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THE NEW TIMES

Vol.7. No. 38. MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, SEPT. 26, 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).

Bar To Greater War Effort

Obsolete Finance, says M.H.R.

Further confirmation of the view that the Federal Government hampers the war effort by obstinately clinging to obsolete methods of finance discarded by Hitler, was provided the other day by Mr. Ward, M.H.R. According to "Hansard" (No. 12, page 159), he said:

"When the budget compromise was made, last year—let me add that I did not put much reliance upon the Government's assurances in that connection—the Opposition was promised that the Advisory War Council and the Commonwealth Bank Board would be taken into conference regarding possible alterations of the financial policy of the country. In actual fact, the Government has been willing to make concessions in many directions, but not in respect of their financial policy. The nation cannot possibly be properly organised while the Government allows the control of its financial policy to remain in the hands of private individuals or companies. After the outbreak of the war, honorable gentlemen opposite said, in effect: "Everything will be all right if we can hang out for twelve months. Unless the Germans can win decisive victories within a year the whole structure of the German nation will collapse, for its financial basis will not be strong enough to carry the load" Those views have proved to be entirely wrong. Germany has constructed the greatest military and national organisation in, the world, with the possible exception of Russia, but it has been done only by departing from orthodox financial methods. No one can believe for a moment that if any work in Germany was required to be undertaken, Hitler would say: "We cannot proceed with this enterprise because we have not sufficient money for the

purpose." Such a situation in Germany is inconceivable, but that is what is happening in this country. In New South Wales, men were working for two weeks in four, on what was described as an essential defence road; in the second portion of the period they sat in their camps doing nothing, and received bare sustenance. The Government said that the work could not be proceeded with more rapidly, because the necessary funds were not available. I do not know whether it believes that this is an illustration of proper organisation of the nation. Complaints of inefficiency and incapacity to deal with the situation have been voiced in many quarters. Members of our organisations, upon whose word we can rely and who have acted in different capacities, have told us of shortcomings in relation to (Continued on page 6.)

ACTING FOR WALL STREET?

From the British "Hansard" report for July 19:

Mr. Stokes asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer how the valuation of shares for the sale of the American Viscose Company to America was arrived at; and what was the urgency for continuing the sale, in view of the lease of bases to the United States of America and the decision of the Canadian Government with regard to gold payments?

Sir Kingsley Wood: "These shares were sold to the public by an American banking syndicate at the best price at which it appeared that they could be successfully placed on the market. The object of the sale was to add to our exchange resources, and I would remind my hon. Friend that our need of foreign exchange remains great, despite the far-reaching assistance given to us as regards new supplies by the United States under the Lease-Lend Act and by the helpful attitude of the Canadian Government."

Mr. Stokes: "Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the 'New York Times' described the sale as

detrimental to Britain? Does he propose to continue this policy of forced sales?"

Sir Kingsley Wood: "I am not acquainted with what the 'New York Times' said."

SUNDRY NOTES ON THE NEWS

By ERIC D BUTLER

In spite of doubt expressed in some quarters last week, Mr. Montagu Norman has been reappointed Governor of the Bank of England for another term. The "Enemy Within" is still in a powerful position, and must be beaten if this war is to be won for the British people.

The Melbourne "Argus" of September 22 quotes the "Sunday Pictorial" (England) as follows: "Mr. Norman, still believing that gold is the thing that matters, and not human lives, is still our money dictator, and, whether we like it or not, we have to be ruled by him."

It is amazing that the orthodox press can print so much nonsense about the menace of inflation and continue to get away with it. The following item of news appeared in the Melbourne "Herald" of September 19:

"WASHINGTON, Thursday. —The first authoritative analysis of Germany's war debt appears in the newspaper, "Commerce Weekly." It reveals that the debt increased from 52 thousand million Reichmarks to 101 thousand million Reichmarks in the ten months ended June. The

rise is considered large in view of the fact that the upkeep of the German armies of occupation is usually paid by the Governments of the countries occupied, and in addition the Germans have manipulated the currencies of most countries to their own advantage, and have purchased raw materials and provisions with spurious 'occupation' Reichmarks. Economists consider that the present situation is 'explosive.' If the Germans lost confidence in their economy, an inflationary conflagration would be likely, similar to the post-war debacle which ruined the German middle classes after 1914-18."

(My emphasis.)

We have had far too much of this nonsense. The only thing "explosive" about Germany is the manner in which Hitler has made his internal financial system serve his aim for European domination. This "blah" about the Germans losing "confidence" is almost high treason at the present time. We will never beat Germany by bleating these wishful, nonsensical platitudes. We want action—purposeful action, with all financial impediments on our war effort swept aside.

* * *

Although Mr. Churchill appears to think that he is the greatest military strategist of all time, and can direct the entire war on his own, other members of the British House of Commons have been very forth-

BANKS FIRST, BRITONS LAST

From the British "Hansard" report for July 1:

Mr. Stokes asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will now cause the Bank Rate to be reduced to 1 per cent, and insist on the demolition of the syndicate control of the Treasury discount rate, thereby enabling that discount rate to be reduced to 1 per cent, with great advantage to the community?

Sir Kingsley Wood: "No, sir."

Mr. Stokes: "Will the Chancellor explain why he considers it inadvisable to reduce the Bank Rate and to exercise the powers which he undoubtedly possesses to the common advantage?"

Sir Kingsley Wood: "I have on many occasions endeavoured to explain the position to my hon. Friend."

Mr. Stokes: "I know all about those answers. But would the Chancellor not agree that it would be to the advantage of the Treasury if this kind of syndicate were abolished and a free market allowed?"

Sir Kingsley Wood: "It would be very dangerous for me to agree with my hon. Friend."

Mr. Stokes: "Will the right hon. Gentleman look at what is said in other countries? It is commonly said that he is acting in the interests of Wall Street and no one else."

THE GF (Continued from Page 1.)

war with us, but we are doing the bleeding and dying, and our people have as much right—and more right—to know what this is all about as the great American Republic and its leaders across the water."

Mr. Henry Strauss: "Assuming for the moment that the German Government do not know what Herr Hess has said in this country, does the hon. Member think it very desirable that we should tell them? If we told the American Government and the American Government had gone on to tell the American people, then I should agree with what the hon. Member has said, but if we told the American Government as a friendly Government and it is to go no further, surely that is a very different thing from publishing the information and telling the German Government, who may be in ignorance of what Hess has said."

Mr. Stokes: "I quite understand the point of view of my hon. Friend, or half friend, opposite, but I do not suggest for a moment that any statement should be made by our Government which would be of great assistance to the enemy. However, the suspicion, which is getting into the minds of our people, is that we have got to defer to the American Government on these subjects, and cannot decide these major matters for ourselves. No public pronouncement has yet been made in America, but, knowing America as I do, I do not think it will be very long before there is one, and I should not be in the least surprised to hear that there is a semi-authentic statement made there long before the House of Commons has received any information from the Government, having regard to the experience we have had of this Government during the last few months on such matters. But the charge, which I want to lay at the door of the Government, is that of terminological inexactitude, or whatever is the Prime Minister's term for these half-statements, which is worse than direct untruths. In his statement on this subject on 22nd May, the Secretary of State for Air said: 'The Duke of Hamilton did not recognise the prisoner and had never met the Deputy-Fuhrer.' I do not know whether we are really expected to believe that. . . . From all I have heard and been told about people who have flown and belonged to various flying clubs on the Continent, there is no doubt whatsoever that the Duke of Hamilton knew Hess well to speak to and certainly by sight. Why, then, put over a stilly sort of

untruth of this kind? I am making no imputation whatsoever against the Duke of Hamilton. Why should he not know Hess? He has travelled in Germany as a lot of us have done, and he had a right to get in touch with the leaders of that country and try to understand their point of view. My complaint is against the stupidity of the Government in putting out what I believe to be an inaccurate statement of this kind. Indeed, there may be further support for what I say.

