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THE NEW TIMES

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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).

Persecuting the Primary Producer

Banks and Boards

We wonder whether the New Zealand farmer who ran amok the other day was goaded into homicidal mania by a bank or by a marketing board? A few weeks ago we reported a typical example of the "bushranging" tactics of the banks, as related in Parliament by Mr. Baker, M.H.R. Now a "New Times" Special Correspondent provides the following true story and comment thereon, which we hope will be another nail in the coffin of bureaucratic boards:

The Melbourne "Herald" of October 4 quotes a Supply Department investigation officer as expecting a shortage of potatoes early next year.

On the same day I received a letter concerning a friend in the country. My friend, recently married, had obtained a block of land where he proposed to rear his family. To pay off this year's interest on his mortgage he had planted some acres of potatoes. Here, however, he had reckoned without the Potato Board.

Nature, aided by his efforts, produced a splendid crop. The quantity was bountiful, the quality was excellent; the Government inspector classed them among the finest he had seen; but—owing to the decision of the Board—only two tons could be sold. Repeated efforts to show the consequences of this were of no avail; the crop must rot.

"BOARD BLIGHT"

Having for some time not unsuccessfully withstood attacks by white ants, corky scab, and the Irish blight, he was at last defeated by the "Board Blight," and in disgust and weariness has abandoned his farm.

Whether the Boards heave a sigh of satisfaction at attaining a desired objective when scarcity is achieved one does not know, but the fact remains that whether it be apples, onions or potatoes, the results of Board activities are lowered standard of living for the producer, increased cost to the consumer, de-

"ARTIE" THE ARTFUL

"Mr. Fadden — On the 18th September, the honorable member for Reid (Mr. Morgan) asked the following questions, upon notice:

"1. What was Australia's national debt, including Commonwealth, States, and local governing bodies: (a) at the outbreak of the present war; (b) at the end of the second year thereof?

"2. What was the annual interest bill for the respective times mentioned?

"3. What is the total amount of: (a) war loans raised from the outbreak of war to the end of the second year; (b) the annual interest payable on such loans; (c) war loans taken up by: (i.) the Commonwealth Bank, (ii.) private financial institutions, and (iii.) the general public, respectively, during such period?

"4. What amount of Government stock taken up by the Commonwealth Bank during such period has been disposed of by it to other interests?"

"The answers to the honorable member's questions are as follows:

"1. (a) £1,491,000,000 at 30th June, 1939; (b) Debt of local governing bodies not available. Commonwealth and States debt at 30th June 1941 was £1,426,000,000.

struction of valuable food; general dissatisfaction, dissention, declining respect for law, and increasing taxation.

The cost to the taxpayer of the Apple and Pear Board has this year risen to £1,400,000; more fruit was destroyed this season than last; the fruit on sale is now smaller, poorer and dearer than before.

If it is true that "whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad," then someone is about ready for destruction.

"BLACK MAGIC IDEAS OF MOBILISING CREDIT"

Professor K. S. Isles, bankers' advocate and upholder of our present suicidal financial system, which puts shackles of interest-bearing debt and taxation upon every national effort, whether for production or defence, has published an article under the above title in "The News," Adelaide, dated 3/10/41.

The article, which should have been entitled "Black Magic Ideas Which Prevent Us Mobilising Credit," is remarkable not only for its denials, but for its admissions. It is admitted that banks create credit at practically no cost to themselves, by simply entering figures in a ledger. It is admitted that, for the most part, increases in bank deposits originate, not with the public, but with the banks themselves, through their action in making additional advances. It is not denied that when a bank lends credit it is lending something which belongs, not to it, but to the community generally; though, strangely enough, it is contended that banks have a right to charge perpetual annual interest on this credit, and, when the credit is lent to the Government, to break the backs of the community with taxes in order to get the interest on it, because "they have to pay their staffs!! At this rate, banks must be staffed entirely by millionaires. "But," says Professor Isles, "it is not true that when advances are repaid, the banks thereby get possession of property which they did not own before." No, not in normal years, but every decade

"2. At 30th June, 1939, £54,278,000. At 30th June, 1941 (excluding local governing bodies), £49,977,000.

"3. (a) £90,629,000 (not including war savings certificates, £17,380,000). (b) £2,799,000. (c) It is the invariable practice of the Treasury not to publish amounts subscribed by institutions or persons without the consent of the subscribers. As no permission has been given, the information under (i) and (ii.) cannot be supplied, (iii.)

SUNDRY NOTES ON THE NEWS

By ERIC D. BUTLER

As any writer dealing realistically with Soviet Russia, since that country "became" our ally in the "struggle for a common cause," is likely to find himself in strife in certain quarters, I trust I am quite safe in quoting the following extract from the Melbourne "Advocate" of October 2:

"The truth is, that news commentators of the British and Australian press are making themselves utterly ridiculous over this business of the Russian war. At the beginning of the conflict, a number of 'military experts' assumed that the Soviet would only hold out a few weeks, and it was generally anticipated that the 'lull' in the West would end somewhere about the end of August or the beginning of September. When it turned out that Russia was stronger than they supposed, the note of cautious

pessimism in the press gave way to a burst of optimism. We had been deceived about the valiant Red Army—so we were told—by the prejudice and incompetence of brass hatted Blimps. The boys of the Left had been right after all: the Soviet had all the answers to the German 'blitz.' It would be broken before the 'Stalin line,' with its system of 'defence in depth'; and winter would see the enemy hopelessly bogged, while a mighty air offensive in the West shattered his industrial centres and the morale of the German population.

"Then came the 'break through' towards Leningrad and the Ukraine, and optimism faded. And now the press—whose headlines had hitherto waved banners of victory—suddenly turns round to accuse its unfortunate victims, the public, of 'undue optimism', and to read them a lecture on the subject of complacency! Supposing this optimism and complacency to exist—and I doubt whether they are nearly as widespread as we are told—who is responsible? Clearly, those who 'built up' Russian invincibility in the news, giving the impression that the Red Army had the war 'in the bag,' and that an offensive in the West might soon give Germany the 'coup de grace'."

* * *

A recent pamphlet issued by the local Communists and "parlour-pinks" contains some rather clever

(Continued on page 5.)

A £6,000 "WAR EFFORT"

"Mr. Spender. —On the 25th September the honorable member for Wannon (Mr. McLeod) asked, without notice, whether a report had been received from the technical advisers who visited country towns in Victoria in order to inspect facilities in these towns for the production of war materials. The Minister for Munitions has furnished the following reply: 'the manufacturing capacity of country towns has been the subject of a continuous investigation by the Boards of Area Management in each State of the Commonwealth. The reports of their technical advisers indicate that, generally, the manufacturing capacity of country towns has not been suitable for the class of work offering. However, in Victoria, an arrangement has been concluded whereby the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce has undertaken to organise simple engineering work, and so far under this arrangement orders to the value of £74,000 have been placed. Some 166 garages and workshops are taking, or are about to take, part in the scheme, and deliveries to the value of £6000 have already been made.'" — "Hansard" report, for October 2.

With one exception, war loans in Australia have been raised in conjunction with loans for works, and it is not possible to say how much was subscribed by the public for purely war purposes. Subscriptions by the public to the combined loans amounted to £68,473,000. It is not known how much of loans raised overseas was subscribed by the public.

"4. I am not in a position to supply this information."—"Hansard," report, for September 25.

MR. CURTIN'S BUDGET POLICY

The daily press did not fully report Mr. Curtin's speech of October 1, with which he opened the attack on the Fadden Budget. Hoping to get some definite indications of BASIC differences to be expected in the Curtin Budget, we awaited the "Hansard" report of that speech with interest. But Mr. Curtin was rather vague on some vital points. Perhaps he couldn't be more specific without consulting Profs. Copland and Giblin! The following passages seem to us to be the most revealing:

It is important that we should ever keep in mind the fact that no amount of legerdemain in the form of either fantastic theories of credit inflation, or of taking money from the poor, can add anything to the physical capacity of the country to wage the war. We cannot fight this war by inventing money; we can fight it only with guns and materials, with the physical things that soldiers and fighting men use, and we cannot add to the sum of those things by merely taking away from the lowest paid and most poorly circumstanced sections of the community that which is essential to their physical strength, and therefore to their morale.

I decline to say, or to accept the argument if it be put forward, that this country cannot afford to pay £6,000,000 more to the families of the fighting services in this present year out of this budget. Honorable gentlemen opposite may ask where the money is to be obtained. I am not in control of the Administration, but I am certain that economies could be effected, taxes revised and adjustments made, which would enable at least £6,000,000 to be found.

