to carry our burdens for us and provide all the answers. It may, of course, have been merely an unfortunate, remark. The trouble is you never know whether to pay more attention to what a politician says than to what he doesn't say. But, undeniably, Mr. Casey not only knows what the war is about; he knows where it will lead. And that's what feeds him right up to the plimsoll line.

### POST-WAR PROBLEMS

"But I find myself cast down with doubts and fears about the period after the war. It is going to be very much more difficult for the American and British people to work together in peace than in war." You can see what he means. He likes working with the Americans, but he knows what to expect when the fear motive has been stifled. There must be other advocates of Federation who harbour the same chilly forebodings in the cheerless watches of the night. But they wouldn't have exhibited brother Casey's cheek for a ten per cent, bonus. He explains the difficulty about Uncle Sam. "We are fighting Nazi Germany today. We will be fighting the horrors of unemployment after the war." And, of course, being right on the job, he can't help knowing what America does about unemployment. The very thought casts him into the abyss. "I would hesitate to say which of the two, Nazi Germany or unemployment,

is, in the long run, the greater enemy of democracy." Personally, I don't think he should have said that. The idea of Nazi Germany having a long run is thoroughly obnoxious. I'm not sure it isn't subversive: I've an idea it would be if somebody else said it.

Mr. Casey has certainly set himself a bit of a sum. The answer you get depends upon what period you take. For instance, I read, not so long ago, that the total deaths from starvation and suicide all over the world in 1934 amounted to 3,600,000, and Hitler doesn't look like beating that tally even in this year.

### MY OPINION

I feel very much inclined to offer my opinion to Mr. Casey, that considering that unemployment was obviously ordained as our portion from the time when the first photons took shape from thought, and will doubtless endure while man is civilised and sets his face towards peace, Hitler simply isn't in the game at all except to provide an occasional crescendo of our scientific misery.

And since it has now been made clear by all our leaders and social experts that it is utterly impossible to use what we make and to eat what we grow unless we have a sideline like armed conflict, let us bow to the inevitable by all means. Let us not quarrel with Nature. She gives us scarcity: we thrive. She gives us plenty: we starve. Very well: let us acknowledge the phenomenon and argue about it no more. After all, it is impossible for people like Mr. Casey or Prof. Copland, or President Roosevelt or Montagu Norman to be so mistaken as to misread anything so obvious as our economic history. It is an open book to them. But since everybody is better off when there is a war on, except the people who fight it, it seems to me we could come to a convenient arrangement by remaining permanently on manoeuvres and keeping our armies intact.

### A SOLUTION

The war industries could function as usual, but the dreaded swing from war to peace would be avoided. Accumulations of munitions could be periodically exploded on occasions like Guy Fawkes night—and, since America HAS to be in it, too, on the fourth of July. Shipping could be maintained at scarcity level by judicious scuttlings, and an extra

Ministry or Board could, supervise the disposal of all unwanted accumulations.

There IS something about war, you know. Everybody knows that Hitler was bankrupt when he started, and now, more than a year after the time we might reasonably have expected the bailiff to have trotted off with the last tank and soup kitchen, we're talking about the war lasting another ten years. Anyone can see from that how long the Nazis' funds can last after another two years of it. I mean to say it's only simple arithmetic.

I'm quite convinced that what we have to do is not to abolish armaments, but to divert them, as it were. So that we can safely ask, "Oh, Death, where is thy sting?" and be able to answer, "Here it is, silly. We've got it. There's no need to worry any more!"

## MONOPOLIES and the WAR EFFORT

The startling revelations about Australia's war effort by Mr. C. A. Morgan, M.H.R., which appeared in the "New Times" of July 11 under the heading, "The Bottle-Necking of Australia's War Effort," are now available in pamphlet form, under the title, "Monopolies and the War Effort."

Inquiries are coming in from all over Australia, and readers are requested to place their orders now. These sensational facts should be brought to the notice of every Australian. Order your copies NOW.

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### Industrial Production: "Outraged by Ill-Conceived Legislation"—Continued

pect the new labour force now being recruited by the Minister of Labour to be absorbed into war industry effectively?

"The Government finance available scarcely helps. The average time taken for a decision varies from four to nine months. Managements should be given the authority for making capital expenditure, since it is the management which should be responsible for securing consequent improvements in production."

Small and medium-sized businesses, which provided the bulk of the engineering capacity of the country, were being heavily penalised for having increased their production. Because they had attempted to do the best of which they were capable, they were being compelled to risk financial suicide.

"An ever-increasing number of companies are unable to make any payments of taxes, because profits have been used to increase production, and the banks are refusing to advance money to pay taxes. So impossible has the situation become that tax collectors are now approaching those unable to pay, and suggesting that Gov-

ernment departmental advances can perhaps be arranged so that taxes may be paid.

"The Finance Bill of 1941 has done little to relieve the burdens of production, and has disheartened the engineering industries. It adds greatly to industry's problems, and will still further interfere with the expanding of war production."

Pointing out that over £500,000,000 of Britain's money has been spent in America since the beginning of the war, in erecting factories and placing huge production orders with the United States' engineering industry, the memorandum says:—

"We deeply appreciate the help that is being received from the United States. But why should it be assumed that the American manufacturer, free from British control and taxation, is a better risk than his British counterpart? Unless extreme care is taken in the husbanding and protection of all our industrial undertakings, we shall have created the quite preposterous situation of having strengthened American industry while at the same time enfeebling our own."

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## PETROL RATIONING

No single action of the Government has caused more disorganisation in the community, or more hardship, than the petrol restrictions. The wholehearted response by the people has been amazing—as revealed by the few isolated prosecutions for breaches of the laborious and complicated regulations. Yet, instead of congratulating the people affected, and straining every nerve to come to their aid, the politicians play the party game while Australia sweats under the most drastic petrol curtailment in the world.