" . . . It appears, so far as I have been able to understand, that on the arrival of this stranger he asked to see the Duke of Hamilton. It appears that the Duke was engaged as a serving officer in an aerodrome not very far away, and that he went with the security officer of that aerodrome to see Hess, and, when he saw him we are asked to believe that he did not know it was Hess. Is it not true that the Duke of Hamilton was left alone with Hess for 11 hours, with the security officer outside? What is the advisability of that, unless there was some acquaintanceship or understanding, which might produce information of great value to this country? Surely it seems perfectly clear that he had knowledge of the man before he met him here? The Secretary of State for Air goes on to say in his statement: 'Contrary to reports which have appeared in some newspapers, the Duke has never been in correspondence with the Deputy Fuhrer.'—[Official Report, 22nd May 1941, col. 1591, Vol. 371.] How does that tie up with the gymnastics of the Minister of Information? Apparently he seems to have told press correspondents that some time before a letter had been received by the Duke of Hamilton from Hess. It is not said what happened to the letter, but no doubt it was handed over to the appropriate authorities in the ordinary way. But that statement is completely contradictory of what the Secretary of State for Air said in this House on 22nd May. . . . Finally, we have now the cheerful rumour that Hess is living at Chequers? Why has he gone to Chequers? I do not know whether it is true or not, but it is common talk. Why cannot we be told some element of truth instead of having these ridiculous contradictory statements?"

Major Vyvyan Adams: "What is the authority for saying that that is the present residence of Hess?"

Mr. Stokes: "I am not going to give my authority. I know very well what my hon. and gallant Friend wants me to say. I know what happens to people who give information to Members of this

House, when you reveal names . . . I think it is generally recognised now that Hess, for better or worse, brought some kind of peace proposal."

Mr. Ellis Smith: "It may be for worse."

Mr. Stokes: "My hon. Friend is no doubt a much better soothsayer and visionary than myself, but I prefer to take the facts as I find them. I do not wish the Government to make any statement which is of use to the enemy, but I do say, if there was a statement or proposal of any kind, then the people of this country, who are bearing the heat of the battle, have a right to be told the truth and nothing but the truth, and that the methods in which the Government have so far indulged have brought nothing but discontent and suspicion."

Mr. Strauss: ". . . I say that, whatever Herr Hess says, it will remain a fact that there are two possibilities, that he came with the knowledge of the German Government or that he came without their knowledge. If he came without their knowledge it would be a mistake of the first magnitude to enlighten them on what he has done or said here. If he came with their knowledge, it would be the greatest mistake to make it clear, either directly or indirectly, whether his desire to deceive us had succeeded. For those reasons I believe the Government have been entirely right not to make a statement, and I believe that the House, by an overwhelming majority in every quarter, is willing to leave the matter to the discretion of the Prime Minister."

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Butler): ". . . There is no mystery or confusion about Hess. Hess is a prisoner of war, and is being treated as such."

" . . . The speech of the Lord Provost has come to the attention of the Government. . . . I will say quite simply that from the Government's point of view he was not in any way authorised to make such a statement. It was made entirely upon his own authority, and, I can only suppose, from his own surmise."

" . . . The hon. Member for Ipswich (Mr. Stokes) raised various questions about whether the Duke of Hamilton had or had not seen Hess."

Mr. Stokes: "Knew Hess, I said."

Mr. Butler: "Whether the Duke of Hamilton knew Hess or whether correspondence had taken place before between Hess and the Duke. On that, I have nothing to add to the statement made by the Secretary of State for Air. That was an official expression of the view of the Government, and was given to the House on the 22nd May."

" . . . It is a reasonable request that the British public should share as far as possible the inner thoughts and knowledge of the Government, and there has been no desire either in those instances or any other for the Government to conceal from the British public anything which would alleviate its anxiety or do anything which would in any way make it more difficult for the public to stand up to the shocks and difficulties of the war. But in this case we do not believe that we have anything to say which would make for an improved effort by the public, and we do not believe that by not saying anything we in any way depress the morale of the public . . ."

Mr. Sloan: ". . . Here we have an individual who flies from Germany to Scotland—of all places in the world. Why Scotland? [Interruption.] I hear someone say that it is a neutral area. In any case, he flies 800 miles. He was an experienced flyer, as the hon. Member for Maryhill said, who flew a considerable distance over

Scottish waters and over Scottish land, over land where there were Scottish farmers, watchers, members of the Army and the Air Force and the Observer Corps, with all the necessary equipment, and landed within a few miles of his proposed object. We were told by a representative of the Air Ministry that from the very moment Hess baled out, a Spitfire was on his tail, but the Spitfire on his tail was Davy Maclean with his pitchfork. The common experience in Scotland is, discuss it with anybody you like, that, if Hess had been able to land and had not cracked his silly little ankle, he would have carried out his mission and would have returned to Germany without the people of Scotland knowing anything at all about it."

Sir Percy Hurd: "He could not have done so unless they had given him petrol."

Mr. Sloan: "He would have got the petrol all right; there is plenty of petrol there. . . . It is inconceivable that this perilous journey was undertaken without some motive behind it. We are told that the motive was that he was fleeing from his enemies inside Germany. That may be true; we cannot tell. But surely the people who have been interviewing Hess must know by this time. The stories that have been floating about and the things said in the country and press and on the wireless, have raised a tremendous amount of dubiety in the minds of the people of the country. Before this mystery deepens and becomes as silent as the grave, it is the Government's duty to tell us at the earliest possible moment what is behind the arrival of Hess in this country."

OBSERVATIONS ON THE ENGLISH

I write of the English character because I think I understand England better than other European countries. The spirit of the English people is more akin to the spirit of the Chinese people, for both nations are worshippers of realism and common sense. Both peoples have a profound distrust of logic and are extremely suspicious of arguments that are too perfect. We believe that when an argument is too logical it cannot be true. And both countries are more gifted at doing the right things than at giving happy reasons for doing them. For this reason, it is very difficult to appreciate the quality of English greatness, and the English people are consequently often accused of hypocrisy, inconsistency, and a genius for "muddling through."

All this misunderstanding arises from a perverted idea that abstract thinking is the highest function of the human mind, to be valued over and above simple common sense. Now the first function of nations, as of animals, is to know how to live, and, unless you learn how to live and adjust yourself to changing circumstances, all your thinking is futile. The human brain is not just an organ for thinking; its first function is to sense danger and preserve life. This type of thinking is usually called common sense.

A nation with a robust common sense is not a nation that does not think, but rather a nation which has subjugated its thinking to its instinct for life. The English people think, but never allow themselves to be lost in logical abstractions. That is the greatness of the English mind and the reason for England's amazing power and stability. She has always fought the right war and always given the wrong reasons for her choice.

—Lin Yutang, in "With Love and Irony."

TO OUR READERS

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'THE FACTS OF WAR FINANCE'

A Talk Broadcast from 7HO, Hobart, at 8.15 p.m. on Sunday, September 21, by James Guthrie, B.Sc.

During this month of September there will be many exciting times in the House of Representatives in Canberra. Great issues are at stake, and there will be many excited arguments in the lobbies of Parliament, in the hotels and bank parlours round Canberra, for millions of pounds are at stake; also, great principles are at stake.

Over £300 million has to be found this year by the Federal Government, and the manner in which this money is to be found is going to make a very great difference to many people in Australia, it is also going to make a vast difference in the industrial output of the country.

The engineering firms which are producing the munitions of war in England consider the methods used of financing the war so vital that they have addressed a long memorandum to the British Government showing how the financial policy of the Government is crippling the war effort, stopping expansion and victimising those who are trying their utmost to increase production.

The financial policy of the Federal Government is the most important war issue facing Australia at the present time. Beside it everything else falls into the background.

Unfortunately, the Australian people have never been permitted to see the financial position clearly and honestly. There is too much money involved and too many powerful vested interests able to spend lavishly on false propaganda.

When we strike a military problem the position is relatively simple; we call in the best military experts for the job. The same applies to an engineering problem. But when we strike a problem of national finance, who can we call in to assist the Government? Most of the so-called financial experts are employed by the private banks, or they hope to be so employed. At any rate, if they do not agree with the policy of the private banks, their future, for various reasons, is very uncertain and obscure, and not at all financial.

