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EVERY FRIDAY

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).

A Better Deal For Australian Militia

Must Receive Deferred Pay

By ERIC D. BUTLER

"By their fruits ye shall know them." There was a time when monetary reformers became very enthusiastic when any prominent individual—Roosevelt, Mackenzie King, Nash, Curtin, etc.—made a statement "denouncing" the Money Power. But bitter experience has taught us that we can only judge individuals by their ACTIONS, not by their WORDS.

Australians will always have cause to remember John Curtin, the man who has shown by his actions that his words over the past years were nothing more than a trap for the unwary. Personally, I regard the present Labor Government as the greatest disaster ever foisted upon the Australian people. I could fill pages on this matter, but the purpose of this article is to deal briefly with one issue. Curtin and Co. have often expressed their determination to protect the interests of Australia's fighting men. Well, the time has arrived when Mr. Curtin and his colleagues must decide whether they are going to see that Australian militia men and their dependents receive a little justice. The question of deferred pay for the militia must be faced, NOW.

The Australian militia has already been in action to protect Australian shores. I am not claiming that the present rates of pay to the A.I.F. are adequate. Far from it. But the militia forces are, at the very least, entitled to the same treatment as the A.I.F. And there is only one thing standing between the militia men and deferred pay: the treasonable financial system which is dragging upon our national effort like a dead weight.

CAN WE AFFORD IT?

Let us briefly examine the arguments advanced by those who, while desiring to see that the militia receive deferred pay—at least, that is what they say—claim that we can't afford it. "It will cost too much". These people mean that it will cost too much money. And, as we all know, money is very scarce! It is so scarce that thousands of pounds and much ingenuity are being used to obtain the money for our "Liberty" Loan. We simply must not go on with the war effort until we pass the hat around! It is doubtful whether this country, has ever been deluged with such nauseating propaganda of the lowest type as we have seen in connection with the "Liberty" Loan. Even the school children are being used.

What is our "education" system coming to?

The real cost of war is not the money spent. The real cost is the materials and manpower used. The money system, a costing system, should simply reflect that fact. Deferred pay for the militia would in no way be a drain upon materials and resources required for the war effort NOW. It would be a credit built up for every man for the time

his morale. He would have tangible evidence that he and his family would not face a depression at the conclusion of military hostilities. After all, those obtaining Government bonds at the present time—mainly the private banks which create the means of payment for the bonds out of nothing by credit creation—will have security at the conclusion of the war. Then why shouldn't Australia's fighting men be given some tangible evidence of security NOW? Even a "sound finance" exponent cannot deny the following facts: Although we have hundreds of thousands of men out of production in the armed forces, these men and the rest of the population are still being given an over-all standard of living similar to that before the war. But, more important, we are at the same time, "giving" the enemy tens of

(Continued on page 8.)

OPPOSITION TO APPLE AND PEAR BOARD

A monster public meeting of producers, consumers and taxpayers will be held at Mornington (Vic.) to-night, March 6, to protest and further organise against the Board. The plight and the temper of growers is indicated by the following interesting report, reprinted from the Box Hill "Reporter" of February 13:

Fruitgrowers from practically all over Victoria and numbering between three and four hundred attended a meeting held under the auspices of the Fruitgrowers' and Primary Producers' Defence League in the Box Hill Town Hall on Thursday night last week. Local growers were very strongly represented, and, at times, the gathering was lively. The meeting was called to consider what action would be taken since the terms under the Apple and Pear Acquisition Scheme for this year are held to be inadequate and below the cost of production.

The president (Mr. V. A. H. Clark, Pakenham), said that the league officials had felt somewhat diffident about calling the meeting owing to the war position, but the Federal Government's action in the reconstitution of the Board this year had about reached the limit of the grower's endurance, especially when they considered what had been done to get a stranglehold on the industry. Other ways could have been found to solve the problem, and he questioned whether they would ever have cost over two million pounds. This year he felt drastic action was needed to protect not only the local growers, but all growers in

with the Inquiry Committee's recommendations. Although the price had been cut by one-third this year that was not the main point. Growers should protest against the confiscation of their produce, an action that the Government had never taken with the secondary industries. Those had been fostered in all ways to bring them up to production; when the grower struck hard times, he was called incapable. Referring to prices of fruit, the president said that Gravensteins were being acquired from growers for 2/- per case and retailed at 17/-. Mr. Clark read a cutting from a Queensland paper in which the Mayor of Brisbane was reported to have said that growers there were being allowed to sell without restrictions. Apparently, said Mr. Clark, there was a difference between members of Parliament in Queensland and in Victoria. At times it seemed almost impossible to combat the danger to growers' livelihood, but if they all got together they would finally force a hearing.