I do not propose to indicate other items of new or additional expenditure that might reasonably be budgeted for. I merely say that the Labour party, if it held office, would feel an obligation to increase invalid and old age pensions.

Mr. Spender.—The Labour party might feel the obligation to increase those pensions, but would it do so?

Mr. Curtin.—Yes.

Mr. Spender.—Where would the Labour party obtain the necessary money?

Mr. Curtin.—I know that the granting of an additional 1s. a week to invalid and old-age pensioners would impose upon the budget an extra burden of £1,000,000 a year. I say that quite frankly so that the country may fairly understand what is involved, and know that I am not entering an unrealistic world.

Mr. Fadden.—By what amount would the Leader of the Opposition increase invalid and old age pensions?

Mr. Curtin.—I would increase them immediately to at least 22s 6d. a week.

Mr. Badman.—The original policy of the Labour party was to in-

crease those pensions to 25s. a week.

Mr. Curtin.—The Labour party, upon assuming office, would immediately increase invalid and old age pensions to at least 22s. 6d. a week, and if I had charge of the Treasury I would ascertain how far, having regard to all the requirements of the country, I could go beyond that figure. I have said that I would find £6,000,000 for soldiers and their dependents. The granting of an additional 1s. a week to invalid and old-age pensioners would increase the amount to £7,000,000.

Mr. McEwen.—The Leader of the Opposition has criticized the Government for having increased the soldiers' pay shilling by shilling. Tell us the whole story about invalid and old age pensions!

Mr. Curtin.—The Minister's colleagues, with the assistance of all the experts of the Treasury, have been engaged for ten or twelve weeks in examining all the minutiae of the economic and financial resources of the country. Now I am asked to answer off-hand, where I would get this, and how I would do that. I say to the Minister definitely that at least I would provide £6,000,000 for the families of soldiers, and at least I would raise invalid and old age pensions to 22s. 6d. a week. I would be ready to incur, in the present year, for those purposes, an expenditure of at least £7,000,000 more than the amount that the Government proposes. That is clear. I do not wish to hide anything. It would not be fair to the country for us to seek to dodge real issues. But those are two items, which I would increase, as a part of the proper way in which to organise the social life of the country. And I would do these things on a basis of greater equity than is at present the case.

I put it to the committee that Parliament, at this juncture, is not obliged to adjust differences which exist in State taxes unless that adjustment can be effected without impairing the physical standard of the community as a whole. The right remedy for having seven taxing authorities is to substitute one taxing authority.

Mr. Fadden.—Give us the practical remedy.

Mr. Curtin.—The Government, of which the honourable gentleman is the leader, is in

charge of the country at this juncture. It could take the requisite steps, if it had the courage to do so.

Mr. Fadden.—What steps?

Mr. Curtin.—The steps to bring about one taxing authority in Australia.

Without divulging anything which I believe that I ought not to divulge, I say frankly that the amount of national credit which the banking system, including the Commonwealth Bank, has made available to the Government for the prosecution of the war during the last two years is itself complete proof that everything the banks said—and, worse, everything they did—when the Labour Government was in power from 1929 to 1931, was motivated not by sound banking practice, or by consideration for the national interest, but solely by the desire to destroy a Government that they did not like. Where was the money to come from? That was the cry. It all had to come from the people.

Mr. Scullin.—"Real" money!

Mr. Curtin.—Yes, "real" money; we heard of it until we were sick of it. In those days, you could not issue credit to the nation through the banks in order to employ people at useful work; but as the honourable gentleman says, there is £60,000,000 of it in this budget. For what? To provide work for the people of Australia, or to produce assets for the future of this country? In the sense that an insurance policy can be construed as an asset, we should say, "Yes" to that. If we like to regard anything done for the safety of the country as part of an insurance programme, I should say "Yes." But the banks could not provide such money in order to construct water supply systems, or health services for inland cities, or in order to develop Australia's wealth-producing capacity, when thousands of our men were unemployed and uncounted capital resources were idle in this land, and people were hungry because they could not get jobs of any description. With memories of those times I say that, despite the things the banks now unsay and the opposite courses they are now ready to pursue, simply because a Government of the type they like is in power, this Opposition is not prepared to permit the credit of the nation, however it is made available, to become a source of parasitism for sectional private interests. Therefore, one fundamental objection which we take to this budget is that it places the national credit at the disposal of the Commonwealth Government in such a way as to permit a third party to make a profit out of it. We submit that nothing requires doing in respect of the management of national credit for the purpose of prosecuting the war that the Commonwealth Bank itself is not entirely competent to do. The honorable gentleman's "firm agreement" is not worth the paper on which it is written, because the Commonwealth Bank Board itself is too responsive to the interests that I am now criticising to handle this matter as it should be handled. The honorable gentleman and I think, his colleagues, know of recent discussions, which certain of my colleagues have had with representatives of the Commonwealth Bank Board. I say nothing about those representatives except this—and I say it after a great deal of reflection—I do not consider that Sir Claude Reading's conception of how this country can be best served is in the best interests of Australia as a nation. I shall make no further reference to the Commonwealth Bank Board.

Boiled down, the basic differences between our views and those of the Government are that the Government does not treat the soldiers fairly; that it does not treat persons on the lower

ranges of income fairly; and that it does not, having regard to the economics of Australia, treat the management of national credit in a truly national way—that, whereas we regard the budget as an accountancy of human values, the Government looks at it as an accountancy of material values. We do not object to the highest possible degree of taxation of all whom such taxation will not involve in any physical deprivation.

Mr. Spender.—A general phrase; what does that mean?

Mr. Curtin.—Let us say the greatest possible taxation of incomes of £500, or £600, and over. When the honourable gentleman was Treasurer, he tried to catch me on this same point. He then said that it was not possible to do anything, but he moved step by step towards the very proposition I had then made. I have not the least doubt that before this war is over, no person with an income of £1000, £1500, or £2000 a year will be said to have that income as his personal right. If we are to fight this war collectively, we must have some application immediately of what people are describing as the "new order." But there is nothing of a new order in allowing people at the top of the income scale to meet all of their financial contributions to the war without having to go without anything requisite to their subsistence. The honourable gentleman sometimes talks about non-essential industries. If we are dealing with essentials, and we are obliged to restrict civil consumption, we must not allow the restricted supply of civilian goods to be the subject of competition between a man who has £1500 to spend and another who has only £150 to spend. The correct way in which to treat that problem is by rationing.

Mr. Spender.—That is precisely what the Government is doing.

Mr. Curtin.—It is the very reverse of what the Government is doing. Obviously, if one man with a wife and three children has £1500 to spend after he has met all of his obligations under these schedules, and another man with a wife and three children has a margin of only £220, there is no equality of competition in the market for services or goods as between those two persons. The honourable gentleman has put forward a budget of taxes as though that could establish some equality of sacrifice of purchasing power for an ever-falling supply of commodities. Let it be made certain that the man receiving £1500 a year can get no more loaves of bread, no more suits of clothes, and no more wireless sets than the man earning £250 a year.

Mr. Curtin.—Then I move—

"That the first item be reduced by £1."

I do so for the following reason:—

That, while agreeing that the expenditure requisite for a maximum prosecution of the war should be provided by Parliament, the Committee is opposed to the unjust methods prescribed by the budget, declares that they are contrary to true equality of sacrifice, and directs that the plan of the budget should be recast to ensure a more equitable distribution of the national burden.

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Westralian M.P. Renews Demand for Proper Use of Commonwealth Bank

SCATHING ATTACK ON ORTHODOX FINANCE

In the West Australian Legislative Assembly on October 1, the Member for Murchison (Mr. Marshall), who moved the two previous resolutions on national credit carried by the House, returned to the attack with a further resolution and a fighting speech that should make his electors rejoice at having such a courageous champion.

There is no doubt where Mr. Marshall stands in the battle of The People versus The Money Power. We congratulate him and hope that each Westralian reader of this paper will do likewise, by letter—as well as taking the more practical step of writing to his own M.L.A. demanding support for Mr. Marshall in this matter.