Much limelight has been thrown on the misfortunes of the garage owner. Goodness knows, he has been punished; but, at the expense of surviving motorists, he is reaping a higher gross profit than previously to help offset the vanishing sales of petrol. Manufacturers of motor accessories are induced to supply Defence needs, so they are not thrown to the wolves. Factories making motor bodies, tyres and automobile electrical equipment are being diverted to Defence and Aircraft needs. Some of them are busy. Some recognition—paltry in many directions—has been made of those in the trade; but what about the motorist himself? He is the consumer on whom the whole trade depends, but unhappily for consumers they do not enter into the thoughts of our finance-controlled party politicians.

The owner of a motor vehicle is recommended to dip further into his pocket and install a producer gas unit. Not a word of decent sympathy for him. He is advised by press and radio advertisements to use public transport, and he is compelled to pay a share of the cost of these advertisements. Not a penny reduction in car registration or insurance fees is made. No compensation is offered to offset the unnatural and sudden drop in the value of his car. He must swallow this abnormal depreciation. No moratorium on Hire Purchase agreement is dangled before him. He is an outcast because he possessed a motor vehicle for his business, or because he liked a little extra comfort, and perhaps a little fresh air during weekends for his wife and family. Men accustomed to using cars for business now find they cannot get as much done in a day. More work, reduced results, and less leisure are the consequences.

Conditions in our overcrowded buses, trams and trains are disgraceful. Public health and decency demand rapid rectification of what the Government calls "peak" loading, but which is actually the main daily job of public transport, viz.: To take the people to business and home again, although they are all consumers.

There is no hope from Governments—State or Federal. The one is struggling to balance the accounts of publicly owned transport, with its compound interest jockey riding the opportunity hard. The other is responsible for the conditions arising from petrol shortage—conditions worse than in New Zealand, where dollar exchange is said to be scarcer than here; and conditions worse than in Britain, where tankers are running the blockade.

Until consumers dominate parliaments, we must expect such monstrosities as this petrol calamity. We are all consumers and, as such, adherents of no party. The politicians' first responsibility is to give, or assure, to consumers the highest standard of living available. Producers and distributors must be regarded, firstly, as consumers; and secondly, as contributors to the general principle of raising the level at which we live. The present idea is to allow finance to dominate everything and everyone. Then follow the middlemen. The producer is regarded as fair game for both, and the consumer does not matter.

## WARNING

The "United States News" of April 23, 1941, says:

"This war, basically, is being fought to determine who is to make and enforce the rules for running the world; who to control the seas; who to have the privilege of pushing other people around.

". . . Power is now shifting away from Knudsen-Hillman or-

ganisation; is shifting to Hopkins-Henderson, back to the New Dealers and away from businessmen.

"This means: Less regard for businessman sensibilities. More emphasis on Government planning."

"War preparation is causing Government to reach out again for broad control over American industry. This control is to be far more sweeping than during the First World War. It will make controls of N.R.A. days seem unimportant by comparison."

## BIGGER! BIGGER!! BIGGER!!!

By JOHN H. EDWARDS, in the "Social Creditor" (England).

Ever since 1649, when Jews were re-admitted into England (after being expelled in 1290) things have been getting bigger and worse. Businesses, governments, corporations, companies, chain stores, insurance companies, and, by no means finally, income taxes, have all been growing bigger.

Bigness begets impersonality. Employees become machines. Some big firms are even nice to their employees. Of course. A cow on rich pasture always gives more milk. They are fed five small meals a day; this eliminates the big midday meal and that torpid after-dinner state, which is so restful and so pleasing an interlude for a sensible being. They give them canned music to which to type; put fifty typists in a room together.

Bigger! Bigger! Bigger! ! Bigger charities; the blind of the last war supported by charity; the guns of this war paid for twice over in hard cash and by the sweat of the brow. Wars getting more and more away from feats a physical derring-do, —one up to Horatius! —away to mechanical methods of massacring thousands of innocents by a more or less complicated system of button-pressing.

And then we are asked to make things still bigger! More than this, and very cleverly indeed, the public are led to believe that the very thing they are fighting against—Germany getting bigger (bad) would be good for us, England getting bigger (good). "What a fine thing," the public is led to say, "What a fine thing would be an Anglo-French Union (or an Anglo-American one). Let's get bigger and better." Bigger and better! A nasty slogan, rendered worse by its relation with some brand of article, which may even be bigger and better. A bigger bar of soap? Good within its limits—but the manufacturers know very well if they make it too big for convenience they won't sell it. But a Union? Bad! It would be like a bar of soap the size of a New York skyscraper. "Illogical" says the man of logic. Nonsense man! Where's your sense of proportion?

Hitler aims at a Federated Europe through the conquest of arms; according to some allied authorities, a federal union is our ultimate aim; or an Anglo-American Union; or any other silly what-have-you.

Standardisation inevitably follows increase in size. Now who in this Universe really wants to get standardised? Beware! The bigger a thing, the more bureaucracy needed to "run" it; responsibility, is shelved higher and higher; to import one crate of bananas, ten signatures - to walk up even one rung of the ladder of success, impossible. Every step towards centralisation is another step to another war in the event of the stoppage of this one.

In our present state—that of war—the man in the street is in the worst possible position, and the big financial magnate in the best one. For war, it is said, has to be waged in dictatorship style. On this account we have all these rationings and restrictions, curtailing and giant combines which would make life not worth living in peace time.

But Britain, beware after the war! Freedom is in pawn. Hitler is the broker. Let us smash this black-pated insect. However willingly we pay the 10/- in the £ income tax (do the banks, I wonder?) that they say is necessary, however fast we are cabined, cribbed, confined, bound in by regulation after regulation that, they say, are so important at this juncture for the defence of the realm, whatever dictatorship we are led into, let us not be re-

stricted after the war is over! Let us get back to our rights and privileges at once! Let us shout for our freedom, from the housetops and to our M's-P. giving them the sack if they don't shout in Parliament.