Mr. F. A. Bloom (Mitcham), immediate past president, said it was only a matter of time until the public would be starved of apples and pears if things

COMPENSATION: It is stated in the Melbourne "Sun" of February 25 that the Opposition seeks "the insertion of a clause in the mobilisation regulation to provide for payment of compensation for special or sectional losses by individuals or groups as a result of compliance with orders issued under the regulations." In other words, they seek to obtain recognition of the principle that the Government shall assume financial responsibility for its regulations—a principle of vital importance to all democrats and one which the bankers will strongly oppose.

PROFIT LIMIT: The "Herald" finance writer is working overtime on propaganda against the 4% profit limitation, and blames the legislation on to big companies, for declaring large profits which could have been presented more subtly. He also blames the jargon terms used for public antipathy against corporations. Apparently he fails to understand that the anti-profit legis-

lation is bankers' legislation imposed by the Government to, among other things, prevent business concerns wiping off their debts to the banks—which would destroy the power and income of the banks.

CURTIN'S CONSCIENCE: The daily press reports that a woman sent her wedding ring as a contribution to the war effort, and that "Mr. Curtin, whilst appreciating the spirit behind the gesture, returned the ring." Probably the pangs of conscience overtook Mr. Curtin, for none knows better than he that rings cannot help the war effort one jot. He also knows that the Government is not dependent on the public for war finance—and some day he will have to answer for pretending that it is.

SOVIET BRITAIN: The "Herald" of February 20 reports the following German claim: "That Churchill is continuing the bolshevisation of Britain, and that Sir Stafford Cripps is Stalin's representative." Regrettably there is substantial truth in this, and, more unfortunately, British leaders have failed to observe that regimentation of British people has not produced satisfactory results.

SCIENTISTS WANTED: Mr. Martin, N.S.W. Attorney-General, has made an appeal for research workers to study the problems of substitutes for essential war materials. It seems that not until the eleventh hour are real war-winners called in. It is about time the political planners and propaganda wind-makers went off-stage, so that practical men can start winning the war.

CONFISCATION: "The public mind cannot function properly if obsessed by fear of totalitarian regimentation and virtual confiscation, which is what Australia is fighting against." Strangely enough, those words were written by the "Herald" finance writer in the issue of 21/2/42, but they were written in protest against the ban on share-trading, not against conscription in the form of the call-up, and not even against the closing of industries without compensation, which, are undoubtedly the most unnecessary and repugnant aspects of the bankers' dictatorship.

GOLD-ITIS: A tricky and delicate task was performed in salvaging £2,397,000 (no pence or shillings) of gold from the liner, Niagara. Doubtless, this gold will find its way to Fort Knox burial ground in U.S. The idea is to take gold from on hole and put it in another called a vault—quite an excellent way to waste man-power.

QUEENSLAND FLOODS have caused an estimated damage of £1

A WOMAN LOOKS AT THE PROBLEMS OF WAR AND PEACE

(A Talk Broadcast from 7HO Hobart at 8.15 p.m. on Sunday, March 1, by Mrs. Barbara Guthrie)

This war, as it spreads over the world, has disrupted the lives of millions of people. To the people of Europe war has brought disaster, suffering and humiliation; to us in Australia war has merely brought hundreds of new rules and regulations; more taxation and a reduction of some things we always consider essential.

To all it is obvious, however, that great changes are in the making, and I think that it is useful for purposes of war and peace that some of those changes should be examined and, if possible, turned to our advantage.

The kind of peace conditions people hope to get will largely determine the kind of war effort they will put forth and the direction of that effort

People who have been in Germany tell us that the great mass of the German people are united behind Hitler because they believe that he was removing and is going to remove still further the tragedies of the last peace. For millions of people, if peace has not been actually a tragedy it has been something, if less acute, duller and more prolonged. For millions there has been little real peace in this world since the last war—the war that was to end wars.

The last war finished and nobody was ready for peace; in this war preparations are now being made for peace. Whether the preparations are being made by the right people for the right purpose is something we won't know until after the war.

All we can hope for is that they are not being made by the people responsible for international and national affairs during the alleged peace before this war.

If we are not to be plunged into the same unsatisfactory, disheartening and slowly deteriorating peace that followed the last war, you and I will have to have a very much greater say in shaping all this so-called planning which goes under the name of After-war Reconstruction.