The following report is taken from the West Australian "Herald":

Mr. Marshall (Murchison): I move—

"That in view of the fact that the Federal Government has persistently declined—although four Governments have passed resolutions indicating that the Commonwealth Bank should be used to supply all money necessary for a full and vigorous war effort, national works and social services without debt or any charge, and, further, that as the orthodox method now used by the Commonwealth Government to finance the nation's requirements at present and in the future must inevitably lead to such a colossal burden of debt, interest and taxation that a state of debt slavery must ultimately be reached—this House is therefore of opinion that the Premier of Western Australia should again approach the Prime Minister with a view of having the resolution carried by this Assembly last session given effect to, and, further, that the Government should take steps to ascertain the feeling of the taxpayers of Western Australia upon this question."

I hope members will pardon my persistence in constantly bringing this subject before the Assembly for consideration. Were it not of such importance I probably might not be so persistent. Almost every day one sees evidence of the necessity to do something on the lines set out in the motion. At present we hear a great deal about freedom, democracy and the virtues of democratic institutions. We also hear much about the necessity for making the supreme sacrifice in order to retain these institutions. In actual fact, however, democracy exists now only as a sham or pretence. You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that last session this Chamber carried by a large majority a motion on the same lines as this. The resolution so carried asked the Premier to convey to the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth the opinion of this House, and further suggested that the Premier should seek the support of other State Premiers in the matter. From that day until this we have not heard anything by way of reply from the Premier as to whether or not the resolution was conveyed to the Prime Minister.

The Premier: It was!

Mr. Marshall: This is the first intimation we have had that it was safely transmitted to the Prime Minister. We do not know whether any State Premiers agreed to support our Premier in bringing forward this important matter.

The Minister for Works: The Treasurer replied through the press.

Mr. Marshall: No, I mean not along the lines suggested by the resolution. The Treasurer of the Commonwealth replied to the motion because of Senator K. B. Johnston, and not because of the Premier of Western Australia. I

wish to say, in passing, that I replied to the Treasurer of the Commonwealth, but the free press of Western Australia refused to publish my reply. I made a second appeal to the editor of that paper correcting misunderstandings, which existed between us, and pleaded with him to publish that statement, but he had not the courtesy to reply to that letter.

Mr. Stubbs: That was not fair.

Mr. Marshall: No one here will doubt my statement. I have not the letters with me, but they are in my room, as is also my final appeal to the editor. I also replied to Sir Hal Colebatch and again the free press of this country refused to publish it. I have never had any scruples respecting the press; nor have I any scruples respecting wireless or the cinema. They are all, in the main, controlled by the individuals who are interfered with by motions of this kind.

I appreciate the fact that anything hostile to the policy of orthodox banking will find no room in the columns of the very free press. Its policy is dictated today by those who reap the profit. It does not take the responsibility of answering for its rules. This same body uses the Government that is elected by the people. It only rules so far as it is allowed to rule, by the secret hand of an international financial oligarchy. If the results of this particular activity did not deal with the welfare of millions of people; if it were not for the fact, due to misjudgment on the part of those secret or hidden individuals, that millions of people would be in a state of poverty and degradation, and that their destinies were badly controlled by them, it would not in all probability matter much. We have frequently heard the statement in this Chamber, and read it too, as having been made in other public places and other Houses of Parliament, that "Government, is finance and finance is Government," which implies that unless a Government controls finance it cannot govern. The position today is that no Government, no matter where situated, controls the finance necessary to govern. In my humble and limited way I have endeavoured constantly to bring this matter before this Chamber. A better appreciation of the fact is now held because of the terrific burden of taxation. The people of the Commonwealth have joyfully carried that burden, believing it to be necessary to win the war. Although that terrific burden has been carried, it is now proposed that it be increased. Under the cloak or disguise of war necessity very much can be done "with a community at war. Most people will make extreme sacrifices to protect themselves against an aggressor nation. Not being fully aware of the facts, they are prepared to carry terrific loads of taxation, believing it to

be absolutely essential in order to prosecute this war. Nothing can be further removed from the actual facts.

The basic principle upon which this motion rests is this: Can the Commonwealth Bank, the nation's bank, finance the nation's Government? If it can, why is that bank not being used for that purpose? I have not yet known one man from a professor of economics to a credited publicity agent or well-known mouthpiece for high finance, to be stupid enough to say that the Commonwealth Bank cannot do the job. It is true, of course, that they have all, in their turn, used other arguments to draw the people's attention away, and to incite fear by using their own Aunt Sally, which they first set up and then proceeded to knock down—unlimited credit, the printing of unlimited notes and the old stork, inflation. All these things have been used by them, but never has one of them stated openly, or attempted to justify it because he has never stated it, that the Commonwealth Bank is incapable of doing it.

Until the people realise that their own bank, the national bank, a bank which has the whole of the resources and the assets of this nation behind it, can do that job and do it debt-free without any charge, they will go on carrying one load of taxation upon another until they reach the stage of economic serfdom. In all probability my utterances would not be accepted as being very orthodox on the question whether the Commonwealth Bank can do this work, so I may be permitted to quote statements made by Sir Denison Miller, who was the first Governor of the Commonwealth Bank. I want it to be understood that that gentleman was an orthodox man. He was not a Socialist or a Communist, but an orthodox banker, thinking and acting along the lines of orthodox banking. He knew no other form of banking, and practised no other form. We have heard a lot about him and the good he did for the Commonwealth whilst Governor of the bank.

All that is undeniable. Never at one stage did he depart from the orthodox method, better known as usury. He upset the calcula-

tions of the Bank of England and of the Reserve Bank of America in 1922 when those institutions attempted to shackle us by a shrinkage of our currency back to the gold standard as was done in England. He defeated them in that move, because when the Associated Banks, which constitute the Australian end of the English banks, set out to shrink credits and refused to buy securities, he acted in a reverse way and extended credits and bought securities. He got so much money in circulation that their endeavour to depress this nation failed dismally. He did that and many other things besides, but he never departed from orthodox banking. I have here some remarks he made at the official opening of the Commonwealth Bank and its various branches throughout Australia. His speech was of historical importance and contained much valuable matter. Amongst other things he said:—

"The bank is being started without capital, as none is required at the present time, but it is backed by the entire wealth and credit of the whole of the Commonwealth of Australia."

The bank has all that behind it; it has practically everything Australia possesses behind it. It has all the security the private banks are now using against which to extend credits. On another occasion, Sir Denison was speaking in London at a gathering of bankers, who, no doubt, endeavoured to influence him to return to the gold standard. They could not, however, convince the Governor of the Commonwealth Bank that gold was more valuable than were human lives and happiness. He knew the value of gold so far as the currency was concerned, that it was a fetish and a symbol of confounded hypocrisy. He knew that at the back of it all was the capacity of the nation to produce real wealth, and he did not intend to starve the people of the Commonwealth to satisfy London Shylocks. On the occasion in question when speaking to the bankers in England he said:—

"The bank is in a unique position in having the whole of the Commonwealth of Australia at its back. It has no capital, nor has it

(Continued on page 8.)

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A "NOT TOO RADICAL" BUDGET?

"Predictions were made freely in Canberra last week that the new Labor Ministry would govern Australia for five years. This forecast, implying that the present Parliament would run its full term, and that Labor would win the next general election, was qualified in only one respect—THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL PROGRAMME WAS NOT TOO RADICAL. It was not made by Labor supporters, but by members of the new Opposition.

. . . Most Labor members are not quite so hopeful. Some of them suggest that Labor may meet trouble on its Budget. These are chiefly members who . . . were unsuccessful in the Ministerial ballot. Their professed view is that Labor may be compelled to seek the electorate's endorsement this year, if only to curb the Senate, where the joint Opposition parties have a majority of one. Ministers seem quietly confident. They have been guarded in their public statements, and give the impression that they are not going to jeopardise, by hasty or ill-considered action, the rehabilitation of the ten years since Labor was last in office . . . The two Independents on whom Labor's survival depends . . . Mr. Coles wants intensification of the war effort. So does Mr. Wilson, but he also wants some drastic changes in financial policy. The Budget will show how far Labor is prepared to go to meet his—and its own—ideas, having regard to the instability of its majority."