We will put up with every necessary disadvantage and curtailment of liberty to win this war as we have put up with many unnecessary ones; we will even allow ourselves to be told (by a Government pamphlet) that in the event of paratroops attacking civilians, "You have every right to defend yourselves." Yes, we will even allow them to point that out to us. If you saw a German coming into your home, what would you do?

We must, we shall beat the Bosche — but after this war starts the greatest battle for freedom the world will ever have witnessed yet. We shall be fighting against a series of giant institutions; the bigger we let them get, the worse they'll be to beat, for the more slaves we'll be.

For Federal Union will turn us into a species of Homo taurus, or sheep sapiens. Decentralisation only is the way to freedom —small concerns welded gracefully together by both the lack of money-need and the fine and usual decency and honour which is incorporated into the characters of everyone who is given a chance to use these virtues.

Our policy must be - - smash Hitler, then smash those who would keep us as the war has left us. This will be the battle for freedom. It will be in the face of incredible odds, but we shall win. Not the corruptions of bureaucracy, but the spirit of the people, will prevail, and England will stand.

"He clasps the crag with crooked hands,  
Ringed with the azure world he stands."  
—to share it even with an American eagle? Says you!

## N.S.W. Electoral Campaign

THURSDAY NIGHT MEETINGS at the Campaign Centre, 296 Pitt-street, Sydney: Thursday, 11th September.—This will take the form of a welcome home to our Campaign Director, Mr. Arthur Chresby, from his Northern Tour. We invite all Sydney Campaigners along to hear what he has to say. Thursday, 18th September. — This evening will be conducted by speakers from the Democratic Federation of Youth.

### LITERATURE AVAILABLE:

"Tax Bonds or Bondage and the Answer to Federal Union," 1/3; "Hitler's Policy is a Jewish Policy," 1/-; "Behind Freemasonry," 9d. Postage 1d extra on all of the above publications. A second shipment of copies of Major Douglas's new book, "Signposts to Bondage," has been ordered owing to the exceptional demand, and, as a large number has already been booked, early application for copies is advised. Orders should be accompanied by cash, 3/6, and postage, 2d extra.



## ALIEN INFLUENCE IN ENGLAND

Douglas Reed's latest book, "A Prophet at Home," has caused quite a stir. Certain papers, particularly in, Sydney, have been reprinting certain chapters from this book. However, we note that all these papers studiously ignored Reed's chapters on the Jewish Question and kindred matters, which should be read by all loyal Britishers. With this end in view, we reprinted extracts on August 8 and 29. Here is another:

... But if Rupert Brooke had written twenty-five years later he would have known that, those two lines must come out, or else he would have had to find a fresh rhyme for "dews" for by the time the World War in which he died was resumed, no Englishman of his class and kind would have thought of writing anything which would set the critics yelping the dread name "anti-Semite."

By the time the World War was resumed, indeed, the general understanding had come to be that the Jews in Berlin were the most valuable citizens of that town, and that we were very lucky ourselves. By some further process of reasoning which was a little outside my comprehension, the general understanding seemed also to be that we should fight Germany to enable these people, whom we had been fortunate enough to obtain, to return there as soon as possible; this, as far as I could gather, was among "the things" we were about to fight for.

When I returned to England, on the eve of the new war which had become almost inevitable, I brought back with me a particular interest in this question, because for many years, since 1933, I had noticed, with growing misgiving, that, chiefly through the very great influence which the Jews in all countries exercised in the interest of their co-religionists, this relatively small aspect of an enormous problem was being set out of all proportion to the whole, that the entire wood was disappearing behind one tree.

It was patent that the number of Jews who would suffer from Hitlerism would never be more than a very small fraction of the entire number of sufferers; Czechs, Poles, Danes, Norwegians, Hollanders, Belgians, Frenchmen and Britishers, I knew, would suffer and die in thousands, if not millions, because of Hitler, and yet the sufferings of the Jews, through the power wielded by other Jews over the press, the films and the stage, were presented as the greatest and most terrible thing in all this stupendous tragedy.

The film, "The Great Dictator," produced by Charles Chaplin in peaceful Hollywood, is a case in point. The ignorant and credulous, seeing this astute production, which is half first-class humour and half very subtle propaganda, would gain the impression, similarly conveyed by many other films sent out from the same source, that the only people who suffered ill-treatment in Germany were the Jews, and that the Nazi Storm Troopers spent their entire time beating them up. Yet the number of Jews who suffered ill-treatment in Germany, save for the one violent outbreak in November, 1938, when a Nazi diplomat was murdered in Paris by a young Jew, was never more than a small fraction of the whole; the great bulk of victims and martyrs was composed of German non-Jews and of non-Jews in the countries overrun by Hitler.

Further, I seemed to see, as I watched the great movement of Jews from Germany to Britain and the British Dominions (many of them Jews who had come from Eastern Europe to Germany during the last war), that the mass of compassion mobilised by the great publicity machine at their disposal was being exploited to gain them employment, in large numbers, in countries whose men would soon be going off to war, and, with the

picture of Berlin after the war of 1914-18 in my mind, I greatly feared this development.

For the Jews as I had seen them in many European countries in those between-war years of full Jewish emancipation and freedom in no way resembled the Ghetto-community of benevolent, mankind-loving people who only wished to be left in peace and poverty that was shown in the Chaplin film (incidentally, there were no ghettos in Germany). Rather, had I found them, when all the gates of opportunity were opened wide to them, to practice that very doctrine which they so reviled and detested when it was turned against them by Hitler—discrimination. Discrimination against the Gentiles.

In the trades and industries and professions to which they penetrated, and ultimately controlled through the power of finance, they were most resolute in the progressive exclusion of Gentiles by methods of extremely ruthless inter-

collaboration. The figures are available and are irrefutable; such a state of affairs could not have come about by accident.