However, the position is much better than it was. Independent men of education, scientific training and business experience have launched so many attacks on the professional economist and reduced their ridiculous arguments to mince-meat, that nowadays the great, financial experts have got to get A.B.C. announcers to put over their stuff for them, either under no name or under some other person's name.

This is all to the good, because it shows clearly that the Money Power can no longer give to its hired servants the fame and the kudos of by-gone days. The pressure of enlightened public opinion is beginning to tell.

Nevertheless, there are a lot of statements being made in public about finance, which are very misleading, being a mixture of truth with half-truths, false logic and similes, which have little relevance to the case under discussion.

The question of taxation is a case in point. In essence we are told that the war has to be paid for and we must pay in cash by increased taxes; that we cannot have both guns and butter. If we want more guns we must have less butter; the money we used to spend on butter must now be spent on guns that, we are told, can only be done by taking some of the money we spent on butter and giving it to the Government to spend on guns.

Further, we are told, a war cannot be fought without sacrifices; we must all make sacrifices and, therefore, pay more taxes. Also, if the Government, instead of taking money from us in the form of taxes, issues extra money by means of central bank credit, that the extra money in circulation will create a demand for extra goods which are no longer available; thus we will have more money in circulation than there are goods to back it.

Now, these arguments sound very reasonable to people who are not

in possession of the real facts, and who are easily mesmerised by abstract phrases.

In order that you can give of your best to the national war effort, it is essential that you should have a reasonable idea of where you stand amidst the wildly conflicting advice that is showered on us by men who have little conception of the real position.

The mistakes made in the arguments just put forward are these: Sacrifices have to be made in time of war, but there are various kinds of sacrifices which can be made—some essential, some not essential, some of "great value, some not only of no value but of great harm to the nation.

Sacrifice is a thing associated with the pagan tribes of many countries. In times of disaster tribesmen used to sacrifice their eldest sons to the almighty gods; others used to fling young girls to the crocodiles; others used to slaughter animals to appease whoever they thought was inflicting disaster upon them.

These were the primitive ideas of ignorant savages, and the idea of sacrifice has been preached in various forms for centuries because unscrupulous and ambitious rulers found it useful to subjugate unwilling subjects.

This kind of sacrifice inflicted from above upon helpless and ignorant people is quite a different kind of sacrifice to that of the two Australian officers in Greece who remained upon a bridge as the German tanks were approaching, and then blew up the bridge, themselves and the Germans in a gallant attempt to give their own men time to escape.

There is no comparison between the two types of sacrifice. But, unfortunately, the word "sacrifice" is used to mean anything; the word has become degraded and is rapidly becoming thoroughly disliked by men and women who have made real sacrifices most of their lives. This is the tragedy of public men using words indiscriminately.

There is no room for useless sacrifices in an army or a nation at war. An army leader who sacrifices his men uselessly and continuously is simply playing into the enemy's hands; and a Commonwealth Treasurer who keeps on continuously disrupting the life of a nation by ever-increasing taxation has to be asked for what purpose he is doing it.

We know the war has to be paid for; we know that it has to be paid for in blood, sweat and tears. These cannot be measured in terms of money, and it is useless trying to persuade us that money can pay for these things.

The only way we can pay for the war is by fighting or working harder and to fight and work, soldiers and civilians have to be well fed and clothed, properly sheltered, rested entertained and freed from all unnecessary worries.

The people who are going to last out longest in this war of endurance are those who have sufficient wise men in authority who will protect them against constant and unnecessary mental and physical fatigue.

The people of England have had a very grueling time. Russia has lost a great part of her industrial resources; the reserves of strength in the British Dominions may yet prove the decisive factor in this war.

Let us not destroy the fresh vigour of these human resources by stupid and ill-conceived ideas about making useless sacrifices.

Here in Australia there is no shortage of food; let us see that it is distributed to the people and not wasted—wasted because we have an idea that we must not let people have the same amount of money as they had before the war. More than half the population could do with a great deal more than they had before.

It is wrong to say that if we spend £250 million on war that that £250 million should come out of our pre-war scale of income; that we cannot have guns and butter. Guns are not made with butter. Until all the farmers who are over-age and all the girls and women are absorbed into war industries, it is merely stupid to suggest that we cannot have butter and guns at the same time.

The facts are that the Government is pleading with us to eat more lamb, butter, fruit and wine, which cannot be exported, and, at the same time, is taking away from us the money to buy these things. The position, of course, is ridiculous; and that is the reason why there is a good deal of trouble in Canberra.

If England can increase its agricultural production in wartime, why should we have any difficulty in feeding our people? Here, enforced sacrifice is merely sabotage and very dangerous at that.

There will be a shortage of various commodities in Australia; some of this is inevitable; most of it is due to bad organisation. But that is no reason why the Government should upset every household in Australia by vindictive taxation.

The Australian Government has full powers to create all the necessary money required for the war, and full powers to limit prices of goods made in Australia. With these two powers at its disposal, to talk about the desperate need for money or fear of inflation is merely propaganda forced on the Federal Government by the Credit Monopoly, and should be exposed whenever possible.

Last Sunday I read you a copy of a letter embodying these statements, which I have just made, and which we are sending to our Federal representative at Canberra. Copies of this letter can be obtained from the Electoral Campaign office, 101 Collins-street, Hobart. We strongly urge you to send immediately a letter to your Federal member, Parliament House, Canberra. This is the only means you have at your disposal to bring your wishes before the House of Parlia-

New Source of Power

With the recently-claimed discovery in America of a new source of power, which has been named U235, and is said to be capable of yielding so much energy that 1 lb. of it will develop the output of 2000 tons of coal, a picture is conjured up of the conflicting policies of scientists and moralists. The scientist spends his time discovering new sources of energy, and, with the aid of the engineer, endeavours to apply them to ease the yoke of labour on men's shoulders. His unspecified aim is to ensure the greatest output for the least expenditure of physical energy. The moralist, on the other hand, devotes his attention to seeing that everyone shall be fully employed, regardless of whether the work he may do is beneficial or not. In other words, he elevates work—a means—into an end in itself, a policy diametrically opposed to that of the scientist and the engineer as such, who regard work as a means to leisure. In this connection, it is important to remember that work is merely the expenditure of energy, and is therefore unavoidable by man, who cannot live without food, any more than he can live without expending the energy so generated. Presumably, therefore, the moralist will "oppose the harnessing of this new source of energy which is claimed to have been discovered in America, and his opposition should be in proportion to the tremendous effect which the harnessing of this source would inevitably have, for 1 lb. of it appears to be equivalent to something like 2,000,000 h.p.h., or, say 2,000,000 manpower a day. Unless the great consumer, war, be vastly extended, this new source of energy would soon throw millions more out of work, at the same time increasing productive power vastly

—"Railway Gazette."

ment. You have a stake in this country, and you have a right to have a say in the Government of the country; unless you are prepared to exercise that right it is quite useless to go on grumbling about the way the country is being run. It is impossible to have a democracy unless there are at least a few democrats.

Great pressure will be brought to bear on your member at Canberra in these critical few weeks; letters sent in from all over Australia will counteract that pressure and remind members of their duty to those who pay their salaries.

UNITED DEMOCRATS' REPORT

From Headquarters, 17 Waymouth- Street, Adelaide.

Victory Without Debt: A band of loyal workers has again set itself the task of getting demand forms signed at the Central Market. It will be recalled that in a previous campaign 3000-signed forms were obtained in this way. Friday, September 19, was devoted to this job, and before the evening rush commenced the results were very encouraging. Now is the time to take advantage of the finance issue, which is being raised at Canberra, by driving home the urgent need for common sense finance, not debt.

A New Group: As a result of the efforts of two or three keen men, working among the employees of one of our large industrial concerns, a new and very keen group has been formed. Mr. E. H. Hergstrom, who made his office available for the meeting, gave a talk on "How to Get Results." These young men (about twenty)—most of them new to our ideas—determined to set about getting results. It was resolved that, for the present, the group should remain separate from other organisations, but that individuals be entirely free to join or leave that group, or the United Democrats. They have decided to meet weekly to formulate policy and prepare for the subsequent

action. A committee will only be formed if required. One of the most fruitful ideas that already has come out of this move is the suggestion to form other youth groups like themselves.

