

ON OTHER PAGES

How to Win the Peace. (Page 2.)
Dollar Invasion. (Page 4.)
Book Review. (Page 5.)
Letters to Editor. (Page 8.)

EVERY FRIDAY

THE

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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).

Castlemaine Reformatory Scandal

Something to Write to Your M.P. About

The shocking state of affairs existing at one of our State Reformatories is revealed in a series of articles in this month's "Opportunity." A report is given of a visit paid to the Castlemaine Reformatory by a magistrate, who had committed many young delinquents to this reformatory, and a group of reform workers who accompanied him.

PRISON ATMOSPHERE

The reformatory is an old goal which has outlived its former purpose of housing more dangerous criminals. Miss Woods, one of the visitors, reports that "new boys on arrival are not given a bed until they earn it. They sleep on the floor of a cell, with a ground sheet and blankets for a cover."

"The word 'Prison' and 'Prisoner' appear everywhere on all notices, and their sleeping quarters are referred to as 'cells.' All doors are guarded by a warder, with clanking keys, and have to be opened by him to permit egress and ingress. Boys are locked in their cells at night."

MEDIAEVAL METHODS

And these are the conditions in which we are supposed to teach young boys to reform and to educate them in the ways of good citizenship! Under such conditions we expect young and impressionable minds to take on a new lease and get a fresh outlook on life.

They are supposed to come back from such places not only with an increased respect for their Government which sent them there, but even in a thankful state of mind, fully convinced of the beneficence and paternal interest which the "State" takes in them.

Would you, Madam, or any other mother, send your children there, for a short holiday, to see for themselves what a wonderful country we have, how well governed it is, and the magnificent way in which the Government looks after us, and "protects" us from the evils of bad living?

DEVILISH DIET

But, we haven't finished yet—oh, no! "Food at the institution consists of MAIZE-MEAL ON DRY BREAD (practically the staple diet of the negro section of the American people) and black tea for breakfast, and the same meal for tea. Dinner

consists of stew or corned beef (with roast beef on Sundays), vegetables grown on the premises, and PUDDING ONCE A FORTNIGHT. The boys contribute to this and to the cost of the curry put in their stew. NO MILK IS SERVED."

GOVERNMENT MUST ACT

Is it any wonder, with living conditions like this, and such diets, that child delinquency, instead of decreasing, shows marked signs of actually increasing? And this in a community which prides itself on the excellence of its public institutions and democratic system of government which is supposed to give everybody a "square deal."

Here is another social paradox which must be dealt with thoroughly in the reconstruction after the war. Until then, at least immediate relief from the above inexcusable conditions should be given to those unfortunate future citizens incarcerated at Castlemaine.

Write to your M.P. TO-DAY.

—Hilton Ross.

AUSTRALIA!

Australia!—land of skies benign;
Our hearts enchained cling to thee:
Fair island gem—by Hand Divine
In beauty set—'mid southern sea:
Long did the ages silence hold,
Nor told abroad thy secret place,
Till mystic fate drew seamen bold
To claim thee for proud Britain's race.

Drawn by adventure's potent spell,
Our sires, undaunted, crossed the sea;
Brave pioneers, who strove full well
To shape thy course and destiny:
Held fast a dream; 'mid hardships dire,
To build a nation, strong and free;
Illum'd by Freedom's light and fire;
A stronghold sure, of Liberty,

When tocsin notes of peril fell,
What thy response to Freedom's cry?
(Tongues yet unborn shall proudly tell
Thy deathless tale—Gallipoli!)

Australia's sons on far fields wide,
'Mid hailing steel and battle-flame,
For Freedom bled at Britain's side,
Seal'd with their blood Australia's fame!

'Neath... ocean surge or holy ground,
The Empire's fallen warriors sleep,
Till the last trumpet's stirring sound
Shall rouse them from their slumber deep:

Ne'er vain be Honour's call for faith
With these, who bore battlerage:
For God and Freedom — e'en to death

Guard well Australia's heritage!

NOTES ON THE NEWS

GUILTY MEN: The "Herald" of February 2 reported that "the British forces in Libya were armed with two-pounder tank guns against six-pounders used by the enemy," and further commented that "Lord Beaverbrook has concentrated on quantity and neglected quality." Under such circumstances our generals and fighting forces are exonerated from blame; but—why is Lord Beaverbrook at large?

THEORISTS FAIL: President Roosevelt is reported in the "Herald" of February 2 thus: "Industrial leaders are replacing 'New Dealers' and doctrinaire labourites, who have proved good critics but poor executives." Even Roosevelt apparently utters a truth sometimes. Socialistic Planners can never deal with real problems, and the sooner our Government realises that its correct function is simply to pass enabling (not disabling) legislation for practical men, the sooner our war effort will benefit accordingly.

JAPAN'S FLEET: In an article in the London "Evening News" it is pointed out how thoroughly Japan had copied British naval methods—except her gross neglect of merchant shipping since 1918. The article pointed out that Japan had subsidised every ton of merchant shipping, and that her crews were relatively well paid by comparison with Britain's poorly treated men. The article did not mention Montagu Norman and other guilty men in England who

were responsible for stopping ship-building, nor others in Australia who sent war materials to Japan. These men are still in responsible positions instead of being behind prison bars.

MEAT MUDDLE: Arising from the coal muddle, the restricted rail services are likely now to cause a meat muddle. Representatives of the live-stock trade, according to the "Herald" of February 4, "fear a meat shortage in Melbourne." The Hay and Corn Section of the Chamber of Commerce also shares this view. The more important issue is: When will they share the common sense view that the individuals responsible for all these muddles should be put where they will no longer be a menace to our national safety?

NEW CHURCHILL: For the first time, the press-built-up Churchill is being personally criticised by his boosters, who appear to have been instructed to now build-up Sir Stafford Cripps, whose record of practical performance stems even less than that of Churchill: he is a rich Left-Wing barrister who once spoke for seven days and produced 250,000 words. If word-spinners will win the war, all will be well. It will be interesting to watch the antics of the press playing the de-throning act on Churchill,

FARM DEBTS: In commenting on food shortage and production in the "Herald" of February 10, Professor Wadham states that "Farms were homes of people, and they were encumbered with debts; a similar state of affairs existed in many enterprises in the city, but it would be very much easier to deal with these than with the farms." Whilst it would be too much to expect the professor to criticise the Government for the food bungle, and for permitting a false money system which produced the debts, he certainly should explain how

(Continued on page 4.)

—W. E. P.

BLACKMAIL

"Taxation is the blackmail which individuals pay to international financiers, via the Inland Revenue and the banks, for the use of their own money. During the 1914-18 phase of the war, profiteering was general, particularly amongst wage earners and manufacturers. In the present phase, only the money "makers" can profiteer. Within a week of the declaration of war, taxes—i.e., bankers' profits, were five times those of 1914, and the true cost of living, which of course includes what you pay in taxes as well as what you pay for goods and services, shot up accordingly. Just think, Clarence, if the banks had to pay 18/- in the £1 tax on the new money they "subscribe to finance the war, and we got the taxes!" - The "Social Creditor."

"BRITISH WAGES"

In 1941, wage increases in Britain totalled £2,680,000, which is reported as an increase of 27 per cent. A great proportion of the increase was due to war-production, which the people would not purchase; but the balance would be passed on in the price of goods, plus profit on the increase. When the cannons cease fire, interest on the financial cost of the munitions will be recovered by crippling taxation, and the workers will discover they have lost the peace—unless they insist on a financial system that provides extra income without it going through industry as a cost, and brings new money (credit) for national purposes, into existence as the property of the nation.

REGIMENTATION

Several men, employed in a "protected" industry, according to the "Herald" of February 10, tendered their resignations because they desired to work elsewhere; under the National Security Regulations the company refused to accept them—and the men declined to stay. Later, they were interviewed by the manpower officials—and decided to return. A report of this nature would cause, no comment if it occurred under the Gestapo Governments of Germany or Italy—but this happened in Tasmania, the slave State of by-gone days, which to-day is, theoretically at least, the land of the free.

How to Win the War — and the Peace

A Challenge to Every Britisher

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

(Continued from last issue.)

I have already shown how nearly all new money comes into existence as a debt to the private banks. The function of a scientific money system should be to distribute ALL the production from industry and to allow the producer to recover all his costs. This is quite impossible at present.

Let us imagine industry as follows: Industry not only produces goods, it also distributes purchasing-power in the form of wages, etc. If industry as a whole is to continue to function, it must distribute sufficient money tickets to buy its own production. It can easily be demonstrated that such is not the case at the present time. A man borrows £100 from a bank—which manufactures this money or credit—to start producing goods. Now it is quite obvious that he can only distribute £100 in the production of his goods. But, to take one item alone, he will probably have to pay something like £5 to the bank in interest. Note there is only £100 brought into existence, but he has to pay back £105. That happens in every industry. Then there is the introduction of more and more labour-saving machinery. These machines don't get wages. But they wear out. Depreciation is charged into the price of the goods, which means that while less money has been distributed with which to buy goods, prices are the same—they may actually increase.