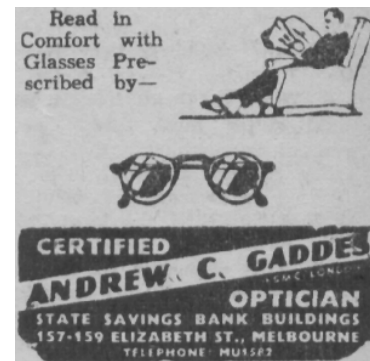
Moreover, this seemed to me quite natural, for it accorded with the teaching of the Jewish faith. And this seemed to me to be at once the weakest and the crucial point of the Jewish case, and one which all their champions and apologists implacably ignored, merely yelping in answer to it, "Anti-Semite"; that their religion was one of discrimination. The anti-Jewish teaching of National Socialism was but the direct inversion of the anti-Gentile teaching of the Hebrew religion, and this statement of the case cannot be refuted; it never is refuted, but is always ignored.

The Jews did not put their doctrines into practice through the medium of the concentration camp—they could not, because they were always numerically too weak in any particular country physically to subdue the majority. They used another medium—money and the power it gives, which can be enormously powerful in the hands even of a small minority, which is compact enough and if all its members understand the great idea.

So much for the brief background to the Jewish question which an Englishman brought with him to England after many

years in Germany and in other parts of Europe. Before I tell of what I saw in this country, I want to kill some of the more meaningless phrases, which are in current use, even by persons reputed to be of the highest education and intellect, in this controversy.

The first is "anti-Semitism." The word is used every day by millions of people who have read it somewhere and had no notion of what it means. On such a basis of ignorance do great debates proceed. The power, so strangely wielded, of the press and film today is so great that you need only to shout this word long and loud enough at the credulous masses for them to think that it is something akin to rabies or leprosy; that is probably why it was coined into the discussion.



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THE CONSPIRATORS.

Dr. Schacht (of the German Reichsbank) and Mr. Montagu Norman (Governor of the Bank of England) talking things over before the Second World War.

"In view of the disastrous policy followed by the Bank of England after the last war and the part it is believed to have played in the re-armament of Germany, does not the right hon. gentleman (Sir John Simon) consider it time that the people knew a bit more about the proprietors of this unique concern?"

—Mr. R. Stokes, in the British House of Commons, April 16, 1940.

## Masterpiece of Bureaucratic Bungling

(Continued from page 1.)

### PIGS BEFORE PEOPLE

When the Assistant Minister for Commerce in New South Wales (Mr. Anthony) was telling the people that growers would not suffer because they had been guaranteed a reasonable price by the Government, the president of the Orange branch of the Fruitgrowers' Defence League declared that "Fruitgrowers at Orange are faced with ruin because of the operation of the acquisition scheme. They will be going through the courts one after the other. I was stopped from selling twenty cases of apples, worth, perhaps, 9/- a case. I had to feed them to the pigs. We are being allowed 1/6 a tree for rejects, from which we could get six to eight cases."

### HUGE LOSSES

Whilst a New South Wales member of the Apple & Pear Board (Mr. J. Holmes) was declaring that charges that fruit growers would suffer huge losses were "grossly exaggerated," the Chief Secretary (Mr. Tonking), who is a grower at Orange, was pointing out that "much of the local crop would have to be used as stock feed." This was over six months ago, when Mr. Anthony's optimistic incompetence prompted him to suggest, "The price might not be as high as in normal years, but

total loss to growers. They received an advance of 2/- a case on 75 per cent of the full crop assessed in January (1941), and a further advance of 1/- a case is being paid on all fruit of a prescribed quality delivered to the market." The dialectical discourse which followed was a masterpiece of muddled thinking, in which the grower was offered a policy of appraisal appeasement, and the general public was fobbed off with: "Dry weather, high winds, and a heat wave caused heavy damage to crops." Which (after the mere bob-a-case extra sop to the producers, mind you!) was supposed to explain, "why prices of apples were so much higher this season."

That you "can't fool all the people all the time," should have been brought home to the consumers themselves when the Acquisition Committee (alias "Board," "Fraud" and "Hoard") were then quoting eaters at 6/- to 12/-, and cooks 5/- to 10/- per case! Apart from genuine reformers, the average John Citizen apparently sat in the shade of the old apple tree and, like Brer Rabbit, said "nuffin."

### DAILY PRESS ORTHODOXY

At approximately the same date the Melbourne "Herald" — true to

who think up the "official advices" for the daily press), on which score local consumers should have been two-thirds better off. "Seasonal conditions" (some of which were proved by investigation to be more artificial than natural, by the way) were blamed by the experts for a reduction in production in that year of (approximately, maybe, and perhaps) 3,000,000 cases, compared with the original "expert" estimate of 13,000,000.

### WILFUL DESTRUCTION

On a most conservative reckoning, therefore, we should have had a glut of apples in Australia; and we did! Hundreds of thousands of cases were lost by faulty marketing, fed to the pigs, ruined by the mismanagement of the Board of "Bigger Bungles," and left to rot under the noses of the men and women who had worried and worked to produce them. Muddled handling resulted in the dumping of large quantities of what were publicly admitted to be "High Quality Export Pears" on a garbage depot in Launceston. The press informed us that: "Dumping began today, when a lorry-load of the wrapped fruit was thrown away. A small fraction of over-ripe fruit was enough to condemn the lot. No one seemed to know," said one paper, "why the fruit could not go to the poor or to hospitals." This year, however, the daily-suppress has been forced to admit