The United Democrats are anxious to encourage this sort of thing; and, whether such new groups join our organisation or not is irrelevant, so long as they join the increasing number of people who want something DONE.

Despite the shortness of the present office, hours, the number of inquiries is encouraging.

The Next Bridge Evening will be held on October 11. Bring your friends and make it bigger still.

Quarterly Meeting of members will be held at headquarters on October 23. This meeting should be of particular interest, and we urge all members to be present.

Books: Do not forget our offer of three books for 1/-. (See last week's notes.) Other, larger, books that are going cheaply are: "What's Wrong With the World?" (Day), 1/-; "Distribute or Destroy" (Bjorset), 3/-; "The New Economics" (Cumberland), 3/-. Make the most of this opportunity. —M. R. W. Lee, Hon. Sec. (pro tern).

The New Times

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

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THE HOUSING PROBLEM

Elsewhere in these columns we report part of a speech by Mr. C. Mutton, M.L.A., in which the Victorian Housing Commission is criticised. We commend Mr. Mutton for his forthright exposure of these anomalies; but we go further than he did, and ask, "Why have Housing Commissions at all?"

The housing shortage is due to the money shortage. It is NOT due to a shortage of builders and building materials. Although we are told that war requirements are now making heavy demands on the building trade, the fact remains that only three weeks ago the Sydney "Daily Mirror" stated in an editorial that there were 16,000 male unemployed in N.S.W. alone! This statement would, no doubt, refer to registered unemployed, so that the real figure would be at least twice as large.

In any case, for years before the war we had such armies of willing workers unemployed, such abundant means of feeding and clothing them and such abundant resources of the essential raw materials, that EVERY family in Australia that lacked a roomy, comfortable, modern dwelling in spacious grounds could easily have been provided with one during those years—without reducing the standard-of-living of any other families by one iota. That was physically possible. Only the additional money needed was lacking.

But suppose that additional money had been forthcoming—to such an extent that ALL the additional things Australians could have provided for themselves could have been BOUGHT. Would we have needed or wanted Commissions to spend that additional money for us? Could not individual Australians have had houses built, how and where they wanted them, and have bought the other abundant amenities, each according to his or her individual taste? Of course, they could. Any suggestion to the contrary is an unwarranted insult to the intelligence of even the humblest citizen.

Yet, Housing Commissions and similar bodies were set up before the present war—pathetically futile attempts to do what the prevailing money shortage rendered impossible; outrageous attempts to interfere with the most elementary freedoms. It is amazing that people with British blood in their veins have tolerated such pernicious foolishness.

People don't live in slums for the fun of it. If more houses and better houses can be built for them, let us see that they get appropriate incomes. Then they themselves will deal with housing problems in precisely the same way as their more fortunate fellow-citizens.

COAL RESERVES IN ALBERTA

Alberta's vast coal reserves contain approximately 160,894,110,000,000 gallons of gasoline—enough to supply North America's needs for more than 1000 years at the present rate of consumption. This estimate is based on research work done by Dr. E. H. Boomer, of the University of Alberta chemistry department, and on the province's estimated coal reserves.

His experiments indicate that Alberta coal, when subjected to high pressure and high temperatures, will yield an average of 150 gallons of gasoline per ton.

An authoritative survey of the world's coal resources places Alberta's at 1,072,627,400,000 tons—more than one-third of the entire resources in the United States and approximately seven per cent, of the world's total. Canada's coal reserves, including Alberta's, are estimated at 1,234,269,310,000 tons.

Dr. Boomer began experiments in 1928 under auspices of the Alberta and National Research Councils, and ended in 1931 with the finding that Alberta's coalfields contained vast potential reservoirs of oil and gasoline that could be tapped if the need arose. Investigations, which Dr. Boomer launched, are still being carried on at National Research Council laboratories in Ottawa.

Already used commercially in Europe, the hydrogenation process

of synthesising oil from coal could be adopted in Alberta "perhaps more successfully than in any other part of the world," said Dr. Boomer.

Alberta coal types—sub-bituminous and lignite—are the most inexpensive and suitable for the process. Alberta's natural gas reserves contain one of the world's cheapest and most easily obtainable supplies of hydrogen, necessary for the hydrogenation system.

Dr. Boomer added: "At the present time, cost of gasoline produced from coal is in the ratio of five-two to that produced from petroleum. Hydrogenation plants are extremely expensive because of the high temperatures and high pressures they require. However, the hydrogenation system is being improved all the time, and it is highly probable that the cost of processing will be reduced gradually. It is possible that at least

M.L.A. CONDEMNS HOUSING COMMISSION

During the Budget debate in the Victorian Parliament on September 9, Mr. C. Mutton (Coburg) criticised the Housing Commission for purchasing high-priced land in suburban and industrial areas too near the city and paying an unnecessarily high price for it, building houses "of the barrack type," and not allotting all the few houses built to slum-dwellers and low-income families. Inter alia, he said:

"I have taken a keen interest in the Commission's work since it was established, and my survey has extended from Port Melbourne to Mildura.

"For several months past I have been interested in the housing problem at Preston, and have visited many of the homes erected by the Housing Commission. It is clear that the spirit of the legislation under which the Housing Commission was established has not been maintained.

"It was originally intended that a person would have to be residing in a slum area or in a condemned house before consideration could be given to the desirability of transfer to a dwelling erected by the Commission. That intention has been disregarded, particularly in respect of the houses built at Preston. It appears that those persons who can exercise the greatest influence are able to have houses allotted to them. I have actually knocked at the doors of certain of the homes and have learned from the occupants that they did not come from slum areas. In one case, I was advised to make inquiries from the woman in the adjoining house, who, my informant said, had ten children. I discovered that the neighbour had come from Euroa and had obtained the dwelling simply because she was acquainted with one of the members of the Government.

"At Preston 47 acres were purchased for £31,390, or £667/17/5 per acre—a ridiculous price. In the case of the Richmond Racecourse, the figures are even more astounding, 15½ acres having been purchased for £28,500, or approximately £1900 per acre. At Brunswick, an area of 10 acres was purchased for £4980, or £498 per acre. In Coburg—a district with which I am well acquainted—the Housing Commission purchased 63 acres for £12,175, or £193/5/1 per acre—about twice the value of the land. Although that price was paid at Coburg, the land is far superior to that at Preston—about a mile and a half away—for which £667 per acre was paid. I make the definite claim that the Housing Commission is not acting in a businesslike way, and I am surprised that those members of this Chamber who have evinced an interest in the housing of the people should have allowed this state of affairs to continue for so long.

"It should be the desire of Parliament to provide those who are living in slum areas with sunshine and fresh air, but those advantages will not be obtained on the Richmond Racecourse. While the land at Coburg was purchased at £193 per acre, land abutting on a railway line, and only seven miles from Melbourne, can be purchased for £60 to £100 per acre.

"However, the members of the Housing Commission, when cruising round, resort to such statements as 'There are no facilities here; the fares are too high,' and so on. That kind of argument is ridiculous in the extreme. The district, which was served by the motor rail service to

which I have already referred comprises better land than has been purchased by the Housing Commission at Coburg for £193 per acre. The honorable member for Northcote will probably recall that when he was Minister of Railways some years ago, I accompanied him to a certain part of the Pascoe Vale district, the residents of which were asking for a railway station. The land in that particular area abuts on the main northeastern line and can be purchased for £75 per acre. It is clear that the time has arrived when the facts should be ventilated in this Chamber.

"Let us take a trip to North Melbourne. I have spent a good deal of time there, I happen to be a native of that district, and I know very much about the area which the Housing Commission proposes to reclaim. That area will involve a colossal expenditure. I have seen Melbourne rebuilt, and I believe that the time has arrived when the metropolitan industrial areas will have to be rebuilt, but not in Melbourne. After the war, by force of circumstances, the areas in North Melbourne and the Richmond Racecourse will automatically become industrial areas whether we like it or not.