Without going into a technical discussion on this matter, it has been demonstrated time and time again that industry as a whole does not distribute sufficient purchasing-power to buy all its own production. There is a gap between prices and purchasing-power which, as a result of scientific production, is rapidly widening.

This matter was ably and simply summed up by the late A. E. Orage, one of the great pioneers of the new economics, in his B.B.C. talk in 1934:

"Our immediate interest, however, is to compare the number of money-tickets, not that are poured into industry, but that trickle to the shopping nation out of industry, with the price-values created in the shop in the same period.

"Obviously, if the money-tickets issued to shopping England were the exact equivalent of the price-values created by shop-keeping England, the collective monetary income of the nation would be able to buy the collective price-value of the goods produced. We might dispute about the distribution of the tickets, but collectively, at least, there would be enough of them to buy our total production.

"The problem of equating the nation's means of consumption with the nation's means of production would be solved if every addition to price-value resulted in an equal addition to income.

"But what we find, in fact, is that the monetary income of the nation, derived from the productive system in the form of wages, etc., is not equivalent to the price-values created in the same period. . . . Now this is a matter of fact and not of theory; and it can be proved by simple arithmetic. Our shopkeeper, for instance, has told us that, at a rough estimate, our annual output of price-values is ten thousand million pounds, and probably more. And our taxing officials tell us, more accurately, that our annual monetary income is about two thousand five hundred million pounds. As four is to one, so is our output of price-values to the money-tickets with which to meet them. The nation's means of consumption, measured in money-tickets, in short, is at least no more than a quarter of its means of production, measured in prices.

"Here, I believe, in this gap between income and prices, is the root-cause of our present difficulties. On the two provable assumptions: (a) that

the money-tickets distributed as income to shoppers are our only title to go shopping—that is, to live; and (b) that the total number of tickets distributed among us is only enough to meet a quarter of the price-values of the goods in our shops—we can easily understand why we have to fight each other for tickets; why everybody looks for employment in the factory, or, alternatively, for somebody to give tickets to him; why there are always more goods than buyers; and, finally, why no Socialist scheme for taxing the rich, no "Communist" or Fascist scheme for administering the workshop, and no amount of planning of production can be of the least use so long as this gap between prices and incomes remains.

"And when we add that this gap is constantly widening with the progressive relative depopulation of the production system, you will realise that our progress is towards the absurdity of a maximum of production and a minimum of consumption. Only, long before then, something will happen; something will break, as, in fact, it is breaking all around us."

SOME AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS

Let us now look at some figures from the Commonwealth Government's "Year Book" to prove that the truth, of what we have been examining also applies to Australia. For the year ending June 30, 1939, Australian industry produced goods valued at £500,419,000, but only paid out wages and salaries totalling £106,743,000. It is therefore obvious that Australian industry doesn't distribute sufficient purchasing-power to buy all its production. And, with the rapid improvement in labour-saving machinery, the amount of purchasing power will decrease still further—unless something is done,

AND THE RESULTS!

At this stage I can imagine some reader saying, "What nonsense! If what you say is correct, there must be a great pile of unsold goods somewhere."

This would be the case if it were not for the fact that we have a great pile of debt. In order to try to keep this system functioning, the bankers have been forced to pump new money into circulation which doesn't create consumable goods. They have done this through public works. But even this has been insufficient. Many business men have gone bankrupt, with the result that goods have been almost given away. Actual cases of destruction have become common. And then we have the great cry: "Export or perish." The cause of this policy is the lack of purchasing-power already discussed; the result of this policy has been WAR! Hitler, like everyone else in this work-mesmerised world, believed that he had to get unemployed Germans back to work. He did. He "bridged the gap" by the release of thousands of millions of pounds of new money to build the greatest war machine in history.

After the war, the gap must be bridged by the issue of a national dividend to every man, woman and child. Those who believe that we must work before we eat, even if we have to build a battleship before we can consume bread already produced, might say that we could "bridge the gap" by the Government issuing sufficient new money—they might even issue it debt-free—for huge public works. But this would not be freedom for the individual. The Government could say that all those who refused to work on their public works could not have any money, and could starve. The individual should be free to say if, where, and under what conditions, he desires to work on any project. If the people have control of their own money as a right, they can say what they want, and what they don't want.

If they don't want to work very hard, the natural result—not an artificial result—will be a decrease in the dividend for every individual. But have no fear. Various groups of individuals will undertake a great many projects voluntarily. People must be able to demand what they want produced; they must control their own policy. That is economic democracy. C. H. Douglas has summed up the matter as follows:

"But it is interesting to notice how the obsession of 'work for its own sake' has held this school of thought. To its members production, any sort of production which 'makes money', is wealth, and you cannot have too much of it; and, seeing quite accurately that their constructive proposals would, if carried out, enormously increase employment, it is clear that no misgiving alloys their vision of an earth packed solid with the most modern and highly efficient factories, pouring out massed production into limitless space.

". . . More and more under the struggle for purchasing power, which would be intensified by such arrangements, the great masses of mankind would be employed in making things they did not want and could not use, in order to earn money to meet the constant rise in prices of articles which they do not want and must use, and, as a result, the system would create quite inevitably a psychology of unrest; no wage rate would be stable, and no leisure would be stable.

"It is not usually wise to prophesy in terms of time, but in this case it is quite safe to say that, even if such a policy could be inaugurated, it could not last three years. Passing rapidly through a period of feverish activity and excessive capital and export production, a position would be reached to which misdirection of production and actual restriction of output of consumable goods would provoke either war, or absolute revolt, active or passive, with the result that co-operative production would fall to zero, and either a military despotism or a reversion to comparative barbarism would supervene.

"... The materialisation of the proposals for consumer credit (dividends)... would make it far easier than it is now to experiment with an idea, however apparently wild it might appear at first sight. What it would prevent is the manufacture for sale, at the expense of the public, of armaments, machinery, factories, luxuries, shoddy articles, etc., without the public as individuals having an opportunity to express an opinion as to whether such articles are or are not a fit object on which to expend the capacity of the community to deliver goods and service—i.e., its credit."

NATIONALISATION NOT REQUIRED.

The above observations are worthy of considerable thought. I believe that, if we can get the people to understand that they can control the policy, not administration, of production if they possess the voting tickets—i.e., money, we will see the end of war. In the first place, there would be no feverish fight for markets abroad because of a money shortage at home.

Now let me put this proposition: Suppose that the gap between production of goods and services and effective purchasing-power in Germany had been bridged by an issue of dividends direct to the German people. What would have been the result? Do you think that the German people would have said: "We will demand that this money be spent in preparing for war"? No. They would have used it to live, and all the shouting of Hitler would never have persuaded them to have prepared for war and death. They would have controlled their own policy. They would have voted for what they wanted as individuals. And I have yet to be persuaded that the great majority of the individuals of any country prefer war and death to leisure and life.

Once the people controlled money-voting-tickets, all this talk about

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THESE PARASITES

I have come to the conclusion that I am very simple minded. I am always being taken in by a first glance at my newspaper. For instance, when I saw, "Roosevelt Bans Parasites from Washington," it occurred to me at once that Washington is a rummy sort of place; I mean, it has a queer sort of way of getting into the news.

First of all, you may remember, there was that naive and charming story of the ultra-truthful President, the story which has proved such a durable sensation that it is still the first thing anyone learns about America. Now there is this parasitic business. "Really," I reflected, "things must be bad to be mentioned at all, and after all, those early houses were not built for spring-cleaning, and, of course, are frightfully old now."

Of course, I know now that the President was using figurative language, and I've no doubt you'd have guessed that straight away, but I didn't reach the conclusion before displaying to myself the unsatisfactory state of my knowledge of parasites. If anyone had asked me suddenly, "What is a parasite?" I should have probably replied without much thought, "Oh, one of those beastly crawly things that becomes a grandfather in 20 minutes." But I realise that such a description is altogether too suburban.

Then I started to think about the beastly things in earnest. "A parasite is something which lives on something else," I told myself. "No, that's no good, either. It might be a description of man himself." I mean to say, it's all very well to say, "The hand that milks the cow holds Britannia's

trident," and things like that. But from the cow's point of view, man is undoubtedly a parasite. The trouble is to figure where to draw the line. For instance, if a cow is going to look sideways at a dairyman, what is a germ going to do about an antiseptic?

Naturally, you can't say things like that to Aunt Ella; to her it is most obvious that if you say a thing is useful, or otherwise, you are discussing the question from man's angle. It would be most unreasonable in her eyes to demand to know what man is useful for. The world was obviously created for man.

But you're dragging me away from the point, which is, that Mr. Roosevelt was not talking in an entomological sense. He was talking about people. When I had a little more time, and came back to inspect the small print, I read: "President Roosevelt to-day told parasites to get out of Washington to make room for persons needed for war work."