Thus the Federal Representative of the Melbourne "Argus" on Monday. We congratulate him on making such a clear and almost complete summary with so few words. Notice how tactfully he indicates that, while many of the lesser Labor lights expect a Budget which will cause "trouble" because of its "drastic changes in financial policy," the Leaders are "quietly confident," presumably because they do not contemplate a Budget which "the new Opposition" would regard as "too radical"—and we all know to our sorrow what that means. On that point we might add that Mr. Curtin, although giving vague assurances about "using the national credit," has also indicated pretty clearly that he is opposed to issuing debt-free and interest-free credits. Also, the new Treasurer (Mr. Chifley) seems to be very orthodox; while the retention of Professors Copland and Giblin as economic advisers is far from reassuring to those reformers who know the real record of these two orthodox economists. Furthermore, many who recall what the Bruce-Page Government did to the Commonwealth Bank, now note with surprise that the self-same Page is proceeding merrily, at the taxpayers' expense and with the blessing of the new Government, to join his former co-conspirator in London. Note, too, in the above report, the tactful hint that the retention of office, for themselves and the Party, may be the primary consideration with the Labor Leaders, whatever betrayal of their own principles and the people may be involved. Party Bosses, whatever their political colour, are all too often like that,

But there is one major factor which the "Argus" writer left out of his observations altogether: What will THE ELECTORS do before the Budget is presented to Parliament? Last week, in this column, we dealt with what they can and should do, and with the urgent duty of Electoral Campaigners to give a vigorous lead. We do not propose to cover that aspect again now. It should not be necessary. But we have three short words of advice for each and every reader of this paper: GO TO IT!

BIG ACTION PLANNED!

Will You Help?

Eric Butler plans further action, particularly in the Victorian country centres. Curtin's Budget will be introduced at Canberra towards the end of November. Now is the vital period in which to mobilise public opinion to ensure that this Budget is a move towards economic democracy. With the possibility of an election in the offing, Federal Members will be very susceptible to pressure.

Mr. Butler desires as many meetings as possible before Christmas. Many centres visited by Mr. Butler earlier in the year will, no doubt, desire another meeting. Supporters in new centres are requested to write in. No matter how small the centre or the meeting; Mr. Butler is willing to make his services available.

Write in NOW to Eric D. Butler, c/o "New Times," Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne.

LETS DEFER EVERYTHING

By FOOTLE

Well, Mr. Coles has demonstrated that you can't apply the "do it now" principle to national Budgets for reasons which several members were anxious to make plain. It is, in fact, just as I thought. The poor have been up to their old games again, sabotaging trade with their pinprick tactics. When Mr. Coles got so warmed up in the vicinity of the sub-maxillary glands because honourable members made a pointed reference to the passion of the poor for articles of a low price, he may or may not have been justified in assuming that the thrust was intended as a nasty knock of personal application.

Everybody is so touchy nowadays that to breathe a song into the air is to speed an arrow you know not where. You can't even make love without offending practically everybody but one person and if you have the temerity to write a book you have to go into a rigmarole on the flyleaf, explaining that if the cap fits you had better pretend you haven't seen it.

I am inclined to think that the honourable member who offended Mr. Coles was more concerned about the fifth column attitude of the low-wage earners than he was about personalities. I mean to say; even I have noticed the tendency of the hard-ups to purchase low-priced articles. They have an astonishing preference for deal furniture with a maple appearance, and appear satisfied as long as nothing but a trip to the rear of the "duchess" will disclose its humble origin. They adopt this attitude to practically everything. Do you ever catch the poor buying inlaid lino? Never! Yet everyone knows that its serviceability cannot be surpassed. Do they indulge in real china, crystal-ware, and decent pictures? They do not. Why, dash it, they won't even buy their fill of lamb, fruit, and wine, in spite of endless exhortations.

It seems to me, therefore, quite on the mark to say, as Sir George Bell contended, that if you were to pay the soldiers or their dependants as much as a shilling a day more, the probability is that they would go scouting for a few more substitute products.

In this, as in greater matters, no one can miss the logic and consistency of the protagonists of the late Government. When, for example, they did at last grasp that the presence of abundance did not relieve poverty, but rather, owing to certain mysterious but sacrosanct arrangements, did but aggravate it, the solution presented itself in a flash, and they painstakingly and painsgivingly applied themselves to the systematic abolition of the offending abundance.

So, in opposing any immediate increase in soldiers' pay, Sir George Bell is quite logically preventing the further sale of cheap gadgets or over-indulgence in American culture. No one can deny that freedom has its drawbacks. People not only want to be free to be heroes, they want to be free to make mistakes, and even to be so thoroughly ridiculous as to content themselves with something cheap if they can't afford something expensive. They seem determined to be content.

To a titled personage their pathetic futility must be only too apparent, and the idea of preventing people from cultivating rubbish by manipulating their incomes is so obvious that I wonder sometimes it isn't pressed a little further. I mean to say, you could render the sale of trash quite impossible by abolishing incomes altogether. And that, after all, might be a good thing, for it would then be possible to con-

sider the best means of working off the surplus lamb, butter, fruit, and wine. It seems to me that money is such a perishing nuisance that we'd be better without it. The principal drawback from a Government point of view would be the difficulty of taxation. Pongo Pyke says not to worry, for love isn't by any means the only thing to find a way.

But if we must retain money, I've thought of a way out. I suppose you've noticed how nearly every proposal up to date has been to sock the banking account of Posterity. I'm not for the moment concerned with the morality of this process, because for one thing, as someone has saliently remarked, Posterity has never done a darn thing for us, and, in the second place, if Posterity is as wealthy as the financiers are proving, it doesn't deserve any consideration while we are so short of the ready.

So what I thought was simply this: Seeing that in the future there'll be simply enormous sums of money in existence from the repayment of war savings and war loans, to say nothing of the repayment of the national debt, we could just issue out all the surplus stuff we can't sell, and accept an i.o.u. maturing at the same time as the loans and things. There may be other produce besides lamb and fruit and wine that could be dealt with on this basis. Everything would then cancel out nicely. Posterity would rake in the loans and pay them out again on the i.o.u., and everybody would be satisfied.

Pongo Pyke won't have it at all. He says Posterity has got to pay the loans, not to receive them, but that's very shortsighted of him, because if Posterity pays, who is going to receive payment? Obviously, Posterity. There won't be anyone else so far as I can see. I don't think Pongo can be right. I mean to say, dash it, it would be a bit thick to pinch their property and then leave them to pay it back. The fairness of the Footles would not tolerate any such arrangement as that.

Besides, as a religious pal of Aunt Ella's said when I propounded my scheme, the unfairness of the arrangement to at once apparent when you reflect that the end of the world may be at hand. Pongo Pyke, who was present said he hadn't thought much about the end of the world, but even if it took as long as the astronomers seem to think, he didn't expect accounts to be squared much before that time, and that therefore our worry was premature.

So once again, I came out by that same door as in I went.

SHADES OF MONTY

In many of our large work-shops the employees, at the mention of taxes, smile and silently stroke an imaginary goatee beard. It has been said that actions speak louder than words.

SUNDRY NOTES ON THE NEWS

(Continued from page 1.)

propaganda. However, the statement that the Soviet Red Army is the last great barrier to Nazi Germany is a lie. This statement supposes that, without the assistance of Soviet Russia, the British Empire cannot maintain and eventually win this struggle. It is interesting to reflect upon what would have happened in the Russo-German conflict if Germany had still possessed the thousands of front line "planes and thousands of "crack" pilots lost against Britain in the first eighteen months of the war. Although the British peoples are naturally thankful for any assistance received from other countries, the hard fact must be faced that the sooner we concentrate all our efforts upon a real maximum Empire effort, the sooner we will win this war for ourselves—yes, for ourselves.

* * *

The Governor of "The Enemy Within the Empire," Mr. Montagu Norman, gave one of his very rare radio talks in Britain last week. The following extract is from the Melbourne "Herald" of October 10: "The daily cost of the war was some £13,000,000 said Mr. Montagu Norman, Governor of the Bank of England, in a broadcast on the new 2½ per cent. National War Bonds issue, the subscription list for which opened today. Of this £13,000,000 something over one-half was provided by taxation and other sources. The rest—some £5,000,000 a day—must come from loans or the risk of inflation would be incurred."

It would be interesting to know what the "other sources" are. One of those sources wouldn't be the Bank of England by any chance, I suppose. Or would it? Loans mostly come from the same source—directly or indirectly. The Bank of England and the other banks create money—or credit—for these loans at practically no cost to themselves. They lend all money as a debt carrying a perpetual interest bill. The British taxpayers are expected to pay increased taxation to meet these interest bills. That is how Britain is winning the war. Ask Mr. Norman.