The Australian Broadcasting Commission has been running a series of talks on Post-war Planning, or "Tomorrow's World," as it is called. The speaker, unlike all other speakers, refuses to publish his name. The A.B.C. refuses to permit criticism of this speaker, and also refuses to permit any

other point of view to be broadcast over the national network. We know this, because we have tried to get other points of view broadcast, and the results have been very unsatisfactory. After careful inquiry we gather that the plan to be imposed on us by the would-be planners after the war has five important points:

- (1) It is not to be criticised.
- (2) We will have no say in its design.
- (3) It is backed by big money.
- (4) It originated in New York.
- (5) It is to be imposed by force.

However, there is a saying that the best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft a-gley. We have seen many schemes going astray in this war and I am afraid those who think they can regimentate British, Frenchmen, Chinese and Australians after this war are going to be left with nought but grief and pain for promised joy.

A TOO-DEPENDENT PEOPLE

Some of you will have noticed in the press this week that there is likely to be a shortage of wood this winter because the Government will not permit enough petrol for wood carters to deliver their firewood.

This seems to strike me as rather pathetic—that a country like Australia has to depend on petrol from overseas in order to cart firewood from a few miles outside the city, and so, if anyone decides to stop our petrol we can't have the firewood.

Now, that is stupid. We can't all be completely independent, but that is no reason why we should be as helpless as babes in a crisis. For centuries England had no tea but she had very good beer—better beer than we have to-day, and at a 1d. a gallon. To-day, because Englishmen have to pay 1/- a pint for very bad beer, they are forced to drink tea from abroad, and use precious ships to carry it in; lose precious lives trying to carry it to

England over thousands of miles, and get into debt trying to pay for it.

We in Australia have been far too dependent on foreigners for things we could easily make ourselves. After all, there are some people who derive a great deal of pleasure making things; you can't stop them making things unless you force them into a bankruptcy court during a depression or destroy their market through monopolies.

I get a great deal of pleasure growing my own vegetables. No doubt an economist would tell me that a market gardener could grow vegetables cheaper than I could, but economists don't know everything, and I know good vegetables. Besides those who grow their own vegetables have more and fresher vegetables than those who don't grow them. I wonder what the economist would think of that—or wouldn't he?

The main point of importance is this; That the only working men who can bring up a family reasonably are those in the country or those who have their own cow and own vegetable patch, with possibly a pig which they get cured for bacon.

In other words, in this great big world of great big men with their mighty organisations, their schemes, their plans, their inventions and their multitude of services, their huge wheat crops, their modern productive resources—these men can only give a reasonable standard of living to the people provided the people fall back on the methods of 600 years ago.

In other words, the vast and amazing organisation of finance and industry is just one gigantic joke. It's splendid; it's magnificent—but it doesn't do anything, at least not for me.

H. G. Wells once wrote: "No doubt the activities of the great financiers in the city tangle the whole world, but they do so aimlessly. The men who rush about its narrow ways do not know what they are up to. They would be angry to be told as much, but so it is. They impress themselves and each other and their clerks and their typists and the anxious, greedy, investing public as strong men and bold men and decisive men, and little Napoleons. Some of them are controlling altogether colossal sums; but in their heads are brains that still remain—it is offensive, but it must be said—inadequately developed. They are youngsters who have never taken time to grow up, youngsters overblown. They have never struggled on to the full adult stage. . . They are ignorant of fundamentals. Their enterprises, their debts, their loans, their technicalities and methods are solemn, vast puerilities. It does not make them any the less puerilities that all mankind suffers because of them."

But, unfortunately, these are the very men who are busy planning our brave new world. I don't want to see their "To-morrow's World," and I think that our boys when they come back will want something quite different to anything our professional planners have in mind.

I think it is a very wise and good thing for a man and woman to plan their lives ahead at least for a few years. To plan their own house and garden, to help plan, the careers of their children. But, unfortunately for hundreds of millions of people all planning is impossible. All planning is just a joke or merely an idle pastime, unless there is power and security behind the planners.

With power to buy a home—money power—plans don't matter; you can buy any of hundreds of them, and all good ones. Many people have had very desirable and beautiful homes surrounded by beautiful trees. Go round the town and look what's happening to them. There is no security for the family in them; mortgages and taxes destroy all security and all chance of successful planning.

Most women would plan a beautiful home—that's easy. It's the money required to build the home we want,

not the planners. We want the money to buy the home and security to maintain the home for the family. Both are denied to us by a financial system which, if allowed to carry on, will destroy the British Empire and any other people who have not enough sense to see that a nation's true wealth is neither gold nor money, but courageous and intelligent men and women.