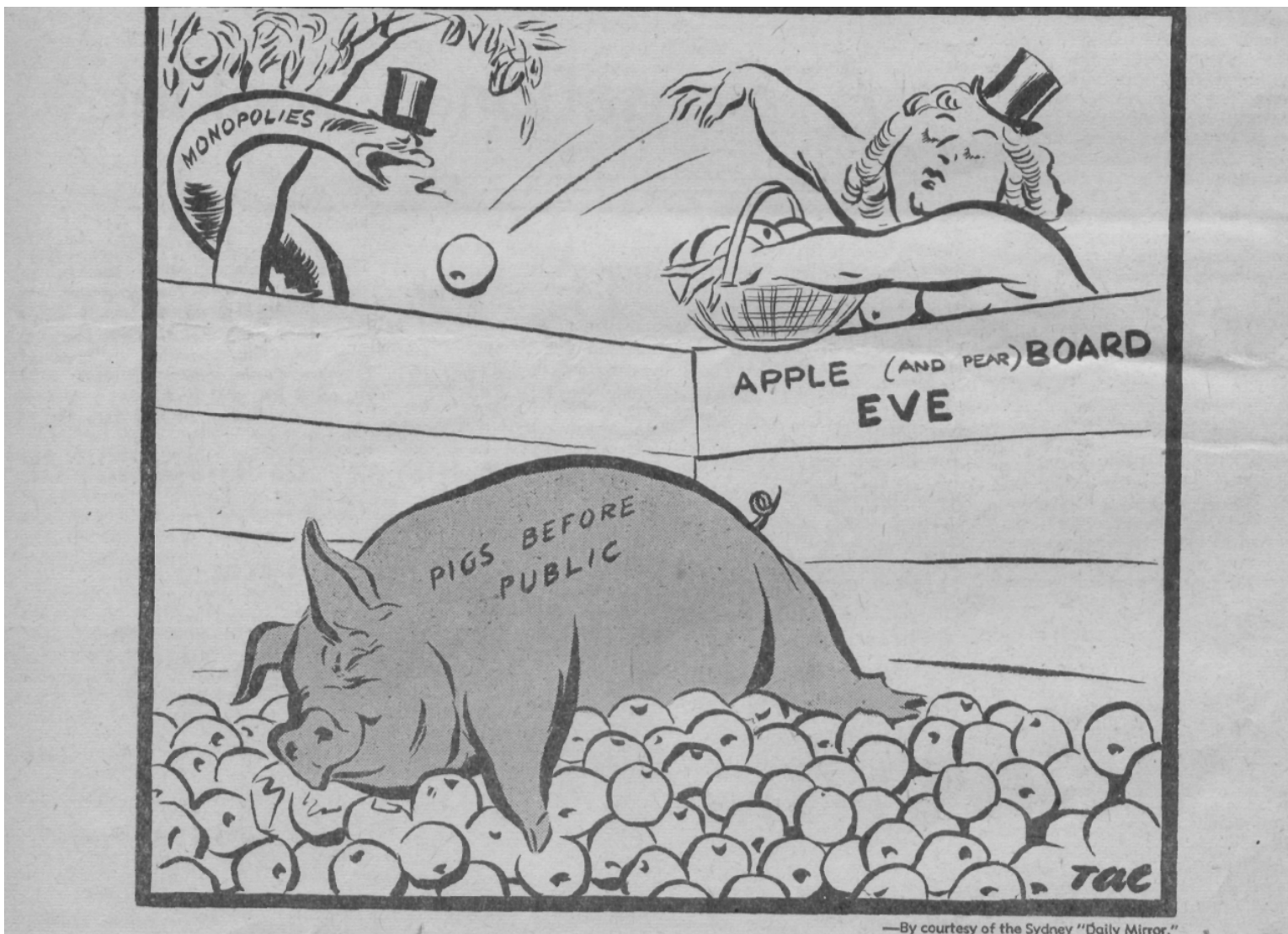
not by the Commonwealth Government, but BY ADOLF HITLER"! (I suppose, if Mussolini had been the senior partner in the Rome-Berlin axis, Mr. Hogan's week-kneed attempt to pass the buck would have been classed as a "Rome Beauty"!)

In contrast to this, the Tasmanian Public Relations Officer in Sydney, Mr. George Fitzpatrick, said: "I can hardly imagine that in Nazi Germany, millions of bushels of fruit would be allowed to ripen and rot instead of being given to hospitals and troops."

MUST conditions in Australia continue to force to the forefront such admissions as fodder for enemy propagandists?

### HITLERISM AT HOME

The A. & P. Board protects itself, as do the Onion and other Boards, by empowering itself "under certain circumstances" to "DIRECT THE ABANDONMENT OR DESTRUCTION OF ANY SPECIFIED PART OF THE CROP"! Surely those who, under the cloak of the "Board," dictate the entire policy in respect to producers, distributors and consumers, lack even the courage of the European dictator who gives, and assumes personal responsibility for, the orders to be carried out. Some day he will stand target for a bullet or be exiled perhaps; whilst the "Board" which today emulates his anti-social methods will have just faded out



—By courtesy of the Sydney "Daily Mirror."

it will certainly be more than growers would have received without Government ASSISTANCE"! Mr. E. Sampson, of Orange, on behalf of the growers, said; "The Commonwealth refuses to accept certain varieties of fruit, or fruit slightly hail-marked. They won't take it themselves, they won't let us sell it, and they won't even let us give it away!"

### "NEW TIMES" WARNING.

Over twelve months ago (long after the "New Times" had exposed the apple and pear racket and warned the public what to expect from Government interference in marketing, etc.), the Melbourne "Argus" had the audacity to tell the Australian public that: "Although hundreds of tons of apples were left to rot on the ground, this wastage was not a

policy of bluff and baloney—said: "No difficulty is expected in disposing of the whole of the 1940 crop, although only 1,500,000 cases have been exported to Britain against a normal pre-war export of 4,000,000 to 5,000,000. The crop, because of seasonal conditions, has been reduced from the estimate of 13,000,000 cases to less than 10,000,000 cases, and the Commonwealth is satisfied there will be no carry-over into next season."

Was not that season (1940), even with some parts of the country having experienced adverse weather conditions, most promising from the point of view of the Australian consumer? The export market had been reduced to less than one-third of the normal exportation (that is, of course, according to the "experts"

that so-called "surplus" fruit could not be distributed to the outback children who so greatly needed it "because of the apple and pear marketing regulations." The secretary of the Leeton branch of the Far West Children's Health Scheme (Mr. S. P. Dart) declared that no less than three tons of apples were carted to the local tip in one week.