* * *

The following sinister news-item appeared in the Melbourne "Age" last Saturday, October 11: "Lord Reith, Minister of Works and Buildings, has taken a big step forward in ordering the registration of building and civil engineering contractors all over the country, writes our London correspondent. In future, no one who is unregistered will be permitted to carry on business, and the granting of a certificate will be subject to the acceptance of certain conditions as to the labor employed. Later, it is understood, there will come the registration of building trade workers and a regional grouping of firms. Thus a control will be established to secure the most economic conditions of working. The allotment of contracts will then be decided by consideration other than costs, and building programmes will be brought under close scrutiny. **The Minister will have a strong hold upon all the building in the country.**" (My emphasis.)

How lovely! All that the common people are expected to do is to be regimented into the kind of homes planned for them by someone else. Almost like National Socialism in Germany! It is about time that some of the "leaders" in Britain learnt that the British people are fighting this war to smash National Socialism!

* * *

There are still many people who have very queer views about the function of a political representative. The following report appeared in the Melbourne "Age" of Saturday, October 11:

"Criticism of the stand taken by Mr. Wilson, MP., in assisting to bring about the defeat of the Fadden Government was expressed at a meeting of the Bendigo branch of

the United Country Party tonight, when a resolution was passed that 'Having regard to the fact that the member for Wimmera is an endorsed U.C.P. candidate, this branch is of the opinion that his reported attitude of independence is entirely inconsistent with his association with the U.C.P. in Victoria. . . . He was not an Independent; he was representing the U.C.P. in Victoria, which had endorsed him, and whose endorsement he had sought. When a vital matter, such as the decision whether the Government should be ejected, arose, the decision should not have been left to one man. He should at least have consulted the party he represented.'

How these party juntas love power! I always thought that Mr. Wilson was representing the electors of Wimmera at Canberra. I am quite certain that Mr. Wilson believes that, also.

Why should any representative of the people have to consult a party junta before making a decision? The only people whom he should consult are those he is paid to represent—his electors.

* * *

Have the bankers captured the Department of Information? I found myself asking this question last week after visiting a Melbourne city theatre. The Department of Information "short," "Silver Bul-

(Continued on page 8.)

US. AID-TO WHOM?

The following report appeared on the front page of the "Newcastle Sun" of Friday, October 10:—"CAIRO, Friday (A.A.P.). —The United States will be able to give Russia effective aid in time," said General J. H. Burns, U.S. Defence Aid Chief, on his arrival here today by air from Moscow. ". . . I don't think there is any doubt the Russians will go on fighting and we will go on helping them until victory is won."

Immediately underneath this report appeared the following:

"WASHINGTON, Thursday (A.A.P.). . . . Large supplies of essential war materials consigned TO THE AXIS (my emphasis) have been discovered at storage points in the United States. . . . In New York alone 1000 car-loads of vital materials were found, and in one railroad yard at New Jersey there were 500,000 lb. of aluminium, 700,000 lb. of tinplate, and 1500 tons of iron and steel products."

Since the U.S.A. is supposed to be a Democracy, and since the Democracies are supposed to have their sympathies with the cause of the British Empire and her Allies against the Nazi aggressor, it is, to say the least, alarming to hear such reports as the latter.

What should arrest our attention, however, is this: Knowing that the iron and steel, tinplate and aluminium industries are now merged into practically one huge monopoly, and realising how closely connected in war activities

is this multi-industrial group and the "Democratic" Government of the United States, how comes it that such colossal consignments of heavy industrial products should be concealed from the Government, its agents, the secret service, and the police? There appears to be dirty work somewhere.

If it is established that these vital war materials were consigned to Axis Powers, we well know who were the BUYERS. But—in the interests of national and Empire protection—WHO WERE THE PROSPECTIVE SELLERS? Electors should get busy in demanding information through their representatives in the Parliament of the Commonwealth.

—"Scissors."

MR. BRUCE BROWN

will speak on "Make-Believe or Reality?" at the Australian Church, 19 Russell-street, Melbourne, C.I., on Sunday evening, October 19.

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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.

"CONTROL OF WAR PRODUCTION BY THE LABOR GOVERNMENT"

A Talk Broadcast From 7HO, Hobart, at 8.15 p.m. on Sunday, October 12, by JAMES GUTHRIE, B.Sc.

The Fadden Government has been removed at Canberra, and few people will shed tears at its passing. Now, we have a Labor Government in control of the country, and we are all anxiously waiting to see if it can give a more inspiring lead to a nation which is anxious to do very much more to help the war effort than the previous Government permitted.

The main burden of war production rests on experienced engineers, technicians, organisers and skilled tradesmen. The duty of the new Labor Government is to see that these men have all unnecessary restrictions removed so as to allow them to go full speed ahead at their own work—the work which they alone can do.

In the recent debates on war production in the British House of Commons, a most pathetic state of affairs was revealed; and an authoritative statement issued by the allied engineering firms of Great Britain showed clearly the troubles, which are holding up production throughout the length and breadth of the country.

Most of the munitions of war in Great Britain are made by the smaller engineering firms; under pressure from the Socialist members of the Churchill Government these firms are pounced on by the Government as soon as they make any profits. If they don't make any profits the private banks refuse to grant them any credits to carry on. The chaos caused by this ridiculous state of affairs is indescribable.

Most of the engineering firms require extensions to be made to the factories to cope with the making of munitions; most of these extensions will be valueless after the war. For this reason the private banks refuse to finance the building of these extensions, and the Government will give no assistance.

If the private firms are patriotic enough to build these extensions out of profit and incur the liability of a dead loss, the Government still demands payment of taxes on profits, which do not exist.

The Churchill Government challenged by the industry enquiring as to how it is going to collect taxes on profits that do not exist, has offered to lend the money to the firms to pay their taxes, but will not offer to build the extensions.

Considering that the British Government has made grants of millions of pounds to American firms to build factories, and refuses to finance English firms, the facts are amazing.

The only methods by which the smaller engineering firms can escape from most of their financial difficulties is to refuse to build any extensions and to refuse to buy new and up-to-date plant; and this many of the firms are doing.

The position is this: that practically the whole of British munitions of war in England is produced by private enterprise. Private enterprise is heavily victimised if it makes a profit, and if it doesn't make a profit it is not allowed to carry on.

Fancy trying to play cricket under rules like that; fancy trying to do anything under these conditions. Do you know of any better way of destroying the war effort of the British Empire?

The Labor Party policy of trying to reduce war profits by taxation is sheer madness, and can only destroy our war effort. Let the Government set a just price on the work to be produced and never mind about the profits. There is plenty of time after the war to think about that. Our job is to get the goods delivered

this year; next year might be too late.

This is not the time to try to hit people on the head because we have some cock-eyed idea that it is wicked to make profits. Every firm in this country exists to make profits, and until the Government is in the position to exercise some supervisory control over industry and is prepared to take financial risks, then it must give every encouragement in its power to those who can produce anything at all.

The British naval authorities have exercised control over prices of shipbuilding very effectively; they have their own corps of naval architects and a naval construction yard. By these means constructional details and costs can be constantly checked. Vindictive action through taxation of profits is only the destructive weapon of ignorant men.

The difficulty with war production is that nobody is prepared to take the financial risk involved in building new premises and buying new machinery, which may be useless after the war. In the past the Government would not shoulder the burden, and the private banks would not permit anybody else to do so.

The financial policy of the British and Australian Governments has definitely and most decidedly held up the war effort in a most shocking manner, and the first task of the new Labor Government is to remove these financial restrictions immediately. All new construction work should be financed by the Commonwealth Bank on behalf of the Government. This is essentially the task of the Government, and will solve a vast number of difficulties. What is to become of these assets after the war can be discussed later; our task is to get them built now.

A great number of labour troubles could be eliminated by seeing that the prices of foodstuffs are reduced so that plenty is available to every household; this is essentially a financial problem, a problem of granting the necessary credits. Here, again, this is a Government task; and it will be interesting to see if and how the Labor Government tackles it.

Last year, in England, the Government was subsidising the prices of foodstuffs to the extent of over £50 million a year, in order to keep the prices down to the means of the people, and this amount has been greatly increased in the past year.

A great deal of apprehension exists in this country over the ramifications of the great monopolies and the destruction and victimisation of small business firms. Here again, the Government's duty is not to destroy in wartime what it cannot build itself but to use the country's assets to the best advantage.

Broken Hill Pty. Ltd., as a manufacturing concern, is a great asset to this country; its political and financial ramifications are a great menace. The Government,

if it has the courage, can break its political and financial hold on the country, and, by supervisory control, use its manufacturing potentialities to the full.