"Well, dash it all!" I thought, "I occasionally enjoy a spot of candour myself, but I'd look the other bloke up and down before I called him a parasite to his face." It isn't good business, and I should have thought the representative of the biggest business nation, would have appreciated

that point. Put yourself in the position of the parasite. You are suspected of being something pretty useless, a rudimentary creature whose functions have atrophied one by one until you are nothing but a claw and a mouth, something one treads purposely upon with wrinkled nose. As far as you are concerned, you don't believe any of these things about yourself. What I'm getting at is, if a bloke suddenly puts up a notice such as my newspaper declares Mr. Roosevelt himself suggested I quote: "Washington newspapers should print front page headlines, 'Are you a parasite?' and follow it up, probably, with, 'Get out! This means you,'" what would you do about it?

Personally, I should cast myself for the role of masterly inactivity. I should fear to move in any direction at all for fear of standing self-accused as a parasite. Think how you would scrutinise the outward bound trains to discover any unexpected examples of parasitism. Nothing would move me; of that I am convinced. If we were invaded, the vanguard of the enemy would find me immovably planted in the centre of the marketplace with my epitaph clearly written out: "He preferred Death to Disagreeableness, and Prison to Parasitism."

That's how I feel about it, anyway. And I wouldn't mind betting that's how most Americans would feel about it, too, unless they are very different from us. They may be different, of course. You have to allow for that. In fact, their advertisements suggest that this might easily be the case. There is a simple directness about these which can hardly be described as British. I mean to say, look at those advertisements for toilet things, and so on, asking you whether you smell or not, and all that sort of thing. That isn't British; it's Continental. The Continental idea seems to be, that whatever is, is right. That's where the foreigner has gone astray once again, for we know perfectly well that whatever is British is right. We shouldn't dream of mentioning smells like that, or if we did, we'd say, "My effluvium right or wrong."

Maybe Mr. Roosevelt knows his own people best. Maybe the Washingtonians will sort themselves out into those who are there for the great American jaw effort and those who, as the President complains, are "those people who had no real duties in Washington, but come here because they enjoyed social life and occupied 20-room mansions."

You can't get away from it; the world is a very hard place for those who "enjoy social life." Goldarn it! Can't they have a bit of sense? What's the use of enjoying yourself, anyway,

S.C.M. OF S.A.

The next meeting of the Social Credit Movement of South Australia will be held in the A.N.A. Building, Flinders-street, Adelaide, on Thursday, February 26, at 8 p.m. After the usual business is dealt with, an address will be given by the chairman, Mr. D. J. Amos, on "The General Conditions of To-day."

—J. E. Burgess, Hon. Sec.

"The Enemy Within the Empire"

We regret that Eric Butler's book, "The Enemy Within the Empire," is temporarily out of print. Another edition is being printed, although there is some delay as a result of our printer losing many of his workers through the military call-up.

when you know how it upsets father? For goodness sake, go away and amuse yourselves and leave us to destroy everything, including ourselves, in peace!

You'd never think the people Mr. Roosevelt complains of were brought up on this planet. You'd never think they went to school to learn to become useful at useless things like the rest of us. Didn't they learn that the universe was created to give man an opportunity to earn subsistence by the most laborious means he could discover, for ever and ever?

Well, possibly they did. Roosevelt calls them "parasites," anyway. But there's one thing about all this that we do know, and that is that the people complained of aren't bankers. No one would call them parasites—at least, no one like Mr. Roosevelt—and get away with it.

I must say I didn't like that touch about the 20 rooms, I am still a bit afraid of Bolshevism, and I am beginning to be afraid that our admiration for the Russian stand against Germany might be extended to admiration of institutions of the regimented kind. That chip, for instance, about occupying too much space. But I won't dwell upon it. I may be quite mistaken. Mr. Roosevelt and his advisers may or may not be about to Bolshevise the world.

And, if it comes to that, they may or may not be about to rid the world of parasites. I am inclined to think not.

—FOOTLE.

HOW TO WIN THE WAR—AND THE PEACE

(Continued from page 2.)

nationalising industry would collapse. Let us take the case of the boot industry: How many people desire to own a boot factory? Personally, I am not interested in owning a boot factory, collectively or otherwise. But I am interested in obtaining boots. And, so long as I have the monetary voting power, I can vote for what type and quality of boot I desire, without knowing the first thing about the technical manufacture of boots. I could vote for my policy. The function of industry is to serve the consumers' requirements.

Unless a certain firm supplied me with my requirement, I would use my money-vote elsewhere. Under such conditions the question of quality would become very important. I venture to say that most of the big, soulless monopolies would find it hard to compete with the small producer and manufacturer. Where would you buy your suits if you had adequate purchasing-power? Would you buy it in a big monopoly, where there are standard, mass-produced, cheap and shoddy suits, or would you go to the smaller tailor, who can attend to your personal requirements? The answer is obvious. Unless producers gave satisfaction, no one would vote for their goods, and they would go out of business.

The consumer is an expert on what he wants; he is not an expert on the methods to be used to obtain what he wants. Consumers can effectively control industry without owning it. Naturally, profits could be fixed by agreement between the Government and industry.

Edward Bellamy dealt with this matter last century in his remarkable book, "Looking Backward." An inhabitant of Bellamy's "Utopia," speaking to the new arrival from the existing order, asks:

"How happened it . . . that you workers were able to produce more than so many savages would have done? Was it not wholly on account of the heritage of the past knowledge and achievements of the race, the machinery of society, thousands of years in contriving, found by you ready-made to your hand? How did you come to be possessors of this knowledge and this machinery, which represents nine parts to one contributed by yourself in the value of your product. You inherited it, did you not? And what of those others . . . joint-inheritors, co-heirs with you? What did you do with their share? Did you not rob them when you put them off with crusts, who were entitled to sit with the heirs, and did you not add insult to robbery when you called the crusts Charity?"

And remember; we have received this great heritage for nothing. It has been given to us as a result of our forefathers' efforts and sacrifices. . . Are we going to allow the ticket-monopolisers and their stooges to tell us that we cannot partake of our heritage?

CONCLUSION.

I have now presented the case for a real victory in this war. Do you not think that if we could present such a case to our own people, the people of friendly nations, and, more important, the people of the enemy nations, we would clearly show that we are fighting for something far better than Hitler can ever offer. If our leaders would only say that we are fighting for decentralised Government, similar to the pattern established by the British Commonwealth of Nations, and not for a centralised world-Government, as suggested in Federal Union; complete security for the individual, and not for an increasing burden of taxation to pay interest bills to financial institutions; and paid leisure instead of the work-slave State, we would kindle a spark of enthusiasm everywhere which would soon set the whole world aflame.

I challenge the protagonists of the present financial policy to prove wrong the facts I have brought forward. These facts are real. They must be faced; unless we face them we are doomed—doomed to lose the peace whatever we do about the war. Let us therefore win both the peace and the war. Let us start working for the real victory NOW.

(TheEnd)

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THE DOLLAR INVASION

The Federal Treasury has decreed that the U.S. dollar currency is now legal tender in Australia. Heavy penalties are provided under the National Security Act if exchange rates higher or lower than the fixed rates are used. One hundred paper dollars will buy Australian GOODS AND SERVICES worth thirty pounds eleven shillings and tenpence. The American money supply is controlled by the international financiers of New York, who write the credits. Our acceptance of foreign currency, to be used as legal tender within Australia, is a dangerous departure from the ordinary exchange technique, involving a partial surrender of Australia's sovereignty and admitting the thin end of the wedge of the proposal for international dollar currency based on "Wall Street's" gold.

Any returned soldier will tell you that in 1914-18, when Australians fought in France, they were paid in French currency. When they fought in Egypt, they were paid in Egyptian currency. What is the reason, then, of this new intrusion upon our sovereign currency? Credits written up by the "Wall Street" gang are represented in parcels of dollars sent to Australia. These paper dollars are used as the means of "payment" for goods and services supplied by the Australian people to Americans.

The resemblance to the method of the Nazis, who are reported to be supplying their occupying forces with plenty of German paper money, which the local puppet Governments are "persuaded" to declare legal tender, may or may not be superficial; but it will be obvious to the "man-in-the-street."

Furthermore, what is to prevent agents of "Wall Street," among our American visitors, from receiving or bringing large parcels of multi-dollar-notes and using them to purchase new GOVERNMENT BONDS for their bosses back in New York? Australians don't want to be reduced to the coolie level—whether slavery under Japanese overlords or interest on overseas debt were the cause of it. Has Australian currency been declared legal tender in the United States? No news to that effect has reached us. Then why this one-sided deal?

It would be less dangerous to allow a foreign Power to make OUR LAWS than to allow it to issue our currency—the basis of our "credit structure." The notorious financier, Meyer Anselm Rothschild, said: "Allow me to issue and control a nation's credits and I care not who makes its laws." Let us perceive, as Rothschild did, that our control of our currency is even more important than our law-making. It has always been held that "the pen is mightier than the sword." The writing of credits is the power which directs and controls the nation.