"The honorable member for Heidelberg, the honorable member for Essendon, and I practically represent the open spaces in the north of the metropolitan area. If the Housing Commission desires cheap land five or six miles away from the city, I can tell that body where it can get it. The Housing Commission should have been building homes in this northern area, and not spending colossal sums as it is doing. I am concerned about the Coburg conditions. I have seen the Commissions houses in various parts, including Mildura. When the summer comes the occupants of the premises in the northwestern town will suffer from the heat on account of the low roofs. The Government should use its common sense. The cheapest land purchased by the Housing Commission has cost £193 an acre, and the dearest £1900. The Commission says that in Coburg it will build homes similar to those that are being erected on the Richmond Racecourse. I have no fault to find with the interior of the buildings there, but I criticize adversely their outside architecture. There is a big difference between £1900 and £193, and with the saving palatial homes could be erected instead of homes of the barrack type.

"The honorable member for Heidelberg knows what the Housing Commission's premises are. We know them when we go to Port Melbourne. In the Shire of Broadmeadows there is almost enough land to enable everybody in Victoria to have a block. The spirit of the Housing Commission should be one allotment one home, and there should be a variation of types. If the Commission proposes to build houses of the type erected on the Richmond Racecourse, we do not want them. They are all right so far as the interior is concerned, but not so far as the exterior is concerned. I know what the people desire. They want some of the money saved to which I have referred used in building 130 homes that would be worthwhile. Recently I interviewed the town clerk of Coburg, and asked him whether he knew what was paid for the land. He replied, 'I suppose about £80 an acre.' I retorted, 'No, the

(Continued on page 7.)

some of Alberta's coal some day will be converted into oil."

His experiments indicated that Alberta coal would yield 80 per cent of its weight in oil. This means one ton of coal would yield up to 200 gallons of oil. The oil, when refined, yields up to 75 per cent, of its weight in gasoline, and 25 per cent, in fuel oil. There is no waste in the process.

ALUMINIUM PRODUCTION IN AUSTRALIA

LOCAL FIRM FRUSTRATED BY OVERSEAS GROUP

The following extract from Federal "Hansard" (No. 12, pp. 149-150) throws considerable light on the "aluminium scandal." The speaker is Mr. Calwell:

Repeated reference has been made in this Parliament to the desirability of exploiting rich deposits of bauxite, which occur in various parts of Australia. Recently, when I was travelling about the Commonwealth with a parliamentary committee, I was told by people in every State of deposits awaiting exploitation. Grave exception was taken to the action of the Government in continuing to import bauxite from the Dutch East Indies and other places. An official of the Mines Department in Brisbane told me that at Tambourine Mountain, about 40 miles from Brisbane, bauxite is being used to line roads, and I myself picked up a piece of it on the road at Beenleigh, a town about 40 miles south of Brisbane. I cannot see why there should be any objection to the formation of an Australian company to exploit these deposits. . . . There is in Australia a company known as White Metals Proprietary Limited, which was formed to exploit what is known as the white metals process for the extraction of aluminium from bauxite. I understand that it is desired to form a company with a capital of £1,000,000; but so far the efforts of this Australian firm have been frustrated by the activities of the overseas group headed by Sir Ronald Charles. We should not permit Australian industries to be dominated by overseas capitalists. I do not like our own native capitalists any better than the gentlemen who exploit this country from overseas; but at least we can control the local capitalists. . . . A correspondent, writing to me on this subject, says—

"This white metals process is quite successful, but is being squeezed out by overseas interests headed by Sir Ronald Charles. We thought that the Australian process was going to be given a chance, but all indications point to the adoption of the Bayer process, which will only treat high-grade bauxite. The Australian process will treat all bauxite and will remain a stable industry after the war, and not merely a stopgap affair as proposed by the overseas interests. As far as Sir Ronald Charles is concerned, the wartime business, with imported bauxite and some small portion of Australian bauxite, is very profitable, while the peacetime requirements of this country are not very much his concern. But to get on with the story.

"Following upon some years of laboratory experiments, White Metals (Australia) Proprietary Limited was floated in July last year for the purpose of building a pilot plant to prove a process for the extraction of alumina from all types and grades of Australian bauxites.

"After many months of work and the expenditure of several thousand pounds, the process has been proven, and it is a peculiar fact that coincidentally therewith came the Government's statement that aluminium ingot would be manufactured in Australia.

"The disclosure of the process was immediately made to the Government and later on, by request, a proposition was submitted suggesting that £20,000 be made available by the Government to put up a pilot plant so as to determine the details are planning of the larger plant which would

provide sufficient aluminium oxide (alumina) for the requirements of this country.

"During the erection of this pilot (or development) plant plans will be prepared for the erection of the larger plant, which would require an investment of something like £350,000, and would produce 10,000 to 15,000 tons of alumina per annum.

"I understand that Senator McBride is not particularly concerned regarding the practicability of the smelter installation because this is a well-known practice—what he is concerned with is to decide the wisest and soundest course to adopt in the extraction of alumina from Australian bauxites.

"An overseas group, working through Sir Ronald Charles and the Australian Aluminium Company, is bringing pressure to bear to get control of aluminium production in Australia, using the Bayer process, and also using imported bauxite — or Australian

bauxite which responds to the Bayer process. It can be definitely stated that the white metals process will handle any kind of bauxite, and its efficacy is attested to by Dr. Hirst, of Melbourne University, and Professor Eastaugh, of Sydney University. A Mr. Drake, of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, is not impressed with the white metals process, but it is suggested, without bias, that he has not had the time nor probably the inclination to test the white metals process thoroughly.

"We are convinced that the white metals process specifically developed in Australia to extract alumina from average Australian bauxites, will relieve Australia of all importation problems, provide Australians with work, and produce the metal at a price favourable in comparison with overseas figures.

"If it were possible to use the Bayer process, it will be admitted by everybody, I think, that it can only be a palliative for immediate needs and within the short cycle of, say, four to five years the process would automatically work itself out because of limited quantities of suitable bauxite.

"On the other hand, the white metals process would become a permanent feature in Australian manufacturing, and would give the country full, continuous security for the future within its own shores."

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 Bottlenecking 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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By ERIC D BUTLER



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.

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By FOOTLE

I'm beginning to wonder if war is the broadening experience the advertisements proclaim it to be. I had been looking forward to Pongo's return so as to clear up a few details so intimately connected with the purpose of our existence that no one ever bothers about them in the ordinary way. I mean to say, in the old days, when your true knight rode to the wars, if there was one thing he knew better than anything else, it was why he went to war.

That may not be saying a great deal, of course, for some of his notions were probably as queer as his spelling; but all the same, when your crusader sallied forth to plant the Cross of St. George on the Damascus Gate of Jerusalem, that was his real, as well as his avowed objective. Looting operations were a sideline restricted to the property of the Saracen or Turk.

Naturally we have progressed a great deal since that time, having fought for a variety of objectives of which the avowed and the real have never coincided. And now at last . . .

"What," I asked Pongo, "do you think of Federation?"

"Which one?" asked Pongo, cautiously? "American, Malay or Australian?"

"The bigger and better one," I answered patiently. "The one you went to fight for, in fact."

"Don't be stuffy! You ought to know why I joined up. Aunt Constance would have cut off the main supply at the source. In the circus, I think I'd have been justified in fighting for disintegration or any old thing at all."

"I'm disappointed in you, Pongo," I told him. "Where shall we get our inspiration, if not from the fighting men?"

His face lit up. "I know just the place. I was on the point of suggesting it myself. They scoop the froth off with an ivory knife."

Over the amber I returned to the attack. "You know, Pongo, I wish I could get the hang of this Federation and new order business. It ought to be possible to discover what the authors have in mind."

"Sounds reasonable, I'll admit," replied Pongo, "and it probably would if it were possible to make sense of what they're actually saying. Politics and economics are quite beyond me, old boy. My knowledge is most elementary. I know it's bad for us to have a good season, and I also know it pays somehow to sell everything you've got even if you never get paid. But that's as far as my knowledge goes, and I doubt if I'd ever have known that much if I hadn't had it dinned into me a thousand times . . ."

"Well, what is it you'd most like to see in a new order?"