The Commonwealth Bank, properly used, is a much more powerful financial institution than Broken Hill Pty. Ltd., but its policy will have to be changed. The greater objection the Labor Party and Mr. Chifley, the present Commonwealth Treasurer have to the private trading banks is the profits they make; his dissent to the findings of the Royal Commission on Banking was based almost exclusively on the profit the trading banks made. Here again, this reveals the cockeyed view Labor always takes to vital problems.

The profits made by the private trading banks are the least important and the least socially injurious of all their many activities. The main complaint over the last twenty years of all those with knowledge and experience of the financial system has been, not about profits, but about power.

Finance is government; finance is a system of control. Those who control finance, control the activities of the nation, they control war production; they control taxation; they can decide whether or not we are to have a depression. As Rothschild said: "I care not who make the laws of the country as long as I have power to issue the credit." Or, as the Director of England's largest bank said, "They who control the credit of the nation direct the policy of Governments and hold in the hollow of their hands the destiny of the people." That is what men who know something about banking say.

Let Labor stop talking about profits and make the financial system serve the people; that's what we want; we want results, not obsolete theories.

The organisation of a country to produce in large quantities the complicated machines of war is a vast and difficult task. But with the best of good spirits and the utmost eagerness to help on behalf of the majority of the people is of little avail unless men and women are permitted to work full out and to their best advantage.

One British firm, producing tanks had during the process of manufacture 5000 alterations made in the design of one tank alone. Could you imagine any better method of destroying production or breaking the heart of all concerned? It is very comfortable to be able to close your eyes to all these things and to accept the statements of politicians, that all is going beautifully. But there is no likelihood of all going beautifully when men in power are so anxious to inflict upon the country new methods of Government while the war is in progress. It is not playing cricket to try to introduce new social systems under the cloak of war emergency.

The vindictive war taxation is quite unnecessary, and its real purpose is to destroy all small businesses and to reduce everybody down to the lowest possible economic level. In other words, to produce a proletarian State where everyone is dispossessed and disinherited; where nobody is permitted to exist without a licence from the Government. These are the conditions that are being produced in is war. The men who control the strings behind the scenes told us they would produce these conditions; that they use half-educated specialists and Communists to help their task need not blind you to their main purpose. The people of the British Empire could not accept the half-baked and unnatural theories and practices of international Communism unless they were first reduced to a state of chaos and desperation. They are being reduced to a state of chaos and soon they will accept any alternative to the present chaos.

This great Empire of ours contains
(Continued on page 8.)

CHALK MARKS

Years ago, before the local brick works were part of the combine, our town council built our footpaths out of brand new bricks. In recent years, owing to lesser "costs," the council has made the pavements out of concrete slabs, which are almost as smooth as school slates.

The kiddies and the Communists love to chalk their fond fancies upon them. As you walk along you may read childish impressions or political slogans. You might see in chalk, "Artie is mad," or "Fight for Socialist Russia," or perhaps "God Save Australia."

If you are observant you may form some idea of the currents of political thought by piecing together these indicators of mental attitudes.

It was Sunday afternoon when old Mr. McQuigan, 40 years an active supporter of the A.L.P., and popularly known as "The Adjutant," strolled leisurely along the pavement. He smoked his old bent-stem pipe with apparent satisfaction. The Labor Party had been appointed to office.

It was not long until he saw Jack Armstrong approaching. Jack always refused to join the Party, and Mr. McQuigan, when amongst his friends, often referred to Jack as "our neutral friend," or "that young democrat."

As soon as the two met, Jack's greeting was, "Good day, Mr. McQuigan," and the reply came, "Good day to you, young man."

"What do you think of the political situation?" queried the Democrat. "Oh, very good indeed! We're back in the saddle again," replied the Adjutant. "Who? You and me?" asked the Democrat. "No, no, the Party, my boy, the Party," responded the Adjutant.

"Oh, yeah! And the politicians will enjoy the party while high prices and taxes murder our wages," retorted the Democrat.

"Make no mistake about that," said the Adjutant, encouragingly. "They'll do things this time." He

added emphasis to the word "do" by pointing the stem of his pipe at his adversary as he uttered the word.

"Good," came the quick response, "we can judge them on what they do." The Democrat pointed his forefinger at the Adjutant as he uttered the word "judge," and went on: "What was the first thing Curtin did? Sent a lovely message to Singapore—the same gentleman who helped to scuttle Labor's Commonwealth Bank—a Bank of England man. Pshaw!"

The Adjutant made an effort to retain his composure. He emptied the ashes from his pipe, and then replied, "Well—er—perhaps Mr. Curtin thought of one man who'd be better out of the country." The Democrat looked perplexed. He smiled grimly, then drew his breath, stroked an imaginary beard and softly said, "Shades o' Monty!" In louder tones he exclaimed, "Can't you see the writing on the wall?"

The Adjutant saw the need for pacifism. "Don't get excited, lad. Give 'em time. You're young and too impatient," he counselled.

The Democrat cast his eyes to the pavement. Suddenly he cried in a triumphant voice, "Even the kids know. Look at the writing under your nose." He pointed to chalk marks on the pavement, which read: "J.C. loves EP!"

—Terence OToole.

WATERING INLAND AUSTRALIA

By DR. J. J. C. BRADFIELD

An outstanding constructional engineer widely known for his part in designing and supervising construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Dr. Bradfield here outlines a scheme for the solution of the problem of irrigating and developing our vast inland. In his considered opinion the schemes he envisages are practicable.

In particular he deals with four great irrigation schemes in Central Australia and with the harnessing of floodwaters from coastal rivers to be used to develop western Queensland. To hold and develop Australia, projects such as this must be undertaken and carried out with vision and courage.

In the development of Australia the wings of dawn are but beating at the break of day. Our coastal rivers are unharnessed and in flood lime some 20 million horse power or thereabouts are lost, power that could be brought into being by hydro-electric schemes—schemes that would give control of floods in the rivers with consequent mitigation of flood damage, schemes that would give great quantities of water for use in irrigation and electric power for industrial purposes. The need for hydroelectric power should particularly be kept in mind as Australia contains only 1 per cent, of the coastal resources of the world.

Our inland rivers, when in flood, flow on until the water is lost in the sand. The Finke, the Georgina, Cooper's Creek, the Diamantina and their tributaries could have their occasional flood waters stored for irrigation and domestic purposes. We have rivers of sand some 1000 miles long. These can be cleaned out and rehabilitated when we become irrigation minded, as the Chinese became over 4000 years ago.

Shinnung, the divine husbandman of China, began to reign 2832 B.C., and instructed the people in agriculture and irrigation. Yu was raised to the throne of that country B.C. 2205 for his skill in draining and irrigating. In those days, at any rate, engineers received the regard they merited. A Chinese engineer, I Ping, took the Plain of Czechuan in hand, and planned a system of canals. It was then uninhabited, as there was no water. Today the Plain supports 43 million people.

COST OF INLAND SCHEMES

Some inland rivers, which have occasional heavy floods, could be dammed where there is a rocky bar, with earthen levees extending at an angle of 45 degrees fan-wise from the dam, each levee being, say, 140 miles long. They would hold up the floodwaters when they occur over an area of 5000 square miles some 20 feet deep and over.

A dragline caterpillar excavator with a ten-yard shovel would put the material in place for a few pence per cubic yard. The riverbed would be rehabilitated for 100 miles of its length (say, 30 feet deep). The cost of dam, levees, rehabilitating river bed and incidental works could be carried out for about £10,000,000 spent wholly for Australian labour and material. The river would probably have permanent water, owing to the water filtering in from the sand.

Four such schemes inland would provide a water surface, of, say, 20,000 square miles in so-called desert country as the floods came. The evaporation—100 inches per annum—from such a water surface could cause a fall of rain of four inches over 500,000 square miles of the dry inland. The rain, after refreshing the vegetation, would evaporate and fall again as rain.

DAM SITES IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

Is the expenditure of £40,000,000 all for Australian labour and material worthwhile for such water schemes? The interest at 3½ per cent, would be £1,400,000 per an-

num. What a scheme for post-war development, when work will be needed. If interest is charged (it need not be) is the probable fall of four inches of rain over 500,000 square miles of the dry inland worth the interest? Increased rainfall would eventually change the climate. Australia lacks rain inland because it lacks moisture. What a job for an engineer, and how it would develop and populate inland Australia!