It is true that local private financial institutions were already in control of our money supply in Australia, but as soon as we awaken to this folly we may proceed to remove that control into the hands of the people's Government. Our failure to obtain the maximum results we want in the war effort should lead us to do so. By the exercise of our votes we hold a sanction over our representatives in the Australian Parliament. We cannot possibly exercise control over foreign governments or foreign financiers, over whom we hold no sanctions.

We Australians cannot expect to hold and increase our freedom unless we are prepared to pay the price. The price of freedom is eternal vigilance. We must be absolutely certain that the sovereign prerogative of our Government to control our currency is not jeopardised. This strange acceptance of foreign currency as legal tender must arouse grave suspicion of some of our trusted representatives. We need undoubted assurance that we are not faced with the loss of our sovereignty. The issue must be decided between the electors of the Australian Commonwealth and their parliamentary representatives.

BANKING CONTROL REGULATIONS

"War time Banking Control Regulations were gazetted on November 26. The business of banking must now be carried on only under licence. Trading banks can subscribe to loans and purchase securities only with the consent of the Commonwealth Bank, and, in making advances, they must comply with the policy laid down by the Commonwealth Bank. Every trading bank must lodge in a special account with the Commonwealth Bank such part of its surplus investible funds as is directed by the Commonwealth Bank

in accordance with a plan approved by the Treasurer. The rate of interest on the special accounts of the banks will be determined from time to time by the Commonwealth Bank, but it must not exceed a rate fixed by the Treasurer and must be designed to secure that the trading profits of the banks do not exceed the average of their annual trading profits for the three years ended August 31, 1939."

"Commonwealth Bank Bulletin," December, 1941.

INTERVIEWS WITH THE MAN-IN-THE-STREET

By Our Roving Reporter.

Leaving the office, our reporter proceeded to one of Melbourne's busy streets and as his victim selected at random one of the passers-by. Our investigator then went to work with the following questions:

"Sir, you appear to be a citizen of average intelligence. Do you mind answering a few simple questions?"
John Citizen: "I will do my best."
(For the remainder, we will refer to our reporter as "A" and John Citizen as "B.")

A: "You have a bank account with some financial institution in this Commonwealth?"

B: "Yes."

A: "Do you believe that your bank lends its depositors' money; in other words, that it receives your money at one end of the counter as a deposit, and lends it out at the other end as a loan to some other person? Of the interest charged by the bank on this loan, portion of it is placed to the credit of your account? In the case of savings banks, on all accounts, and trading banks, on fixed deposit accounts only?"

B: "I believe that is so."

A: "If what you believe is correct, it is only reasonable to assume that, for a bank lending a portion of its depositors' money, it would be necessary to alter the figures appearing in the depositors' bank books. To put it more clearly: If a bank had 100 depositors, each with a credit of £1 that would be a total of bank deposits of £100."

B: "Yes."

A: "If I approached the bank manager with an approved security and requested a loan of £5, and such loan were granted, I would expect the sum of one shilling to be deducted from the credit of each depositor (100 shil-

lings — £5), or a larger deduction from a smaller number of depositors, leaving the bank position as follows:

"100 depositors @ 1/- = £95

"Amount owing to bank by borrower = 5

"Total..... = £100"

B: "Your reasoning seems to me to be quite logical, but I do not see what value you have derived from the questions you have asked me."

A: "My next question will bring us to the crux of the situation, and no doubt your mind will then be at rest—or perhaps it will not. My last question is as follows: Have you ever had any deductions made in your bank book to provide other people with loans, or do you know of any other bank depositor who has?"

Without waiting for the obvious answer, our reporter left John Citizen to his reflections.

Simple, isn't it? But did it ever occur to YOU?

A NEW MOVEMENT

The "New World Movement," recently formed in Melbourne, whose first principle for economic reconstruction is "economic security for every man, woman and child, as an inalienable right," will commence a series of weekly broadcasts from 3AK on March 1, at 10.15 p.m.

NOTES ON THE NEWS

(Continued from page 1.)

city debts are more easily handled than country debts.

SOLDIERS' TAXES: Because of inability to meet taxes from army pay, taxation experts suggest an amnesty (temporary wipe-off) for all those called up or enlisting. Well, that's a start, at all events, but justice will not be done until all members of the fighting forces and their dependents are exempt from all taxes.

TREASURY WASTE: Costly advertisements in the daily press, on radio and hoardings, uselessly and unnecessarily begging for loans, coupled with stupid appeals to save money, indicate that Treasury officials may either be slightly unbalanced or that they are specially concerned in maintaining profits of propaganda specialists who may be useful or dangerous to them.

PENSIONS AND LOANS: The Government intends to endeavour to increase the old-age and invalid pensions by 1/6 per week, says the "Herald" of February 7, which also points out that this will cost £2 million per year. In the same issue is a report of an impending short, sharp loan for £35 million; but it fails to point out that this loan, taking 3 per cent as the average interest rate, will cost the taxpayers over £1 million per annum-pensions for the bond-holders. (Since these loans are never repaid, but simply converted into fresh loans, they become life-pensions.) It is queer that the press never features the cost of LOANS—or is it?

MURDOCH-MENZIES BOOST: The Murdoch Press of February 10: quotes the magazine, "National Review," as saying: "It would be of immense benefit if we could have such a man as Sir Keith Murdoch or Mr. R. G. Menzies in our Cabinet."

The "Review" writer seemingly has a special aptitude for selecting representatives of the money power, and apparently Sir Keith is not above using his own propaganda sheet to boost himself and Menzies; but as both are merely word-spinners it is difficult to understand how they would assist the war effort.

DEPRESSION EFFECT: "The reduced attendance at primary school is largely due to the drop in the birth-rate which occurred during the last economic depression," reports the "Herald" of February 10. The principal of the Melbourne Technical College (Mr. Frank Ellis), in commenting on this, said: "Apart from the loss of revenue, the reduction in enrolments is some relief; we are always overcrowded, and even now we are unable to find room for everyone." Was there ever a more damning indictment of our financial system? And the men who permitted this state of affairs are still at large, crying out for skilled manpower which they willfully prevented from being available. Sir Keith Murdoch and Mr. E. G. Menzies please note.

NEST EGGS: British soldiers below commissioned rank are to receive an extra six pennies per day deferred pay. The big idea is to build up a whopping big nest egg of £9 a year.

The allowance for children will be increased by 12 pennies per day—but the weekly allowance for wives of 7/- will be reduced by 50 per cent—the difference will be made up by the Government. It seems that somebody is going to give the soldiers something, and that somebody is going to take something from them but still, if the war lasts 100 years a nest egg of £9 a year will at least give them a house-if they can see it out.

“OUT OF THE NIGHT”

REVELATIONS OF A GERMAN COMMUNIST

BOOK REVIEW BY ERIC D. BUTLER.

Anyone who is interested in learning something of the real character of those revolutionary movements, Communism and Nazism, can do nothing better than read "Out of the Night," by Jan Valtin. But first make sure that your nerves are perfectly sound before you start reading.

The author has packed into 658 pages the most damning and shocking revelation of the tactics of those working in revolutionary movements that I have yet read. His vivid descriptions, resulting from personal experience, of the treatment of prisoners in the Nazi prison camps makes terrible reading. But so does his own admission that the Communists in Germany actually helped Hitler and his fanatics to "slash the throat of an already tottering democracy," hoping that they could destroy Hitler later.

In view of the trend of world events, and the loud protestations by our local Communists that, since Germany attacked Russia, what they formerly called an "imperialist war" has become a "people's war," every loyal Britisher should read this book. He will agree that we want neither Hitlerism nor Communism in this country. I regard the book as being so important that I propose to review it in some detail.

Over 300,000 copies of the book were sold in America after its publication. The revelations of the author were such that reputable magazines deputed investigators to check up on the author and his story. They all claimed that it was substantially true. The author gives such a wealth of detail and information that the book practically verifies itself. That the story has been "touched up," there is no doubt; but this does not detract from the main theme of the book.

The book is the life story of a German Communist; a man who held a responsible position in the German Communist Party; engaged in revolutionary activities in every part of the world; spent some time in Russia studying revolutionary technique; and who, after Hitler's advent to power, was thrown into a Nazi prison camp. He only escaped by professing to join the Nazi Party as a spy to work against the various Communist movements in neighbouring countries.

Although he speaks in bitter condemnation of the Communists in Russia, he apparently still believes in the Marxian doctrine.

CAUSES OF COMMUNISM

Anyone who has closely studied revolutionary movements knows that these movements only flourish where there is discontent. Hitler was swept into power by the flood of discontent among the people of Germany. And never forget that Finance causes the discontent. In his chapter, "I Attack the Pacific," Valtin writes: "I also studied the living conditions, the attitudes and grievances of the professional Standard Oil seamen. I induced two of their number, whom I could class as Communist partisans, to enter the International Seamen's Union to carry on disruptive work inside that organisation. . . Standard Oil sailors were well fed and well paid, and, as a rule, indifferent to Communist arguments. Of the many American tank ships I had visited during a year of roaming on the West Coast, crew members of only one vessel, the 'Empire Arrow,' succumbed to my drive for a Communist ship unit."