"Oh, that. Let's see. Newspapers without advertisements or editorials, no news or speeches over the radio . . ."

"Yes, yes," I interrupted impatiently. "But the people . . ."

"Oh . . . ah . . . of course, to be sure . . . the people. Blessed if I know. There are such millions of the blighters. What would you do with them?"

"Nothing!" I answered emphatically.

"Nothing?" echoed Pongo. "I don't get that. I mean, they'd be swarming everywhere. You can't just do nothing. They're not like you and me. They've got to be kept within bounds."

"What bounds?"

"Oh, cheese it, Footle, old boy! You get duller and duller. Haven't you realised yet what other people can be like?"

"What is it most people want?" I persisted.

"Those who have work want less work and more pay, and those who haven't any work demand work at any price. It's going to be hard to please everybody."

"You must bear in mind we're discussing peace, now," I reminded him. "There won't be any money, so we've been told, because there's more profit in destroying things than in making things for keeps."

That's proved by the interest that somehow forthcoming on war loans. Permanent assets aren't like that at all, for some reason or other. But that's another question. We'll have to go into it some time. What I'm getting at just now is that as this is a world war, all the countries will be in much the same position afterwards, doncherthink? Righto What will happen to the blokes with no cash after Federation?"

"Search me, old boy! And while you're on the inquiry, what will happen to the blokes with the cash? I've a fancy for getting in among 'em."

"All I'm trying to say is, I can't quite see the sense of amalgamating trouble. It must be easier to cure one case of smallpox than, to deal with an epidemic."

"Don't let's bother, then. Someone will be almost sure to spot it. Besides, it mayn't be as bad as you think, anyway. Why, only the other day I read that the wheeze is to give everybody security. What was it the chappie said? Oh, yes . . . 'We must see to it that no one suffers involuntary poverty.' There you are! Needn't be poor unless you want to; and another cove said, 'We must build up a race imbued with the idea of political freedom and justice.' What's wrong with that?"

"Sounds as if we've got a race that doesn't believe in freedom and justice. The question before the meeting, as I see it, is—do we go to 'quod' on a grand scale, or don't we? I must say I find you disappointing, Pongo. Perhaps I expected too much. Perhaps I ought to have realised that you business johnnies are always shoving up notices to the effect that this 'an' that are under entirely new management, while the same old gang is sitting round the directors' table in the board room. But I should have thought that even you would have demanded a complete prospectus of the new order. After all, you fought for it . . . well, no, of course one could hardly say that. . . but, at any rate, you popped in and out of the Army for it, whether by intention or no. So you are going to be more responsible for what happens than I, who, in the final analysis, am merely a putter-out-of-cats or a changer-of-the-canary's-water."

"Cheer up, old thing!" recommended Pongo. "We'll have at least one new order we can enjoy. Same again, please!"

"Banks and Facts"

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SUNDRY NOTES ON THE NEWS

(Continued from page 1.)

right of late in their criticism of this absurd policy of centralisation. The following report appeared in the Melbourne "Age" of September 20: "Commander R. T. Bower, MP, in a speech today said that as a trained strategist who had passes through British staff colleges, he was perturbed at the mistakes of the British High Command. 'They seem to betray the hand of the amateur strategist,' said Commander Bower, 'and I have an uncomfortable feeling that the Germans are our masters both in the conception and execution of plans. The enemy always has a plan whereas our strategy is opportunist and hand-to-mouth. Our high direction is obviously not working smoothly, and I am inclined to think Mr. Churchill's triple office is largely responsible for this.'"

* * *

Sir Isaac Isaacs has joined the ranks of the local woolly-minded parlour-pinks who are actively yelling about their spiritual home, Soviet Russia. As Russia, next to U.S.A., is the great Mecca of the majority of the Jews, it was not surprising to read the following report in the Melbourne "Herald" of September 19: "Official recognition of Russia was the Commonwealth Government's instant duty, Sir Isaac Isaacs, former Governor-General, stated in a letter to the Australia-Soviet Friendship League, in reply to the league's request for an expression of his opinion. 'I am entirely with you on the questions of alliance with Russia and mutual official representation,' wrote Sir Isaac. 'There cannot be any doubt as to our duty, to say nothing of our interest, in loyally supporting and maintaining to the best of our ability an alliance with Russia in this world crisis, in which the destiny of humanity is in the balance. Russia and the Empire were both forced by a common enemy into the same life and death struggle for national and individual freedom, he added.'

It is rather interesting to hear that Russia is fighting for "individual freedom." Personally, I don't think that, apart from a rare few, members of the Jewish race are constitutionally capable of understanding what real freedom means.

Readers of this journal are aware of President Roosevelt's powerful Jewish advisers. The following obscure, but interesting item appeared in the Melbourne "Herald" of September 22:

"PRESIDENTS MESSAGE ON JEWISH NEW YEAR"

"New York, Sunday. —In a message to mark the Jewish New Year, President Roosevelt called or the nation to re-dedicate itself to the task which lay before it, so that all peoples could live as equals. 'I extend to the Jewish people of America my sincere greetings and confident hope that the temporary darkness which encompasses the world shall not extinguish the light of liberty and the blessings of freedom,' added the President.

* * *

This "black-out" mania, whether devised for the purpose or not, gives further scope for the bureaucratic, power-lusting individual. The worries of the civilian population are increased, and morale suffers. It was refreshing to read that the authorities in Bristol (England) are satisfied that the "black-out" is not a great success, and that they are going to pursue a "light-up" policy instead. Extra lighting, to confuse enemy aircraft is to be used.

The following item from last Monday's Melbourne "Herald" is a small example of the friction caused by our local bureaucrats:

"Policemen on point duty at city intersections had a terrible day today. There have never been so many jaywalkers in the city. Worse than that, numbers of cars just sailed across crossings against the red light. The police-

men were so dumbfounded they did not know what to do about it. But neither the pedestrians nor the drivers could be blamed. For the traffic signals have been prepared for the blackout tomorrow night. The automatic lights have been painted over, leaving only a tiny cross to show up. The dot of light might be sufficient on a dark night, but in daytime it is a strain on the eyes to see if there is any light at all—much more difficult to distinguish what colour. One constable complained of the number of people who had tipped him off that the lights had gone out. He thought a more effective means could have been devised so the traffic signals will not betray the city tomorrow night."

* * *

Sir Alfred Davidson, General Manager of the Bank of New South Wales, has apparently joined the ranks of the internationalists. In an address in Brisbane last week, he urged the ending of the policy of "economic exclusiveness."

Assuming the Allies were victorious, he said, the great Powers in the world would be the United States, the British Commonwealth, and probably Russia. They had a common interest in restraining aggressors. The most serious potential source of friction between them was the Russian social system, but time, familiarity, and comradeship in arms might mitigate their mutual bogies. The restoration of international trade was an important part of political readjustment, the lecturer added. It was essential to break down autarchy.

So, in time, we will get used to our Bolshie pals. And, of course, we must have "international trade"—providing that international finance controls the trade.

Party-Politics and Treasury Control in Britain

Says John Gordon, writing in the "Sunday Express" of June 15, 1941:

"Up and down the country people realise and say that the men who have brought this country so near to disaster are the political party hacks. But whenever another stall is vacant in the stable, in goes another hack.

"Two things are killing the power or Parliament today: (1) Too many members of Parliament are being given paid State jobs; (2) too many seats in the House of Commons are being sold to the highest bidder.

" . . . Two fundamental changes are needed in the political system of this country if democracy is to survive—a rule that no member of Parliament can accept a State-paid position and continue to hold his seat, and a law that all payments made in connection with an election, before, during and after the election, must be made public.

" . . . You can't fight this war merely by buying a War Savings Certificate or a £10,000 War Bond. You can't fight with money at all. . . . Treasury control over every branch of the war effort is and will remain one of the chief obstacles to speed in action until someone has the courage to crash the system...."

Bar to Greater War Effort

(Continued from Page 1.) munitions production, aeroplane construction, and the handling of the fuel situation. A Government, which will not make financial policy its responsibility, and subject to its will, cannot properly and efficiently organise this nation. It is imperative that the Government should immediately become solely responsible in that respect.