Strange contrasts — some of which illustrate the distorted opinions formed by second-rate experts—are to be found among the views expressed by public men. According to a press report of September last year, the Victorian Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Hogan, told a deputation of apple-growers from Mornington Peninsular that the "Liberty of the apple-growers to sell their fruit as they wished had been taken away,

of existence without even having made an attempt to clean up the mess which it made.

### HEALTH AND HIGH FINANCE

To have to admit, as a so-called civilised race of people, that we have allowed God's gifts to be thrown back into His face, when thousands of our children in city and country (no less than 40 per cent, of them in some outback districts where fruit is almost unobtainable) are suffering from the dire effects of malnutrition, is little short of self-condemnation.

### ACQUISITION MEANS INQUISITION AND IMPOSITION.

It is patent that the operations of the scheme have blocked the (Continued on page 8.)

## WHY THE COMPULSORY TRAINING SYSTEM ISN'T POPULAR

(Continued from page 1.)

and antiquated financial system which has brought the British Empire to the present pass. It's rather a pity that Army authorities wouldn't investigate this money question a little more closely, instead of trying to work under a continual money shortage. Unfortunately, from my observations of some of these authorities, they are more concerned with exercising their authority and the power they derive from their positions than in exercising their mental faculties in connection with such things as the money problem; and there is still too much of the 'old school tie' outlook. Perhaps Hitler's greatest asset is the fact that he never had an old school tie to wear. It is encouraging to learn that special lectures on the financial swindle are being given in certain parts of England to officers in the British army.

### THE MAJOR GRIEVANCES

Even supposing that it were made financially possible to equip and train a permanent force of 200,000 men, it would be still necessary to see that all eligible men were trained as a supplementary force; and when I say all eligible men, I mean all eligible men. The present scheme is limited by money-scarcity, as witnessed by the fact that married men with children have not yet been called up. A man with a wife and children has as much at stake as a single man—perhaps more. We hear a lot about equality of sacrifices, but very rarely see it practised. If it is necessary for men to be called up for a certain period of training every year, after having established a permanent force, then all these men should receive at least the basic wage; and many other improvements could be made. After interviewing many men in my own Brigade, now training at Mt. Martha, Victoria, I have classified the following as the main causes of lack of enthusiasm:

(1) A man's future prospects are very much lessened by the miserable pay. I have heard many bitter comments, such as: "These politicians don't appear to be doing much sacrificing." Trainees also feel very strongly about the fact that their associates in civil life who have received exemptions are still drawing good money while they are receiving five shillings a day.

(2) If men are to be segregated from the rest of the community in order to undergo military training, the Government should see that every effort is made to provide the men with reasonable recreational facilities. It has been left to voluntary organisations such as the Y.M.C.A. to struggle along as best they can. Needless to say, these organisations are hampered by the old, old trouble—lack of money.

I am convinced that if Mr. Spender would do something about this matter, he would be doing something practical to justify his title of Minister of the Army. This lack of recreational facilities is one of the greatest causes of dissatisfaction at the moment. No wonder that trainees become bored and lose their enthusiasm. It wouldn't be a bad idea if universal trainees told Mr. Spender what they think about this matter. If they don't, they only have themselves to blame if no improvements are effected. I am quite convinced that they will not be effected without such protest. Should Mr. Spender and others think that recreational facilities are adequate, I would advise them to pay a visit to Mt. Martha sometime and obtain the views of the trainees.

(3) The third major cause of dissatisfaction is, without doubt, the food. I have read a lot about the diet being offered to the Aus-

tralian forces, and, personally, I regard it as I regard many other things in this country, definitely in need of a drastic overhaul. Germany is supposed to be a bankrupt country—at least, our financial wizards used to tell us that—and yet I have heard the opinion expressed by one of the finest authorities on diet in this country, a man who spent some time in some of the biggest European health clinics before the war, that the German Army is the best fed army in the world. As in most other things, the authorities in this country seem to think that the ideas of twenty-five years ago are good enough today. They are not. This country is so rich in real wealth that we have great campaigns telling us to eat more of this and more of that. I can assure those who are trying to get rid of these surpluses that I would be prepared to eat more of their oranges and apples, and drink more of their milk—and many could be found to drink the surplus wine we have been hearing about—if the army will include it in the rations. So will the rest of the men. However, apart from rare occasions, the only way that men can obtain these things is by buying them, out of their magnificent wage of five shillings a day at the Army Canteen. In passing, I have heard it said that the profits from these canteens are used on behalf of the men. Many, like myself, have asked when we are going to get the benefits.

Plans for feeding the army are limited by the amount of money available—and not by the possible supply of foodstuffs, as common sense would suggest. Even the B.M.A. states that at least an apple a day should be eaten. Universal trainees have never seen an apple a day—unless they picked them up off the ground in the various orchards. And yet we are told that over a million cases of apples have been destroyed as a result of the Apple and Pear Board!

### EFFECTS OF THE COMPULSORY SCHEME

Personally, I am very dubious about the real objects of the compulsory scheme. It has been openly suggested that more men would join the A.I.F. if they were told that they were to be kept in camp for the duration of the war. This is an insult to the eligible men in this country. If recruiting is not as successful as we would like it to be, the Government only has itself to blame. The financial policy being pursued is not calculated to stir any great enthusiasm anywhere. The production of war equipment is still dragging along in second gear. Red tape and financial restrictions are hampering our effort at every turn. Staggering reports from both Britain and America are now telling the people what I was saying twelve months ago. The present financial system has got to go. Army authorities can help if they put their weight in the right direction. Unless the present financial system goes, a maximum war effort is impossible, as many people are now learning, not only in this country, but also in Britain and America.

The effects of the compulsory scheme on industry, both primary and secondary, are only increasing the already alarming trend towards more centralisation in this country. Small manufacturers are slowly but surely being crushed out. This suits the financiers very nicely. They desire everything to be run by big monopolies, the bigger the better.