THE USE OF VIOLENCE

Valtin tells of one incident which demonstrated the fact that the use of force and violence by the Communists in pre-Hitler days was partly responsible for the use of violence by the Nazis when they obtained complete

power. The author is describing a trip to a Nazi prison after his capture by the Gestapo:

"My guard was a man of 28, with a long head, a narrow face, and a whip-like body. 'We have respect for fellows who don't cringe,' he told me after the train had pulled out of Hamburg Hauptbahnhof. 'But it is our duty to break them, make them harmless once and for all, in the interest of the New Germany.' In the course of the journey, he told me his life story, and I smoked his cigarettes. He had been the son of a gymnasium teacher and became a member of the Nazi Party when he studied chemistry at the University of Hamburg. He had to give up his studies for lack of money and became a ditch-digger for the Government relief organisation—the Wohlfahrt. At the job, he was often manhandled by Communists and Socialists among the labourers because he insisted on wearing the swastika badge while he swung the pick. After he had received a particularly severe beating, he gave up the job of ditch-digging, and the Wohlfahrt struck him off the relief lists for 'refusal to work.'"

The Communists introduced such violence into Germany; Hitler only copied them. The following is one of many extracts which can be quoted: "Communist military units engaged the police to allow the mass of agitators to penetrate the harbour from all sides. We overran the gangway guards and told the seamen to strike or suffer a strike-breaker's fate. Other 'activist' units were working in a similar fashion among the dockers' gangs. An officer who confronted the group of Ilja Weiss with a pistol in his hand was thrown into the harbour. Columns of striking seamen and unemployed workers mobilised by the Party boarded the ships to chase recalcitrant crews ashore by main force. Trade union officials who advised moderation were beaten up."

We don't want that kind of thing in this country. The Communists are always loud in their denunciation of strike-breakers. Read what Valtin says:

"After we had been pledged to silence, one of Thaelmann's aides issued instructions that all Communist sailors in the meeting should inform the Ship-owners' Association of their willingness to man the steamers which had been tied up by the strike. Murmurs of surprise and indignation ran throughout the audience. I was deeply shocked by this crafty and dishonest manoeuvre. . . 'Comrades,' he explained, 'what the Party demands of you is not blacklegging. What the Party demands is your co-operation in a tactical manoeuvre which is bound to carry Bolshevism more solidly into the merchant marine.' . . . It was dirty business, we knew. It was like stabbing a knife into the back of our fellow-workers, the sailors and stokers who had trusted our leadership and followed our strike call."

IMPRESSIONS OF RUSSIA

Valtin spent the winter of 1925-26 in Russia at a university for international revolutionaries. He writes "Risking a rebuke from my superiors, I stole one short day to roam through Moscow. The Five-Year Plan propaganda dominated public life as a mountain dominates the surrounding seas—it was visible wherever you went and to me it was stirring. The Kremlin had decided to sacrifice for years the national

hundred and sixty million people to win a titanic race against a century of backwardness. 'Socialism or nothing!' To the young Communist from abroad, this 'all or nothing' cry was familiar and reassuring music. 'Once the Five-Year Plan is completed, the Soviet Union will be so invincibly strong that it will ensure of the triumph of the revolution outside of Russia.' What was this not worth to a young fanatic, who was prepared to suffer every privation himself, even to give his own life, for the revolution? Such reasoning made the Bolshevik indifference to the ocean of human suffering stretching before our eyes appear in a noble light." Can it be called "reasoning"?

THE INDIVIDUAL CRUSHED

Many extracts could be quoted revealing the subjugation of the individual to the Party in the Communist Movement. Valtin quotes one girl as follows: "We are prisoners, intellectually and bodily. Our minds and our bodies are confined in a narrow alley with high, windowless walls on both sides. The alley has a name. The name is 'Party Discipline,' the most beastly thing that's ever been invented."

The manner in which his own wife was bent to the mould of the Party machine—she later lost her life in Nazi Germany—makes terrible reading. The following descriptive extract is worth quoting. Valtin had just learned that he was to go to South America on revolutionary work:

"I was standing in front of the bed, packing a suitcase, when Firelei came in. Without saying a word she stepped close to me and put her arms around my neck. But my thoughts were already at La Plata.

"Please leave me alone," I said. "Why should I leave you alone?"

"I don't know. I have no time. You disturb me."

Firelei laughed.

"'Grumpy one,' she said 'A pleasant welcome you give me. . . Or is it farewell? Are you going away?'"

"Yes, to-night."

"Where? I am going with you."

"I am going for the Comintern. I must go alone. I cannot tell you where I am going, but I shall be back before long."

"I pretended that I did not hear her sigh. She disengaged her arms, and slumped into a chair.

"Jan," she said, using the name I had adopted for the Lowlands waterfront, 'Jan, listen to me; I want to talk to you.'

"Go ahead."

"Tell me; am I no more to you than a handy object in bed?"

"I stopped packing, 'No,' I said. 'You are my comrade.'

"Comrade!" she cried. 'I hate the word. I hate the bed. I hate the dreary life we are leading. You are always away. You never come to me before midnight. You do not even ask me for food or money. Must it be like that? Must we be so miserably empty when we are together? Why don't we take a holiday and walk through the fields? Why can't we get some flowers and some wine, and have an evening to ourselves?'"

"I saw her fight back the tears. Firelei was ashamed of tears. 'I'm sorry I have made you suffer,' I said. 'But can't you understand that we are in the midst of the biggest social upheaval of all time; that I follow the most sublime aim any man can follow? I belong to the Cause; I belong to it brain and hide. You said to me once, 'Where you go—I go.' I wish you would follow me. No word has a deeper meaning than the word Comrade."

"I cannot, Jan." Firelei's face was ghastly pale. Her lips twitched. The

(Continued on page 6.)

THE GREAT FINANCIAL BOTTLE-NECK

The Great Financial Bottleneck is always with us. We had it before the war, and we still have it. The Dictators of our Financial System kept tens of millions in poverty amidst plenty before the war. Everything had to go through the Financial Bottleneck, which existed in every country.

In Australia, despite the abundance of wheat, wool, fruit, butter, milk, sugar and other primary and secondary products, the Financial Bottleneck compelled some 2,000,000 Australian citizens to go short of these necessities, in the so-called depression.

The depression was an artificial one, not due to the shortage of real wealth—viz., goods and services, which we could, and did, produce in abundance. The depression was due to the Financial Bottleneck—that is, a restriction of credit by our financial masters.

There was a shortage, not of goods and services, but a shortage of the means of payment in the hands of the consumers, who were thus denied access to the abundant production awaiting to be consumed.

Our Governments and Boards in their colossal ignorance of finance, ordered the restriction of output such as wheat and the destruction of fruit on the orchards, rather than provide the consuming masses with sufficient buying power.

FINANCIAL BOTTLENECK RESTRICTS WAR EFFORT

Our war effort throughout the British Empire and America is being hindered and restricted by the same Financial Bottleneck.

Recently the president of the British Association of Engineering industries declared that after two years of war, only a 60 per cent, effort was being exerted, largely due to financial restriction!

That is, the quantity of aircraft,

can produce, and the speed with which we can get these to our fighting forces, depends on the size of the Financial Bottleneck through which they have to pass—or on how much money the financial institutions, such as the banks, will lend to the Government, and on what terms.

The only limit which should be placed on manufacturing the implements of war is a physical one—that is, the employment of our men, materials and plants to full capacity. The credit for this purpose should be created by the Government through a national credit Board, free of interest, as there would be no sense in the Government charging itself interest on its own credit

PEOPLE ROBBED OF OWN CREDIT.

The grim tragedy is that private financial institutions, such as the Bank of England and the Big Five, the American Reserve Banks and the Trading Banks of Australia have been permitted by subservient Governments to rob the people of their own credit, to determine how much of their own credit the people shall be allowed to use, and to issue as a debt against the people carrying interest in perpetuity the credit to which the banks have no more right than a forger of notes.

If we are to exert our maximum war effort, and establish the new order after the war, the Financial Bottleneck must be smashed once and for all.

- B. A. Longfield, in the "Railways Officer" January '42.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT

A Talk Broadcast From 7HO, Hobart, at 8.15 p.m. on Sunday, February 15, by JAMES GUTHRIE, B.Sc.

The storm of criticism which has been levelled at the British Government because of its consistent military disasters has alarmed not a few people. These people dislike criticism of the Government of Britain, because they consider it must tend to break up the solidarity of the British peoples and their fighting effort.

Personally, I believe such people make several serious and important mistakes. First they make the mistake of looking upon criticism of the Churchill Government as criticism of the British people; this is obviously stupid. The British people in Britain have been more hostile in their criticism of the Churchill Government than the people of other parts of the British Empire—and they have been just as helpless to alter the methods or the personnel of the British Government.