SPOTLIGHT ON A.C.I.

On August 22, Australian Consolidated Industries Ltd. was twice in the spotlight within an hour at Canberra. Mr. Dedman referred to a report that A.C.I. intended to extend its tentacles to Singapore. Mr. Calwell alleged Government discrimination in favour of A.C.I. The latter said:

"... I was about to refer to the action of the Government in sanctioning the importation to Australia of certain machines from the United States of America to be used in die-casting. There was already in Melbourne machinery for the manufacture of dies, which could have been used in the production of munitions, but, unfortunately, the offer made by the company, which owned it—Diecasters Proprietary Limited—was refused. By some extraordinary chance, an almost identical plant, although made by a different maker, was imported from the United States of America and set up in a munitions annexe, which was privately owned and had been erected by private enterprise. When the machinery was installed, instead of its being operated on a cost basis, private enterprise was given the opportunity to work the plant on a cost plus 4 per cent. basis. I regard the approval to that basis as a wrong decision by the Government. But it merits stronger censure because of the fact that the company, which erected the building to house the machinery, was no other than Australian Consolidated Industries Limited. That huge octopus was given a further opportunity to expand its industrial activities. In my opinion, such action is not in the best interests of this nation. The company referred to is engaged in a number of industrial activities, and makes profits from many classes of investments. During recent years, its profits have been so great that the Minister for Trade and Customs (Mr. Harrison) is dissatisfied, and has called for a report on the company's activities from a competent officer of his department, and has asked the Commonwealth Prices Commissioner to investigate the possibility of profiteering by the management. Whilst the Minister for Trade and Customs was taking that action to check profiteering by Australian Consolidated Industries Limited, another Minister was sanctioning the expenditure of Government money to enable machinery to be placed in a private annexe erected and controlled by this big organisation. If the machinery had to be imported—and of the need to do so there is no proof, although it may be desirable to have in Australia duplicate plants for war production—surely the machinery could have been placed in a Government factory and operated at less cost to the nation? This powerful company, which dominates a large field of Australian industry, saw to it that the machinery was installed on its premises so that, when the war was over, the trained operatives who had worked the machinery during the war would be available to make profits for the company. At the end of the war, this machinery for which the nation has paid £20,000, will almost certainly be sold at a low price to Australian Consolidated Industries Limited, which will then have an excellent opportunity to increase still further its domination of the commercial life of Australia. When a protest was made by

Diecasters Proprietary Limited, it was dealt with by the Director of Gun Production in the Department of Munitions, who told the company that the Government would be only too happy to use its plant. That was nearly twelve months ago, but only recently the company was informed that its plant would not be required. By a strange coincidence, the Director of Gun Production in the Department of Supply is Mr. W. J. Smith, the genius who presides over Australian Consolidated Industries Limited. That company seems to have got it not only both ways, but all ways. This is a matter, which should be investigated immediately. Should there be a change of Government within the next few days, as a number of people in the community believe is likely and others hope will be the case, Mr. W. J. Smith must be removed from the position of Director of Gun Production; and he should be accompanied out the back door of Government employment by a number of other business executives who have been brought in, ostensibly to assist the war effort, but, in some instances—I do not say in all instances—to aggrandise themselves."

THE WESTERN FRONT

Report from the Electoral Campaign, 81 Barrack Street, Perth, W.A.

Miniature Competition: Will all those who are holding tickets in this competition please note that this competition will be finalised on September 30? The date, which was originally set for the 15th inst., has had to be postponed to allow country books to reach headquarters. Petrol rationing and the difficulties of transport have been responsible for this alteration. We have still a few tickets left at a shilling a guess. Make up your mind to have a try and win one of the prizes, which you will be proud to possess. Headquarters takes this opportunity of thanking all those who have helped to sell the tickets, and wishes to express gratitude to the artist, Miss A. Andrews, for her magnificent help in making this competition possible. Miss Andrews does magnificent work, and we have great pleasure in recommending her beautiful work to campaigners. Miss Andrews will be pleased to give private quotes for hand-painted miniatures, either by personal sitting or from photographs.

Campaign Activities: Campaigners who are wanting to get more action in the Federal arena in relation to finance for the war through the Commonwealth Bank should write to their members and inform them that you require them to oppose any further taxation in the next Budget, that the professors of economics attached to the Government must be told that the result wanted is a war effort which will mean all-in without any further financial debt or interest being added to the national debt. Unless they can do this, then they must be sacked as economists who have not the interests of Australians at heart. These economists must either serve the national policy in terms of results or get out. These economists must be told that they cannot serve two masters—the private banks and the nation—at the same time. They should be told to vacate their jobs with the private trading banks or lose their Governmental employment. On with the campaign: "V" for Victory—Victory without Debt; Victory for the people in terms of security and freedom. Make this cry ring down the months ahead and sack every member of Parliament who refuses to demand these results on the floor of the House.

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, August 29, September 5, September 12 and September 19. Here is another:

Audacity is notoriously a very powerful weapon, and one the Jews particularly love, because it has served them well. Their argument, that they should oust the native-born Gentiles because they are in all respects better than these was never more openly and audaciously expressed. That it could be printed in the British press, at the time when sober arguments against the Jewish case, however well founded, could nowhere find a place in it, unless they carried such a signature as that of Sir Abe Bailey, when they might appear in an obscure correspondence column, is the best possible illustration of the measure of "freedom" which has prevailed in this particular respect.

This argument, that the foreign Jews, the "friendly aliens," are much cleverer and in every way more suitable than ourselves and should therefore be given preference in employment is that implicitly taken over by the innumerable spokesmen of these people, by the British press and Parliament.

It is the argument I have repeatedly heard myself from the lips of Jews, who did not realise that I was well versed in their methods in many foreign countries. This was the reason, they would have had me believe, that their newspapers in Berlin and Vienna, Prague and Budapest were entirely staffed by Jews: that the local non-Jews were simply not equal to the work. They were, of course, not up to the standards of British journalists, these would-be wily ones would add, with a quick sideways glance at myself.

It is the method of discrimination, impure but simple. In this country it has already, in some cases, reached absurd lengths. I have before me a long press "puff" about a young Jew from Hungary who was chosen to play the part of a British schoolboy in a British film "because he looked so English." That is to say, no English schoolboys were available who looked so English as he? The public of a country must have reached a sad state of stupidity when such tricks can be played on it.

The second passage, which I have italicized in Sir Abe Bailey's letter, shows the consequences to which these methods lead—as they led to

in the European countries I knew, as they will lead in this country unless they are checked. In the other British Dominions the same thing is happening, while the men are away at the war. "Assisted passages" to Australia, which might have replenished that continent with British blood, were suspended by the British Government from 1930 to 1938, when they were resumed until August 1939. Who was "assisted" to go to Australia during this year when the assistance was resumed? —10,992 persons, of whom 881 were British! The bulk of the others were foreign Jews; indeed, of the 10,111 non-Britons no less than 5321 were of German nationality, which means that they were nearly all Jews from Germany.

"The Government's policy in this very important matter has produced disastrous results where Australia is concerned," wrote Sir H. Galway, a former Governor of South Australia, to the "Times" on March 10, 1940. "If this policy is persisted in, it will not take more than a couple of generations before Australia's proud boast of a population with 95 per cent British stock is silenced. One of the many evils resulting from the substitution of alien for British stock is that the industries are by degrees falling under foreign control. For instance, the sugar and peanut industries are already fairly well in the hands of the alien, while the fruit industry is going that way. In spite of there being a war on, unemployment in Britain is still at an abnormally high figure. Crowds of boys are unable to get employment even under the Derby and other schemes. Why should they not be permitted to go to Australia, where they are wanted, if they wish to? . . . The average Member of Parliament is woefully ignorant on the subject of migration, though I willingly allow that there are many bright exceptions. . . I humbly contend that it is up to the Government to do all in their power to save Australia from being swamped by people of alien race."

To conclude the picture I have given I have to add that by January 1941, the last safeguards in this problem had been abandoned in Britain.