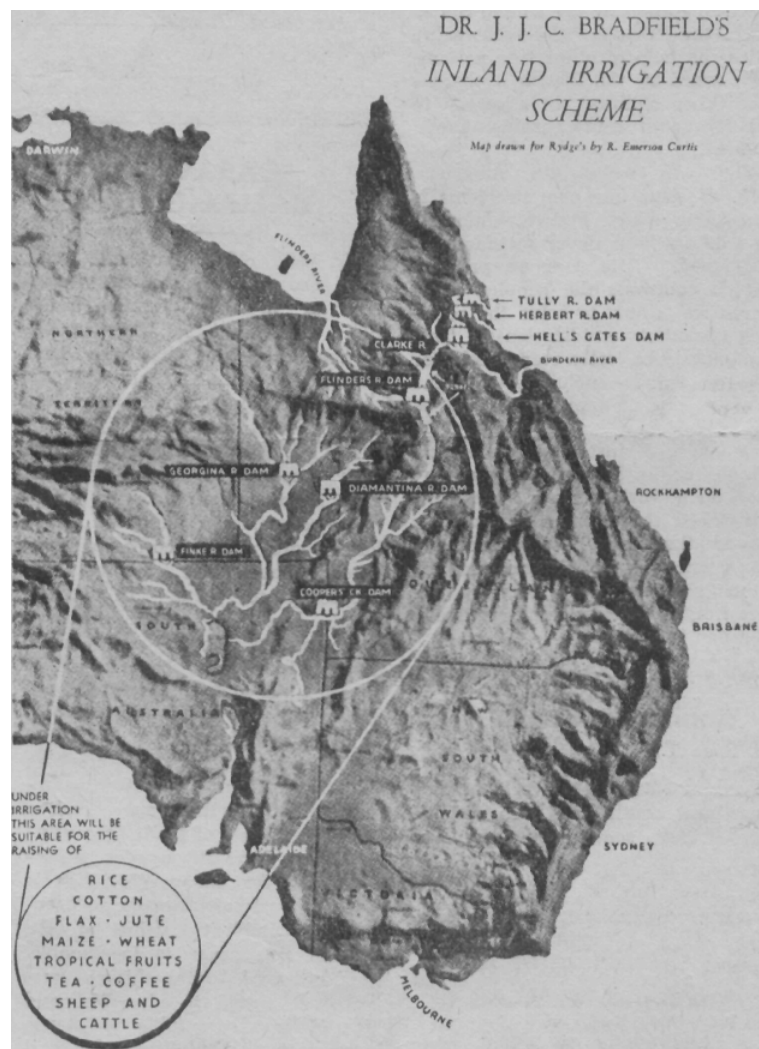
The Finke River and its tributaries rise in Central Australia, where there are two ranges of mountains, the MacDonnell and

Glen Helen Gorge, Simpson's Gap, the Finke River and the Valley of the Palms, a tributary of the Finke River and Ganger Waters, would be suitable dam sites. Saltbush and indigenous grasses, mulga, parakellia and ghost gums flourish. Parakellia is a unique herbage, which grows on sandy country in Central Australia. It is highly nutritious, and so succulent that stock do not require water when feeding on it. Saltbush and mulga grow in the dry areas.

INVESTIGATION NECESSARY

Surveys and a comprehensive investigation are required to determine the most suitable impounding sites, but the possibilities of a large irrigation scheme in the centre of Australia are apparent. The water may have to be conveyed from the reservoirs in pipes and concrete lined channels to prevent it from seeping in the sand. The State of Bikaner, India, has run a concrete lined canal into the Thar Desert, 90 miles long, and settled some 200,000 people on a rainless area.

It would be possible to store in the many gorges the run-off



the Musgrave Ranges, about 200 miles apart and approximately parallel to each other east and west for a distance of 300 miles. They enclose an area of about 60,000 square miles. The country between these mountain ranges is approximately 1500 feet high; some peaks are 4000 feet and others approximately 5000 feet above sea level, and are the sources of the Neales, the Macumba, the Alberga and Hamilton and the Finke River and its tributaries, the Hugh and the Palmer.

In the Musgrave Ranges the Maryatt, Hamilton and Stevenson Rivers rise and flow south until they lose themselves in the sand.

Between the ranges, Mount Olga, 1400, and Ayers Rock, 1100 feet high, rise above the country, which has a rainfall at times exceeding 15 inches per annum, whilst the average is nine inches and over. Lake Amadeus is one of a chain of lakes, jackpots from which a large amount of moisture is evaporated, which falls as rain in the area between the ranges; Ayers Rock has a perennial water supply on its summit.

from this area of 60,000 square miles between the MacDonnell and Musgrave Ranges, and impound enough water to irrigate at least 500 square miles of country in the heart of Australia with 48 inches of water annually. The water to be impounded for an irrigation area of 500 square miles would be 56 thousand million cubic feet, which would represent a depth of water 70 feet over an area of 30 square miles. There are gorges in the Musgrave and MacDonnell Ranges where such dam sites exist, and where a greater depth of water than 70 feet could be impounded and others where water can be stored to a depth of 100 feet and over. In this area the evaporation reaches 100 inches per annum, so a storage 100 feet in depth would last 12 years if no rain fell, but the average yearly rainfall of nine inches and upwards is reliable. Five hundred square miles, of irrigated permanent pasture could add over 3,000,000 sheep to Central Australia, and would stabilise and make more certain the productivity of the surrounding area. The water stored in these mountain ranges would be rainwater,

United Democrats' Report

From Headquarters, 17 Waymouth Street, Adelaide.

The Possibilities: In a mere three or four days' organising, Mr. Harvey has shown what can be done. Almost all the time he has been outside, rallying the forces that we have felt sure were, all this time, standing ready. The response has been most encouraging. Many of our old supporters find themselves so busy these days that we have temporarily lost sight of them. Mr. Harvey is endeavouring to catch up with some of them. If you know of any who are still vitally interested in what we stand for (and who could really lose their genuine interest?), would you please let us have their names? And if you know of any groups anywhere who are looking for someone to address them on present-day problems, notify us and we will endeavour to arrange the matter.

Town Hall Meeting: Keep in mind the monster meeting in the Adelaide Town Hall on October 23. This was originally arranged as a protest meeting against the Budget. Now it will be an opportunity to develop a little power to place at the disposal of Mr. Curtin, who will obviously need it if he really embarks on the kind of programme we are looking for. Mr. Macgillivray, MP, will be one of the speakers. Advertise this meeting as much as you can, and bring all your acquaintances!

Quarterly Meeting: Do not forget that the quarterly meeting that was arranged for the same date has been cancelled.

Luncheon Address: On October 24 we are hoping to receive a visit from Dr. Ethel Hillier, Principal of the Homes' School.

—M. R. W. Lee, Correspondence Secretary.

'BANKS AND FACTS'

This challenging answer to the National Bank of Australasia brochure, "Facts of War Finance," is proving to be one of the most widely read of current booklets dealing with the real facts of war finance. In order that its distribution may be made as universal as possible, a special fund, for the purpose of obtaining quantities for free distribution to "key men" and other selected individuals, has been opened up by a few keen supporters of the UEA. Through the U.E.A. alone, nearly 500 copies have already been either sold or distributed in this way in Victoria, but this has only touched the fringe of possibility. Make Victoria's contribution to this drive another 1000 copies. Give the people the facts so that they can demand VICTORY WITHOUT DEBT. Donations to this special fund should be forwarded to the Hon. Sec., United Electors of Australia, 343 Little Collins-street, Melbourne, C.I.

free from minerals. An analysis of the water in the Farina Railway Reservoir, on the Alice Springs railway line, contains only 9.2 grains of mineral matter per gallon; artesian waters contain 38 grains and upwards per gallon, so there is no possible doubt whatever as to the suitability of water impounded from the MacDonnell and Musgrave Ranges for irrigation purposes.

At Katherine, on the Katherine River, a Mr. Nixen has started an irrigation farm. Water is pumped from the river; the soil is rich, and, given water, cabbages, tomatoes, pumpkins and other vegetables, bananas and paw paws grow to perfection.

—(Condensed from "Rydge's.")
(To be continued.)

SUNDRY NOTES ON THE NEWS

(Continued from page 5.)

lets," contains the most blatant bankers' propaganda — including downright lies—that I have yet seen. Sir Claude Reading's speech, in which he stated that the people would have to pay for this war out of their pockets, was an insult to the intelligence of any thinking person.

And the nice little scene showing officials counting bars of gold, giving the impression that notes have a gold backing, was outrageous. Electors should protest about public money being spent on bankers' propaganda.