Another mistake made by many people is to think that Britain has a Conservative Government, or, at least, a Government more conservative than those in the Dominions.

NOT CONSERVATIVE

I take it that a Conservative Government is a Government which looks after the special interests of private property. The British Government has done more to destroy the rights of private property than any other English-speaking Government.

Very few of the old families have retained the land of their fathers except those who have married Americans or Jews. Every time the head of a family dies, part of the family estate has to be sold to pay, the tax collected in death duties. If the father dies and the son is killed in battle, the estate can disappear in a few years.

If this is what is called a Conservative England, or the action of a Conservative Government, then the word Conservative must have the same meaning as the word Socialist.

The plain fact is that the so-called Conservative British Governments have introduced more advanced "Socialistic" legislation than any of the Dominion Governments, and all of it has been very unfortunate for the people of England.

There has not been a Conservative Government in England since I was born. Mr. Churchill is not a Conservative; Lord Beaverbrook is not a Conservative; nor is Mr. Atlee, Mr. Bevin, nor Mr. Anthony Eden. Mr. Baldwin, who ruled England for over ten years, was not a Conservative. Baldwin was the man who introduced tinned milk to Ye Olde English Village, and who fined farmers who dared to sell milk or cream to their next-door neighbours.

BALDWIN AND MONTAGU NORMAN

Mr. Baldwin said he was very, very fond of Ye Olde English Village; but it is very questionable if Ye Olde English Village was very fond of Baldwin and his tinned milk. That Mr. Baldwin, the great lover of English country life, should be the man responsible for the compulsory introduction of tinned milk into the English Village is a strange coincidence. It is a very strange thing for a Conservative statesman to do.

But Mr. Baldwin did other strange things. He did strange things to the Air Force and to the Navy. Britain once had the most respected and efficient diplomatic service in the world, and no one can doubt now that it suffered a sudden and vast deterioration.

There was a time when Britain had some of the finest motor engineers in the world, but most of those engineers had to content themselves with making motor cars the size of perambulators driven by toy

engines. They had to do this because Mr. Baldwin imposed a tax which prevented the vast majority of Englishmen from being able to afford to run a real motor car.

That the British motor car industry throughout the world was very severely damaged by this tax of Baldwin's was probably a mere coincidence—but it was certainly a very unfortunate one. A lot of very unfortunate things happened to England in Baldwin's time.

The engineering industry, so vital to a country in war time, was a depressed industry, and many of its most highly skilled operatives went to America. The shipbuilding yards, so vital to the very existence of the British Empire; some of the most important of these were dismantled and shut down. This was done in Baldwin's time. And during all the time Baldwin was Prime Minister, Montagu Norman was Director of the Bank of England, and Captain Margesson was the Government Whip who told the members of the Conservative Party how to vote—and Captain Margesson was very severe with those who wanted to vote differently, so severe, in fact, that nobody voted differently.

Montagu Norman is still Director of the Bank of England; Captain Margesson is head of the War Office, and Baldwin is now an Earl.

Mr. Baldwin was supposed to be a Conservative statesman; he spoke as a Conservative statesman—but his work was not that of a Conservative statesman; and that is the difficulty we face in the political world today. Everything is different to what it appears on the surface. Men are saying one thing and doing the exact opposite, and before we realise what is happening the world has changed, and changed for the worse before we have been able to do anything to stop it.

BRITAIN AND AMERICA

For many years the financial centre of the world was located in London. From London most of the financial affairs and the news services of the world were controlled. Since the last war the finance and the news of the world have been controlled from New York. The great financial power of America has dominated the entire world and dictated the policy of many countries.

Practically the whole of the Electrical Manufacturing Industry of England is owned and controlled by America. America also controls a large share of the picture and motor and other industries. English boys and girls are brought up on American films, croon American songs and wriggle to American tangos. There is nothing very conservative about Old English—even the slums are being destroyed.

America came out of the last war the most powerful and richest country in the world; since this war started, and English foreign trade has been destroyed, England has only been able to pay America for goods received by parting with her securities. Thousands of millions of pounds of British securities in America, Canada, England, Australia, India, etc., have been taken over by America to pay for the lease-lend goods.

America occupies the dominating position in the world to-day; and as

great power and wealth carries with it great responsibility, America must accept most of the responsibility for the position in the Pacific.

When England occupied the position of the world's greatest power, her fleet gave safety and protection to hundreds of millions of people; America now occupies the dominating position in the world, but she has been unable or unwilling to give that protection once given by England; at the same time she has made it impossible for England to perform her ancient duties. American control of world finance, and especially of interest rates, enables her to decide the financial policy of the British Government. America decided the financial policy of Ramsay Macdonald, Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Churchill. That that policy was disastrous for British trade and the British Navy is now a matter of history.

When I speak of America I do not mean the American people, because the American people have very little control over the policy of the American Government. Those who control the policy of the Great American democracy are those who control the financial policy of the country. This is mostly in the hands of Kuhn, Loeb and Co., of New York.

Last year, Kuhn, Loeb and Co. bought up the great international financial house of Morgan and Co. Morgans controlled several hundred thousand millions of pounds; what Kuhn, Loeb and Co. controls would be hard to estimate. It has been suggested that Kuhn, Loeb and Co. is in the process of buying up the British Empire.

What this firm of German Jews will do with the British Empire when they get it is an interesting speculation. But they haven't got it yet, and many things have still to happen before they can get it.

BASIS OF NEW WORLD

Some people appear to look upon the British Empire as something so delicate that if you breathe upon it it will break up and separate into its various parts. The greatness of the British Empire rests in the fact that it is broken up into its natural parts, each controlling its own affairs. British politicians made their greatest blunders when they thought every part could be run by London, and that is how they lost the American colonies.

No self-respecting country will ever submit to be ruled by people beyond their own shores; many would-be dictators have tried it but every one has failed, and will always fail, we can be sure of that.

The greatness of the British Empire rests neither on the compulsion of Law or of Force; it rests on willing co-operation of men and women who think alike on essential things and decide voluntarily to co-operate, and who, in times of emergency throw everything into the common pool. The British Commonwealth of Nations is the supreme example for the basis of a new and better world—and, what's more, it is the only example.

I believe colossal attempts have been made, and are being made, to smash up the British Empire; I also

(Continued on page 8.)

"OUT OF THE NIGHT"

(Continued from page 5.)

tip of her left foot tapped the floor in a nervous tattoo.

"Why can't you?" I demanded harshly.

"Because I can see how these last months have changed you. You have become a serf. A fanatical serf. Whenever you speak of the Party, the muscles in your face seem frozen hard and your eyes are cruel and wild. The Cause—always the Cause."

"It's splendid," I said, "and true!"

"It's ugly," she answered. "It takes everything and gives nothing."

"That's not ugly."

"Yes, it's ugly—a mass of sweating, shouting scarecrows is ugly!"

The following extract is, also very descriptive:

"The more Firelei learned of the underground machine of the Comintern, the more pronounced became her distaste for the Communist Movement as a whole. The single-track fanaticism, the matter-of-fact callousness, and the intolerance of many of the Communists she met, appalled her."

"How can people who talk of nothing; but destruction and bloodshed lead humanity to freedom and happiness?" she asked.

"You must understand that we are at war," I answered. "The purpose of war is to annihilate the enemy. We must destroy before we can build anew."

"But why must we borrow the methods from Russia? Everything you do is aimed at violence. I don't like violence."

"Every birth is like a revolution-violent! Even the most gentle child enters life amid screams and blood."

"I have so much to learn," Firelei said.

"You must learn how to hate," I told her. "I wish we could go away and live our own lives," Firelei concluded."

As mentioned, Firelei finally learned how to hate, became a Comrade, and, according to Valtin, died in a Nazi prison.