When the war is over and, notwithstanding Mr. Spender's promises, men start to look for jobs again, they will only be able to work for the monopolies—other

employers having been eliminated. The same results are being achieved in the primary-producing areas, where the situation is becoming chaotic. To call men up from primary producing areas at the present time is sabotaging production and crushing out the small producer. If the knowledge we trainees have learnt, so far, is sufficient to form the basis of a modern soldier's knowledge, then I am convinced that the lads in the country could learn as much from local instructors in two or three afternoons per week. Ex-A.I.F. men have offered their services in this connection—without avail—in several centres I visited during a recent tour of Victoria.

### IS THE YOUNG GENERATION PATRIOTIC?

There is no denying the fact that the young generation today is very cynical. I have heard many expressions used in the Army, which wouldn't pass any censor in this country. If ever a set of conditions were designed to drive men towards Communism, those conditions are being fostered in Australia today. And the tragedy of the whole situation is the fact that those who prattle so much about their loyalty are doing nothing to remove the causes of this growing cynicism. The Army is going to start an educational scheme for the men. Lectures are to be given on national and international affairs. Needless to say, no information will be given—unless I am very mistaken—about the real forces behind the scenes. International Finance will not be mentioned. No adequate explanation of what the British Commonwealth of Nations really stands for, in the way of decentralised government and local autonomy, will be given. The part that Jewish Finance has played in distorting the real history of the British Empire will not be mentioned. If only the people of this country could be given the real facts, I am convinced that we would build a foundation for more real patriotism in this country—a patriotism determined to maintain and extend the sovereignty of the British peoples. I would suggest to the Army authorities that they do something along these lines—and they always know where to find me if they want some lectures of that nature delivered. However, I don't expect this to happen. But we are to have lectures by Friends of the Soviet Union. In fact, unless the press reports are incorrect, the Army desires books on Communism for use in the Army. And I, of all people, have been accused of being a Communist on many occasions! The situation is rather staggering—in fact, almost funny.

### SOME SUGGESTIONS.

Summing the matter up, I would suggest the following to Mr. Spender and his colleagues:

(1) The immediate establishment of a permanent force of a minimum of 150,000 volunteers, specially trained with modern weapons and in modern methods of warfare—not 1914-18 methods—and adequately paid. Such a system would be most democratic, would get the best type of man for the job in the Army, and wouldn't wreck industry. If we are short of equipment, then it is high time that all our resources were used instead of allowing the continuance of dictation by finance-monopolies.

(2) Every eligible man, married and single who can be spared from industry for a few months every year, to be trained for a supplementary force. Every man to be paid at least the basic wage, with adequate allowances for wife and children, while in camp.

(3) Camps to be brought up to date (New Zealand soldiers re-

## United Democrats' Report

From Headquarters, 17 Wymouth-street, Adelaide.

Lunch Hour Speakers: On Friday, September 5, the Rev. E. H. Woollacott will speak on the "New International Order," as outlined in the manifesto published in the "Advertiser" in Adelaide on August 18. On the following Friday, September 12, Mr. Quirke, M.L.A., will speak on "Parliamentary Topics." By way of variety, on October 3, we are to hear Mr. A. E. W. Short, an Adelaide paper merchant, speaking on "Paper Making in Australia."

Bridge and Checkers Evening: Owing to the unexpected resignation of the honorary secretary, and the difficulty of getting some one to carry on, meantime, in her place, the above meetings will be held as stated, subject to the condition that it is possible to carry on "business as usual." Miss Gray has been appointed secretary to the Housewives' Association in Adelaide, which has a large membership in South Australia. She believes that since women possess half the voting strength of the country, something more could, and should, be done to spread the ideas of the new economics among woman's organisations; and has hopes that, in her new sphere, she may find opportunity to point the way to economic security and lower costs of living, and may be able, by small and judicious doses, to inoculate many who are at present outside the pale of our own organisations and progressive ideas. She will, nevertheless, retain her association with the movement in every possible way, and do whatever work lies in her power to do, for her zeal for the cause is undiminished.

cently stated that, compared with Australian camps, including A.I.F., the New Zealand camps are like first-class hotels.) Decent recreational facilities to be provided in order to keep men contented.

If the Government would adopt these suggestions, and start to give some tangible evidence of the "new order" we have been hearing so much about, instead of continually playing the old, old "sacrifice" record, then morale in this country would start to soar. Unless some improvement is made, and if we continue to go on in our present shilly-shallying way with the present universal-trainee system, the men are going to lose in initiative and morale.

In conclusion: Should Mr. Spender or anyone else desire to know where the money should come from to carry out the above suggestions, I will be only too pleased to enlighten them. But Mr. Spender knows. He won't do anything until he is forced by an enlightened and aroused public opinion.

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## MASTERPIECE OF BUREAUCRATIC BUNGLING

(Continued from page 6.)

usual channels of distribution by regulations, clauses and sections, and prevented any opportunity for the natural law of supply and demand to function. In one period last year, 26,000 cases of apples were landed from Tasmania; during the same period this year only 94 cases came over. In the meantime good apples were retailing in Sydney at as much as 4d and 5d each! The "Sydney Morning Herald" admitted that "normal" consumption would absorb only half the apple crop, and that if 2,000,000 more cases could be sold as a result of the "EAT MORE FRUIT" appeal, there would still be approximately 500,000,000 apples which the present scheme would be incapable of handling. Would the distribution of these gratis to the thousands of poverty-stricken people in our slum areas have affected the sale of fruit to those who happen to have enough money? I think not. But, because of bureaucratic hide-bound bungling they were left to rot in red tape, whilst kiddies were encouraged to enter competitions in which handsome money prizes were offered for the best essay, commencing with: "I eat apples every day because —" entries to be accompanied by 12 pips! Because there was no market (a market is people with money in their pockets) for three million cases of apples and pears at one period, the Federal Government's "solution" was to offer twenty guineas for the best poster urging the people to "Eat More Fruit"!