M.L.A. Condemns Housing Commission

(Continued from page 4.)

price was £193,' and he nearly fell off his chair. The town clerk and local residents know the value of the land better than the Housing Commission. I hope the Government will convey my message to that body, I will get it all the cheap land it needs, and that land will be five, or six, or seven miles from Melbourne, and it will not cost £193 an acre. When we consider these astounding figures and inquire whether the Housing Commission is being conducted on business lines, we must agree that it is not. If we are going to do the right thing we must take people from the slum areas, and put them in districts where they will have opportunities to enjoy the sunshine and fresh air.

"To my mind the building of the homes is a joke. Just imagine the building of thirteen homes in Merbein, and about seventeen more at Redcliffs! I have been to both places, and the most astonishing thing to me, when I stepped out of the train at Mildura, was the sight of empty houses and shops. I give credit to the Commission for providing each home

with a decent block of land up there.

"The Premier of Tasmania, as reported in the Melbourne Herald' on May 24 this year, summed up the Housing Commission in these words:—'Houses of the type built by the Victorian Housing Commission would simply result in people being transferred from slums to areas which would themselves become slums before long.' Every one knows that is true. We members of Parliament ought to be doing all that lies in our power to see that the Commission does the right kind of job. I am astounded that no honorable member has raised his voice against what has been happening in the last few years. I want to conclude by saying that this is the only opportunity I have had to ventilate my grievance against the Housing Commission. It has been a sore point with me to know of the colossal amount of money expended in purchasing land. I know the value of land and the number of houses that can be placed upon any area. I ask the Government to take heed of my statements, every one of which I can substantiate."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Resolute Wisdom"

Sir, —Professor Walter Murdoch, with his usual knack of putting fitting words into telling sentences, has said ("Adelaide Advertiser," 13/9/41): "When the fighting men have finished their tremendous tasks, this other task will remain the supreme problem of statesmanship, not to be solved by a few gifted statesmen, but by the intelligence, the goodwill and the resolution of us all, and the sooner we face it the better."

It will be readily granted, I think that intelligence and goodwill have been, and are, well displayed by the people of our community in tackling most of our productive problems. Why is it, then, that we seem to fail so lamentably in solving what should be an easier problem, viz.: that of distributing the commodities to the people who want them? We may get some light on the enigma if we think carefully about the word resolution, which Professor Murdoch couples with the words intelligence and goodwill. Resolution has a root meaning very different from such words as courage, mettle and determination. The basic idea of the word solve (and therefore, of the word resolution) is that of loosening. A problem is solved when the tangles and kinks are loosened or unravelled. The counter-part of this material picture is the mental or spiritual idea that we must be ready to loosen ourselves from old anchorages, to abandon any previous beliefs, conventions, associations, superstitions or prejudices, if they in any degree prevent us from being realistic or really adventurous.

Are we prepared to let go any pet theory, any sentimental attachments, any habitual ways of approach, which may be a bar to a proper resolution in thought and deed? Unless we are willing and able to give a positive answer to this question, how can we hope to live up to the suggestion that we should be "as wise as serpents"? The obvious characteristics of a serpent are an alertness to "size up" actual situations, and an untrammelled agility in shaping a course of appropriate action. If, in any way, we are so attached to previously honoured systems of ideas that we are tethered or hampered or muzzled or hobbled, then our antics may appear to a realist as those corresponding to the movements of a snake with his tail heavily weighted.

Those who have grasped the significance of the positive suggestions made by Major C. H.

Douglas can see that tragedy upon tragedy has been, and is being, enacted in the world of community affairs (the present war is but one of these), because so few people have been free enough from bias to similarly adopt social credit as the policy of a philosophy. This philosophy is not an improvised set of abstractions (like so much that goes by the name of philosophy), but is the natural frame of reference into which all ideas connected with human freedom and economic security can be fitted elastically but perfectly.

When a few more persons come to live and work in the light of and under the discipline of this philosophy, then the problem of satisfactory distribution of goods and services, and the problem of giving increased leisure to "the masses," will be solved easily and progressively, and without any tears or terrorising or doctrinal shackles. — Yours etc., C. H. ALLEN, Millswood, S.A.

Educating Members of Parliament

Sir, —I have read and enjoyed Eric Butler's booklet, "The Enemy Within the Empire." I think it is one of the best booklets ever published, and I would like to suggest that a fund be opened by the "New Times" with the object of forwarding a copy to every State and Federal member of Parliament in Australia. I am enclosing 2/- to buy a few books for this purpose. —Yours, etc., "Democrat," Oakleigh, Vic.

[We will be pleased to receive donations for this special purpose and will undertake to forward the booklets direct to Members of Parliament, thus avoiding overlapping. —Ed., "N.T."]

WANTED URGENTLY

In order to simplify attaching their mobile public-address amplifier unit to cars, the U.E.A. requires a trailer. There must be quite a number of unused trailers about, and we make this urgent appeal to supporters to locate them, and to forward particulars of same to the Hon. Secretary, United Electors of Australia, McEwan House, Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

ARE WE FIGHTING FOR BUREAUCRATS OR FOR OURSELVES?

Asks John Mitchell, in the "Social Crediter," England.

It might appear from the speeches of our politicians and the articles of propagandists in the daily press, not to mention the less versatile efforts of the B.B.C., that the will to win this war is greater in Government and high Administrative circles than it is with the general public.

Fantastically silly as this view is, it is nevertheless one which is widely held among politicians, planners and bureaucrats, who are always on the look-out for excuses to meddle in the affairs of other people, and would, if they were given the chance, revel in planning every detail of the lives of the British people.

These people are to be recognised everywhere by the importance they attach to centralisation and control and the lack of faith they have in the initiative (something which they detest in other people), determination and ability of the people, or, for that matter, in anyone outside a Government Department, a bank, a chain store or a Monopoly undertaking.

It is not surprising, therefore, that we find these people, led by Sir William Beveridge in "The Times" and Mr. Israel Moses Sieff of the Political and Economic Planning group, and backed by the big banking interests and almost unlimited publicity in all our daily newspapers, agitating for a Ministry of Civil Defence, to take over the powers of all local authorities and centralise every aspect of civil defence. They want to control every action of every civilian in the country, whether it be in deciding how and what they eat in a "British" restaurant or how and when they safeguard their own and their neighbours' house against fire-bombs. Those great qualities of the British character, initiative, love of independence and individuality, must be sacrificed in order to achieve the dream of the planners, where everyone is obedient to the bureaucrat, and rules (called "law") are supreme, a world of standardisation, where everything is co-ordinated with Government policy and everyone is equal.

In anticipation that the British people will submit to a prolonged training in this bureaucratic process by means of a long war rendered possible by (1) the crippling effect of bureaucracy and taxation on the war effort, (2) a foreign

policy dictated by American interests, and (3) a war strategy which does not fit the facts of British strength and weakness, Lord Reith has been appointed to plan the "peace" and allowed to announce that "the principle of planning will be accepted as national policy, and that a central planning authority will be set up." If they cherish individual freedom the British people will not delay in making known to the Government that they wish to work for their own ends when peace is established, not for ends imposed on the community under plausible ideals by Socialists and Planners, e.g., Lord Reith, who want power for themselves.

As a large number of people are coming to distrust these developments and to lose patience with bureaucracy, there is some justification for optimism that the Government may be forced by the pressure of public opinion to reverse the disastrous policies, which are at present being pursued. But this will only come about if the public eschews all plans and schemes and instead insists on getting results, leaving what planning and scheming is necessary to those they make responsible to them for results. They will then get results, which they want; instead of plans they don't want.

What One-Reader Thinks

I am of the opinion that "Banks and Facts," Mr. Bruce H. Brown's reply to "Facts of War Finance," as published by the National Bank of Australasia Ltd., is the most arresting and convincing piece of literature yet published in Australia. The bankers are not left a leg to stand on, nor a feather to fly with. (Signed) WILLIAM RIDLEY, Hon Secretary, Riverina Monetary Reform Council.

(Supplies obtainable from: E. H. Hergstrom, Rechabite Chambers, Victoria-square, Adelaide, S.A.)

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