ASTRANGE ALLIANCE

I will now quote extensively of Valtin's story of the alliance between

the Nazis and the Communists, prior to Hitler obtaining complete power in Germany: "We raised the slogan—'Strike the Nazi wherever you meet him!' But it was a secondary motto for us. The paramount aim of the Communist Party was still the destruction of Social Democracy, the 'principal foe' blocking the road towards a Soviet Germany. So it was that in organising a maritime strike campaign, I concentrated my main efforts on the destruction of the Socialist-controlled trade unions. With the aid of many hundreds of thousands of leaflets, we stirred up the discontent of the workers and lashed them to wild hatred against the employers, against the police, and against the Social Democratic leaders—who favoured arbitration. "The tactics employed by the Comintern to wreck the Socialist trade unions was that of the 'united front.' Every Communist meeting, newspaper 'leaflet, raised the slogan of the united front' on every occasion. In the beginning, because of my sincere belief in the desirability of co-operation with the Socialists, I took it literally. I went to the headquarters of the Socialist Transport Workers Union in Bremen to propose to its chief a plan of united action in the strike then imminent. One of the numerous G.P.U. spies in our Party got wind of my visit, and sent a confidential report to Berlin, in which he accused me of secret counter-revolutionary negotiations with a notorious 'Social-Facit', - a term then in vogue among Communists. The report was forwarded, to Herrmann Remmele, Communist Reichstag deputy, then touring Western Germany. He promptly collared me, and gave me a rough-and-tumble lecture on what the Comintern meant by the united front.... Thus the 'united front' manoeuvre became one of the main causes of the impotence of organised German labour in the face of Hitler's march to power. "I bowed to Remmele's order. 'That is the Party line," he said. 'Any deviation from it is equal to treason!' Five years later this veteran of the Bolshevik

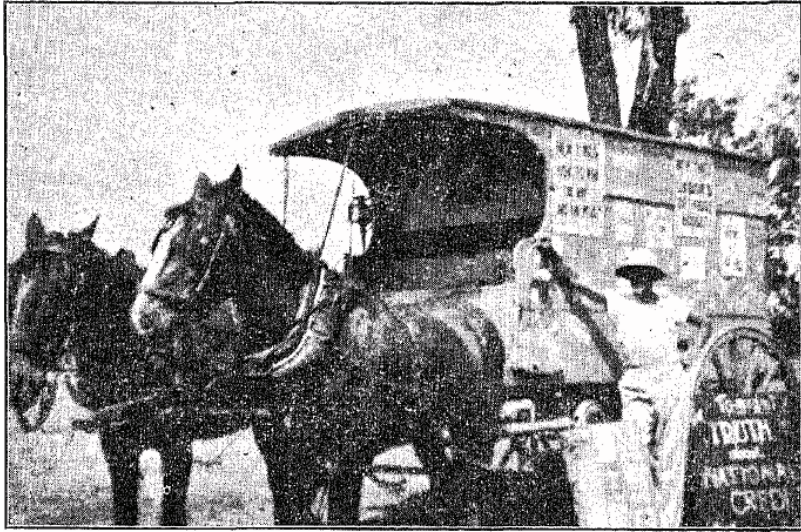
CARAVAN CAMPAIGN CONCLUDES

On arrival in Melbourne on Thursday of last week, Mr. Rolls had completed five months of consistent voluntary campaign work in New South Wales and Victoria, and covered approximately 1200 miles.

With the able assistance of his wife during the greater part of the tour, Mr. Rolls secured a large number of new direct subscribers to the "New Times," distributed thousands of back numbers and other complementary literature, sold large quantities of booklets, and personally interviewed hundreds of prominent people in scores of country centres. Apart from such immediate and tangible results—

work at the present time. We feel that every reader of the "New Times" and all those who subscribe to its principles owe a debt of appreciation to these campaigners, and we know that their unselfish devotion to the cause has been an inspiration to others.

At considerable personal expense and on their own initiative, Mr. and Mrs. Rolls set out from Sydney with



Norman Rolls and His Caravan.

which speak for themselves—the publicity value of this pioneer work is inestimable.

It is with regret, therefore, that we learn that circumstances do not permit the continuance of this valuable

a two-horse publicity van in September last, with the prime object of introducing and establishing the "New Times" in out-back centres. The results have already proved most gratifying, especially since, in the majority

"Out of the Night"—Continued.

Movement, the author of a volume in praise of the Soviet Union, who had been condemned to prison in Germany and fled to Russia, came to the end of the 'Party line.' He was shot in the dungeons of the G.P.U. in Moscow as a 'Gestapo spy.' " . . . A special committee, headed by Thaelmann, Henry Neumann and Wollweber, was set up to carry the instructions into effect. Summed up in one sentence, the instructions were: United action of the Communist Party and the Hitler Movement to accelerate the disintegration of the crumbling democratic bloc which governs Germany.' From then on, in spite of the steadily increasing fierceness of their guerilla warfare, the Communist Party and the Hitler Movement joined forces to slash the throat of an already tottering democracy. It was a weird alliance, never officially proclaimed or recognised by either the Red or the Brown bureaucracy, but a grim fact all the same."

THE STRANGE CASE OF DIMITROV

Most people have heard of Dimitrov, a former leader of the German Communist Party. He received worldwide publicity as a result of the Reichstag Fire Trial, when he was supposed to have stood up to Goering. He has been mentioned in the news lately. Valtin writes:

"I also translated much confidential material dealing with the arrest of Georgi Dimitrov in Berlin, and with the preparations for the Reichstag Fire Trial, which already then promised to develop into an international sensation. The heroism with which the world press has credited the former chief of the Western Secretariat and the present nominal leader of the Comintern in Moscow, because of his bold and clever sallies against the Government's 'witnesses,' Hermann Goering and Joseph Goebbels, was only the result of a carefully and cunningly organised play. The confidential material which passed through my hands in the Vimmel-

skaft offices of the Westbureau in Copenhagen contained data as far out of the reach of the ordinary news hawk as the complicated codes devised by Piatnitzky's nameless 'chiffre' experts.

"Months before the famous Berlin trial began, secret negotiations were already under way between Moscow and Berlin to exchange Dimitrov and his two Bulgarian aides for three German officers who had been caught by the G.P.U. as spies on Soviet soil. Dimitrov had to be saved from being broken down by Gestapo torture, not for his own sake, but for the sake of the Soviet Secret Service and the Comintern, whose inside workings he knew too well.

"Under duress, Dimitrov had proved himself less steadfast than many of the comrades under his command. He surrendered to the Gestapo the address of a couple who sheltered him; both man and wife sought escape in suicide when the Gestapo came for them. They cut their own veins, but were rushed in time to a hospital by the Nazi gaolers. Dimitrov also surrendered to the Gestapo the name and address of his mistress, Annie Krueger. His wife died suddenly, under circumstances which remain a mystery to this day, in May, 1933, while Dimitrov was in prison, awaiting trial.

"It was at this time that the G.P.U. stepped in with this threat to the Gestapo: 'Leave Dimitrov alone. Whatever you do to him, we shall do to your spies in Moscow.' Negotiations for an exchange of prisoners began through the medium of the Soviet consulate in Copenhagen, and through Georgi Dimitrov's sister, to whom the Gestapo, strangely enough, granted free passage in and out of Germany. The deal between Moscow and Berlin was concluded on the eve of the trial. But Dimitrov, for face-saving reasons, was kept in Germany until the end of the great Leipzig show. He, the star prisoner of the Gestapo, enjoyed gaol privileges unattainable to the mass

of cases, the new subscribers obtained are leading citizens. We share Mr. Rolls' conviction that "it is the type of 'contact' which counts most."

During the trip the campaigners used five horses in all, and met with innumerable difficulties. The absence of feed and sometimes lack of water for the horses, long stages without a shoemaker, the price of chaff (as high as 10/6 per bag), mosquitoes that made a night's rest impossible, impromptu repairs to wheels and tyres, violent dust-storms, and bridges washed away, and a bent axle, resulting from being hit by a car on the edge of a mountain cliff; these are a few of the experiences related by this pioneer couple at the conclusion of one of the most extraordinary tours ever conducted in the interests of this journal.

In recording its appreciation of the valuable work done by the "caravan

campaigners," the "New Times" will be joined by its many readers in thanking Mr. and Mrs. Rolls for their splendid efforts, and hoping that by some means they will be enabled to continue their good work in the near future.

Mr. and Mrs. Rolls have asked us to sincerely thank on their behalf those whose prompt response to their SOS made the conclusion of the tour possible. The following further donations to the Caravan Fund, temporarily held up in transit, have now been received:

Previously acknowledged	£23 2 0
R.F., New Lambton, N.S.W.	0 12 0
L.H.R., Mt. Hawthorne,	
Perth, W.A.	1 0 0
Mrs. S.C.M., O'Connell,	
N.S.W.	0 10 0
E.T.R., Glenorchy, Vic.	0 5 0
Total	£25 9 0

UNITED DEMOCRATS' REPORT

(From Headquarters, 17 Waymouth Street, Adelaide.)

From Mr. E. C. Finn, who is working hard during his lunch hour at one of Adelaide's big workshops, we have received the following report of his recent activities:

"A lunch-box library is in full swing, comprising about three dozen books, such as "Tax Bonds or Bondage, and the Answer to Federal Union" (Mitchell), "Victory Without Debt," "Answer to Tax Slavery," "Federal Union Exposed," "The Enemy Within the Empire," and others. Back numbers of the "New Era" and the "New Times" have been distributed freely for six weeks.

"A tactic used effectively was to make an acquaintance in different departments of the factory, develop a political discussion, and arrange to have lunch together for a few days. This inevitably meant meeting a few others, as it is the custom to have lunch in groups. Only factual information, relating to finance—those who run it, the part they play in politics (throughout the world)—and economic factors in society; i.e., poverty, plenty, the war effort, what is restricting it, and how, was dealt with in these discussions.