Not one in a hundred fruit-drink shops sells apple-cider; O.T. Ltd. used to buy about 200 tons of apples each year for factory purposes, but the growers were prevented from selling to them, and in a letter to the press, the director, Mr. J. Dixon, complained that he had been unable to get apples from the Board, and asked what was wrong. Maybe he knows now.

### PEOPLE KEPT DIVIDED.

Matters appear to have gone from bad to worse, in spite of the fact that newspapers have told, and retold, the tragic story for over eighteen months. Persons have been fined for not registering their crops, for selling fruit privately, and for giving it away. One grower was fined £2, with £2/2/- costs, for TRYING to sell a solitary case of apples! Provided only that the people, as a whole,

agree to accept any set of regulations, their imposition is valid and becomes law. In the case of the Apple and Pear Board, however, it has been clear all along that every section of the community has opposed the actions of the Board as uncompromisingly as the grower fights the blight. Why then, we might ask, has the community not risen in sufficient strength to alter, or remove altogether, such unsanctioned regulations? There is but one answer. The Australian public has once again been divided; it has fought a losing battle by adhering to sectional issues. Once again the general effects have been studied whilst the principal cause has been ignored. The case of the apples and pears is yet another case of actual plenty and potential abundance being restricted and destroyed to fit in with a faulty financial system. The capacity of the average income does not allow for more than necessities — it has made a common, natural food into a luxury in a country which could flood the larders of its 7,000,000 people with almost every foodstuff the world knows, and if necessary (and possibly the near future will prove the correctness of this assertion) feed most of Europe. One only needs to travel the irrigation areas of Australia to gain an idea of what colossal production we, as a primary producing nation, are capable.

Well, we may not have had the apples, but at least the Board has given us the pip! It has bossed, bungled, and blighted on a scale hitherto unimagined. It has beaten and broken large numbers of our fruit-growers to a state bordering on despair, and insulted our intelligence with its "apples cure constipation—preserve children's teeth" advertisement, AT OUR EXPENSE—physically and financially. WHAT SHALL WE DO ABOUT IT? The Board's actions have been undemocratic to a degree that should have whipped up public opinion to a demand for its complete wipeout; instead, the press has diverted public pressure into the various sectional channels. That, together with blind public acceptance of the "shortage-of-money" system, has produced the stalemate.

Regardless of those individuals who comprise the Apple and Pear Board, we have representatives of the people who are responsible to the people directly. If we fail to see that our wishes are carried

## BANKERS AND BABIES

In the course of a radio talk, broadcast from 3KZ on August 10, Mr. J. Bradshaw, A.F.I.A., uttered the following pertinent comment:

Big business and banking magnates would have us believe that they are imbued with high ideals of service, whereas, the truth is that modern business is nothing better than a series of sordid rackets; it is destitute of ideals; and, the financial system, controlled by private bankers, is a form of legalised counterfeiting, because it allows these private banks, by creating credits which serve all the purposes of money, to usurp the prerogative of the King.

Many times in recent years has the cry been made in this land for larger families. "We must populate or perish," politicians and others have told us. Well, what has society to offer the children who are born into this world now? To other than children of the privileged, it has nothing to offer except exploitation, retardation, frustration, oppression! Big Business wants more babies so that it may exploit them; banking magnates want more babies to enslave in the vicious, fraudulent debt and taxation system from which they (the bankers) draw perpetual interest! More babies—Australia's best migrants—are wanted to offer up as a burnt offering on the debased, debasing, pagan, altar of power, privilege, profit—that altar on which human blood is poured out as incense! That altar whose high priests are deaf, impervious to the cries of human anguish which rend the air from within and without the sanctuary!

Let us again ask the question: what has the economic and social order to offer Australia's best migrants? From the minute of their birth, it lays on them the yoke of National Debt, to the extent of approximately £190 per head. Incidentally, the interest on that National Debt increases the principal at the rate of £1 13/4 per second, or £6000 per hour. The present order, then, offers children malnutrition in this land of abundance. It offers them an educational system, which creates and perpetuates class distinctions, which is designed to preserve the economic status quo, and which offers little more than training for a trade or profession. Our education system thinks of

out, then responsibility inevitably falls back upon ourselves, and all our hopes of real Democracy will rot with the "surplus" apples.

children as units, instead of as individuals each with a personality; if it teaches them more or less thoroughly, to earn a living, it undoubtedly has failed to teach our young citizens how to live; it has failed lamentably to inculcate the basic principles of democracy. Such failure is evidenced not only by the fact that more than 100,000 informal votes are cast in each Federal election; it is evidenced also by widespread apathy toward public affairs generally; apathy engendered, no doubt, by the erroneous notion that democracy consists of recording a vote, intelligent or unintelligent, once every three years, and then forgetting that there is a Parliament, forgetting that we each have a representative in that Parliament, and that it is our right, our duty as citizens, to keep in touch with our member, and to inform him of what WE want, and of what we DO NOT want.

Do you believe that a truly democratic policy of social reform submitted by a political party to the people, and unanimously endorsed by the people, could be implemented without terrific opposition from vested interests—and more particularly, from the Money Power? If you do believe that it could, just recall a statement made by the late Joseph Lyons, our former Prime Minister, in a speech at the Adelaide Town Hall prior to the elections of 1937. "The banks," said Mr. Lyons, "had confidence in my Government, and we were able to carry on." That admission made by Mr. Lyons should be sufficient to convince us that those who control the funds, control Governments, whatever the party.

### Progress in England

From London, the Economic Reform Club reports:

"Things are naturally very difficult now, and constructive work seems almost impossible at times. Yet we are very much encouraged at the constant increase in membership and subscribers; and we dispose of more literature now than ever before. Added to this, we celebrated our fifth anniversary on June 24."

This monetary-reform group has been twice bombed, at two different locations.

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