* * *

People who have been used to doing real things are very resentful towards the increasing bureaucracy in this and other British countries. It hasn't achieved any marvellous results so far as the "Comrades" in Asia are concerned. Bureaucracy, red tape and centralization are all attendant evils of the present lunatic financial system.

The following extract from the Melbourne "Herald" of October 10 speaks for itself:

"It looks as though we are trying to win the war by filling in forms," said John Wilson, manager of Cockatoo Dock and Engineering Co. Ltd., when he received a letter from the Arbitration Court asking for information on overtime and shift work. . . . In evidence Wilson said the company's administrative staff had received so many requests for returns by different Government departments that agony was being piled on agony, and their war effort was being impeded."

We have thousands of people wasting their time putting marks on pieces of paper to see how many other thousands are also putting marks on pieces of paper.

* * *

The following is from the Melbourne "Age" of October 9:

"London, October 8. —The Government is giving preliminary consideration to the problem of the vast quantities of supplies which victory will leave in the British Empire's possession. It has been decided that there must be no sudden unloading of surplus stocks on the market, as happened in 1919 with catastrophic effects on price levels and employment. **It is understood**

that the Government intends to retain for some time after the war many of the present control and rationing schemes." (My emphasis.)

It is false to suggest that the economic chaos after the last war was the result of goods being thrown on the market. It was caused by the bankers' deliberate policy of credit restriction. Increasing Government control seems to indicate that measures are to be taken to limit the supply of goods to make it correspond with the artificial money shortage. Electors must demand that steps be taken now to ensure that the people shall have full access to any "surplus" production, which may exist after the war. This means an adequate supply of money for the people.

* * *

The internationalists are making considerable progress in their agitation for a centrally governed World State. According to a report in the Melbourne "Age" of October 9, Lord Halifax, British Ambassador to America, has joined the growing ranks.

The report states: "The necessity for the reconstruction of the shattered fabric of world trade after the war, to be planned and undertaken in co-operation by the United States and the British Commonwealth, with the help of other free nations, was urged by the British Ambassador (Lord Halifax), in a speech to the National and Foreign Trade Council."

Just why we require American help to solve our own problems is something, which Federal Unionists and others have never satisfactorily explained. The common problem, which confronts the peoples of all countries, is how to solve the paradox of poverty amidst plenty. This paradox is basically responsible for the major evils—including war. The obvious line of approach should be an attempt to solve the problem on a small scale instead of increasing the difficulties by attempting a solution on a world scale. I am quite convinced that British citizens can govern their own lives without any "assistance" from America or any other country. At least we are determined that we don't want any Gorman "assistance."

"Black Magic Ideas of Mobilising Credit"

(Continued from Page 1.)

"must necessarily involve the cutting down of production for civilian uses; in that case the public as a whole must do with fewer goods and services for their own enjoyment. No manipulation of credit can alter that elementary fact"

This statement assumes that, prior to the increases in the war effort, (1) all people were fully employed, (2) there was no surplus production, (3) that production was static (could not be increased).

All three contentions are false. To our shame we have still unemployed people; our warehouses and railway sidings are packed with goods that we lack the shipping to export; the various Boards and Commissions appointed to control our production are striving frantically in every way to limit and restrict it by licensing, by prohibition, and by straight-out destruction. The reason for this insane proceeding is the fear that prices will slump to unremunerative levels. It never seems to occur to people of Professor Isles' stamp that a proper "manipulation of credit," by insuring producers against loss, would enable all this surplus production to be distributed among the people at reasonable prices, and allow them to devote their whole energies to the war effort.

But perhaps Professor Isles does not wish to see people contented and prosperous. He would feel sad, he assures us, if anyone claimed that an infallible

means of ridding the world of disease and death had been discovered. Well, some people are like that.

—D. J. Amos, F.A.I.S.

A Champion of the People in W.A.

(Continued from page 3.)

required any, as the people themselves and their country are its security."

The Premier: Where do you get all that?

Mr. Marshall: It is contained in a book by Lang, and these are statements from it that I am quoting. Sir Denison Miller knew what actual security his bank had, and he used it to the full during the last war. I understand that in London within twenty-four hours he made available sufficient money by way of credits for the purchase of the entire fleet known as the Commonwealth line of steamers. He financed the wheat-growers and the woolgrowers to the extent of millions. He did much more with his bank which started with no capital, but which had the security of the Commonwealth behind it. Had it not been for the Commonwealth Bank the producers of this country would never have enjoyed the prices they received for their commodities, and the cheap freights they secured.

(To be continued.)

Don't miss next week's instalment

HAVE YOU WRITTEN TO YOUR M.H.R. AND SENATORS?

GET YOUR FELLOW-ELECTORS TO WRITE, TOO

Printed copies of the following letter may be obtained, at one shilling per hundred, from The United Electors of Australia, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, C.I.

....., M.H.R./Senator,
Canberra, A.C.T.

Sir, —I hereby inform you that I desire the coming Budget to embrace the following principles:

- (1) The war effort shall not be restricted by financial considerations.
- (2) As taxation has reached saturation point, and any increases would be detrimental to morale, there shall be no further increases.
- (3) All additional revenue required shall be obtained direct from the Government's Commonwealth Bank, free of debt and interest charges.
- (4) As a safeguard against inflation, no increase in the cost of living shall be permitted.

If these results are obtained, you may be assured of my support.

Yours faithfully,

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.....

CARAVAN CAMPAIGNERS

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Rolls, who are campaigning by horse-caravan in New South Wales, have been kept so busy in the Newcastle district that they have decided to continue their activities there until some time towards the end of next week.

The difficulties connected with their means of travel prevent them from adhering to any pre-arranged itinerary, and they therefore regret that correspondents' letters have had to be re-addressed to them. In certain cases, however, where positive arrangements have been made, they will do their best to arrive on schedule, and, if requested, will place their services at the disposal of local enthusiasts.

The campaigners are carrying all "New Times" literature, current issues of the paper, and a big selection of all recently published New Economics publications. Very encouraging reports of their work are already to hand, and the publicity value of the tour to this paper is inestimable. Readers and sympathisers are, therefore, urged to give Mr. and Mrs. Rolls all possible assistance in respect to literature sales and in obtaining new subscribers.

Their address for the time being will be c/o. GP.O., Newcastle, N.S.W., and they are expected to reach Maitland probably on Friday next.

CHRISTMAS TAILORING

The attention of readers is directed to the advertisement of Frank Devlin appearing in this issue, and you are reminded that Christmas time is suit time. So be wise—don't delay, order your Christmas suit today! Frank Devlin also caters for ladies' tailor-made costumes to order. Prices range from £6/6/-, and in view of the present shortage in all suiting materials, this price is remarkably low, but please note: These prices can only last while present stocks are available. Personal attention given every order. Address: 2nd Floor, Elizabeth House, 340 Little Collins-street, Melbourne; 'phone M5177.

—Advt.

Newcastle (N.S.W.) District

Enthusiasts residing in the Newcastle district are invited to join in a caravan social, to be held at the campaigners' camp, North Stockton, on Saturday, October 18, commencing at 2.30 pm.

The ocean beach being only 200 yards distant, facilities for bathing will be made available, and a rowing boat will be at our disposal on the Hunter River nearby. Part of the afternoon will be occupied by five-minute addresses by those local campaigners desirous of taking advantage of the opportunity, and Mr. and Mrs. Norman Rolls will deliver a message from fellow campaigners in other parts of the Commonwealth. Afternoon tea will be served in the tent at four o'clock. No charge will be made, but all visitors will be asked to purchase a booklet to help the caravan campaign. In the event of disagreeable weather, Mrs. Jordan will be happy to accommodate visitors in her home nearby. Therefore come along, bring your friends, and spend a real half-holiday. A piano and six other musical instruments will be available, and we expect to have the services of a clever local entertainer. The rest is up to YOU. The camp is located near the Jordans' home (first house in scrub past Garden Suburb). Catch bus at Ferry Wharf.

—Newcastle Supporters.

"Control of War Production"

(Continued from page 6.)

mighty resources of men and materials. For years now these resources have been wasted and restricted by financial tricksters who used our political parties to divide the people and keep them helpless. The best way to defeat the aims at these international gentry is to refuse to be divided into political parties, and to watch carefully every move that is made, and, whenever you see any resources which are not being used, see that it is reported to the proper quarter; see that it gets publicity. Publicity is the only thing, which will stop the underground gentry. They don't like publicity; that's the best reason for giving it to them.

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