"After nearly 12 months' inaction in this work, due to personal affairs in changed circumstances, I was agreeably surprised at the extent of the interest, and the desire to listen to these facts. Only one person in six weeks of this sort of work challenged a statement on the question of banks creating deposits. The challenge was taken up in a light, friendly manner, with an offer to supply authoritative statements of this matter, inviting all and sundry to roll up and hear them. So word was passed round. Four days later (the appointed time) about 40 employees turned up instead of the usual five.

"The McMillan Report was quoted

of more obscure captives. He was supplied with newspapers, allowed to smoke cigars in his cell, and to receive mail. The 'little' comrades, meanwhile, received only beatings, and often bullets. In later years, I heard them speak bitterly in the concentration camps about Dimitrov and his rescue by Stalin. Had they insulted General Goering in open court, as Dimitrov did so dramatically at Leipzig, they would have paid hideously, and paid with their lives for such an 'heroic' gesture."

There is much more which I would like to quote from this book, but space does not permit. I couldn't put it down once I started to read it. My own copy is becoming very worn as a result of lending it to Army colleagues. They were astounded. Read it. You'll be astounded, and horrified, too. There is only one thing wrong with this book. It's too expensive. The price is 19/-.

from, and also the statement of Governor Eccles, the Encyclopaedia Britannica, Messrs. Hawtrey, Keynes and others, together with the facts of National Debts, War Debts (Boer War, Maori War, Great War—and the Great Great War). These quotations were carefully arranged in proper sequence, and driven home with pointed suggestions about their importance to the individual's welfare, and the urgent need for his proper understanding and action in the matter. It was pointed out that the Empire's welfare depended upon it because the efficiency of the individual depended upon it. The reaction was excellent. Time had been allowed for an all-round discussion.

"The speaker has since then never missed a day but what someone has found an excuse to have a word, and to beg, borrow or buy books or papers. This includes the staff, as well as employees. It is most heartening in view of the general attitude 12 months or so ago. People now know all is not well. Their minds are OPEN, or are opening. All that is wanted is the individuals who are not afraid to talk in the right manner, with the right stuff—they will get a surprise. Act and talk as an individual. The matter is urgent. GET BUSY."

This little report is heartening to more than Mr. Finn. And while we know most people are shy of publicity, nevertheless let us have a report of any similar activities. It makes these lone workers feel a little less alone.

Youth Group: Another cheer-up we have had this week has been the news of the Dance of the Y Group. Three hundred young patrons attended this function, and from all we hear had a particularly good time. The proceeds, part of which went to charity, netted £30. One result is that an organiser has been put on for a week or two. Their youthful enthusiasm seems bursting for action. We are hoping that they will soon find a worth-while objective to which to direct it. Mr. Brock addressed members on February 9, and was invited to go again last Monday night. Mr. Harvey also attended the meeting of February 9. The Y Group is strictly youthful, but certain ones, including Messrs. Harvey and Brock, are specially privileged. We are expecting much of these young people.

Quarterly Meeting: It had been hoped to have Mr. C. P. Mountford, the S.A. anthropologist, who produced the film, "Brown Men and Red Sand," to visit us on this night. But, owing to the uncertainty of his present movements, it was impossible. We hope to have the visit at a later date.

Executive Meetings are held every second and fourth Thursday in the month.

—Mr. R.W. Lee, Hon. Sec.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SIR KEITH MURDOCH

Sir,—The article in "The New Times" of February 6, "Spotlight on Sir Keith Murdoch," is very interesting, and it may interest you to know that in addition to his other activities, Sir Keith is also a land monopolist. Some time before the war started, through the death of the owner, a grazing property of 18,000 acres in the Junee district, known as Wantabadgery East, came on the market. This property is splendid grazing land, with a portion fronting the Murrumbidgee River, and is ideal land for closer settlement. As many farmers and graziers in this locality were wanting land for their sons, they formed a Closer Settlement League for the purpose of having this estate resumed by the Government for closer settlement. With the backing of other local bodies this League made representations to the Government for the resumption of this land, but were met with the usual cry of "no money." This estate was bought by Sir Keith a little later. Many of the lads who wanted this land to make a home for themselves are now overseas; some have already made the supreme sacrifice, and others have been called up in the home forces, to make this land safe for Sir Keith (among other things). Wishing you success in your fearless campaign against the money power.—Yours, etc., F. C. Belling, Illabo, N.S.W.

THE POWER OF NOTHING

Sir,—Readers of the "New Times" are very familiar with Mr. R. G. Hawtrey's statement, "When a bank lends it creates the means of payment out of nothing." I have before me a copy of "The Rationalist" (dated Aug., 1939), in which is reprinted "Extracts from a regular feature in the New York 'Truth Seeker'." May I give you, herewith, some of the "extracts":

"METAPHYSICAL DEPARTMENT.
"Questions to this department will be answered by Dr. Ferdinand Bull Quackengush, Professor of Extra-Sensory Perception, Dupe University, Gasmania. Queries may be sent in by telepathy or mail.)

"Q.: I am greatly troubled over what nothing is. Can you explain?"

"A.: Nothing is something to worry about. It is more complex than a simple thing like something. To metaphysicians, nothing is a very essential reality, since nothing in itself is more important than a particular lot of nothing doing something.

"Q.: After matter is annihilated, can it be brought back into existence?"

"A.: Yes, in small quantities. Once something becomes nothing, it is very difficult for it to become something again. We advise you to leave this matter in the hands of metaphysicians.

"Q.: A certain professor at my seminary is said to occupy the Chair of Metaphysics. Isn't a chair too material a thing for a metaphysician to occupy?"

"A.: Only to those who think a chair is material. In reality, a chair is merely a thought-pattern existing in the professor's mind, and his sitting on it depends on how quickly he can bring the thought-pattern into existence. Many a professor has had a fall by not thinking of the chair fast enough when he wanted to sit down.

"Q.: Before things began to begin, did anything exist?"

"A.: No. Before something can exist, it is necessary for nothing to do something. If nothing had not started things going, there would have been no universe—just oceans and oceans of nothing loafing for centuries. Materialists make the fatal mistake of starting from matter.

"Q.: I follow your Metaphysical Department with keen interest, but wonder how you know all the answers. It must be great to be a metaphysician.

"A.: It is. Metaphysics is the only field of learning wherein one has unlimited elbow-room, and no come-backs. You never see a metaphysician stumped for an answer."

* * *

To-day, the word "Reality" is "slung at us" from many quarters, probably meaning something different from each quarter, and we (i.e., most of us), and our "leaders," still have the curious "thought-pattern" that, "before something can exist it is necessary for nothing (which a banker lends) to do something."—Yours, etc., FLORENCE ROBINSON, Bentleigh, Vic.

BREAK-UP OF FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEM
Remarkable Forecast by C. H. Douglas in 1924

"The outstanding fact in regard to the existing situation in the world at the present time is that it is unstable. No person whose outlook upon life extends even so far as the boundaries of his village can fail to see that a change is not merely coming, but is in progress; and it requires only a moderately comprehensive perception of the forces which are active in every country of the world to-day to realise that the change which is in progress must proceed to limits to which we can set no bounds.

"That is to say, the break-up of the present financial and social system is certain. Nothing will stop it; the only point at issue in this respect is the length of time which the break-up will take, and the tribulations we have to undergo while the break-up is in progress.

"There will probably come well within the lives of the present generation a period at which the blind forces of destruction will appear to be in the ascendant.

"There is, at the moment, no party, group or individual possessing at once the power, the knowledge and the will which would transmute the growing social unrest and resentment (now chiefly marshalled under the crudities of Socialism and Communism) into a constructive effort for the regeneration of society. This being the case, we are merely witnesses to a succession of rearguard actions on the part of the so-called Conservative elements in society, elements which themselves seem incapable or undesiros of genuine initiative; a process which can only result, like all rearguard actions, in a successive, if not successful retreat on the part of the forces attacked. While this process is alone active, there seems to be no sound justification for optimism; but it is difficult to believe that the whole world is so bereft of sanity that a pause for reflection is too much to hope for, pending a final resignation to utter catastrophe.

"When that occurs mankind will have reached one of those crises which, no doubt, have frequently been reached before, but which so far have failed to avert the fall of

humanity back into an era of barbarism out of which now civilisations have slowly and painfully risen.

"The position will be tremendous in its importance. A comparatively short period will probably serve to decide whether we are to master the mighty economic and social machine that we have created, or whether it is to master to us; and during that period a small impetus from a body of men who know what to do and how to do it may make the difference between yet one more retreat into the Dark Ages, or the emergence into the full light of a day of such splendour as we can at present only envisage dimly."

—From "Social Credit," by C. H. Douglas, 1924.

The British Government

(Continued from page 6.)

believe that these attempts will fail. It appears to me that everything possible that could be done has been done to dishearten and break the spirit of the British people; but the British people still hang together, strong and resolute they have been let down on all sides, but they have not squealed.

Let us hope that the great American people will realise that the British Empire has been fighting for 2½ years with its back to the wall, and that adequate assistance is now long overdue.

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