Yet for 25 years the efforts of the British peoples have been held in check and prevented from natural expansion because of money. Money which should have been our willing servant to help get jobs done, has been our master and held up and prevented these jobs being done.

It has done this for 25 years, and it is still doing it. The Australian Government is still begging for pennies to buy Australian-made guns. Are we to suppose that if the Australian Government doesn't get our pennies that it will have to leave the guns lying in the factories?

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NOTES

From United Democrats, 17 Weymouth Street, Adelaide.

Our Quarterly Meeting: This was one of the happiest ever held, even though held, as it was, under the shadow of ugly things. The attendance was small, as quite a number do not care about venturing out with little or no street lighting.

The president, Mr. M. E. Dodd, briefly outlined the activities of the movement since the former meeting. He mentioned the several groups now functioning, and doing so as separate units. It was his wish, Mr. Dodd said, to see these various groups affiliated, or at least pooling all their knowledge, experience and power. (Up to a point this is happening now, as members of Adelaide Social Credit Group are members of the United Democrats, and two members of the United Democrats are honorary members of the Y group.)

Mr. Brock gave an address, dealing in a realistic manner with the present situation. He pointed out that people were getting indignant because of the things that were happening that "couldn't happen." The speaker reminded us of a saying of Demosthenes: "Can a policy which brings us from success to failure, bring us from failure to success?" After this struggle was over, we were not to stop till we had thwarted the crushing powers that were now thwarting the individual.

We were favoured by a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Hutchenson, who, but for a slight accident to the former, were to have given us a little music on piano and violin. Mrs. Hutchenson, however, played the piano, after which she played for the community singing which concluded the function.

Literature: There have been an unusual number of enquiries for "The Enemy Within the Empire" lately. We have "The War Behind the War," "Money-power Versus Democracy." (Both by Eric Butler.) The books by C.B.S.: "Victory Without Debt," "The Answer to Tax Slavery," "Federal Union Exposed," are also vital to the moment. These books have a "kick" in them on the first reading. On the second reading it is doubled. So read all of these books again—and then think of someone you haven't so far sent them to, for there must be many. And when you make up the parcel, include one or more copies of "Banks and Facts." (I have not yet seen a reply to Mr. Bruce Brown's reply to the Banks.) Perhaps there isn't one! We can supply large quantities of this booklet. Send for some. (6d. each, or 4/- a dozen.)

The next executive meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12.

-M. R. W. Lee, Hon. Secretary.

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Price: 10d., posted. Obtainable from the "New Times," Box 1226, G.P.O. Melbourne.

MR. CURTIN DODGES THE REAL ISSUE

Hereunder we publish correspondence between a "New Times" reader and Mr. Curtin, and on extract from our Sydney contemporary, which indicate that Mr. Curtin is giving a stereotyped, evasive answer to all who protest against his continuation of financial orthodoxy:

"Hillview,"
123 Button Street,
Bankstown, N.S.W.

The Hon. J. Curtin,
Canberra.

Dear Mr. Curtin,—As a loyal citizen of Australia, I am greatly concerned at the trend of events in this country. We have for some years been under the heel of oppression from various causes, the greatest of which, I submit, has been that of an organised financial dictatorship not necessarily British, although there have been many Australian tools. I am, therefore, exercising my democratic right in communicating to you the reasons for my alarm at the prospects for the future of this country and its citizens, notwithstanding military victory in this war.

You will agree that a right objective cannot be attained by wrong methods. It is axiomatic that our Parliamentary system exists for the sole purpose of transmitting into reality the desires of the people. The fundamental desires of the people are individually and collectively the same as they have always been—namely, the maximum of personal freedom commensurate with that of their fellows to enjoy it. The application of ever-increasing scientific knowledge to all resources has made this a practicability. The one possible exception to this is in the realms of finance.

From Parliament has come countless laws, acts of Parliament and innumerable regulations. To what effect? Through the mechanism which I have mentioned, which was established for the purpose of giving every individual in this nation freedom in security, has come a multitude of unnecessary, unjustifiable and unwarranted restrictions; each and every one of them an encroachment on the "inalienable right of man to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Higher rates, unbearable taxation, higher prices, all increasingly lowering the standards of the individual—always removing the individual further from his objective—freedom in security. These are the things that a century of Government in Australia has produced for the people, results diametrically opposed to their real wishes.

No one can dispute that what is physically possible is also financially possible. Instead of the necessary finance being made available for the fulfilment of the physical requirements of a 100% war effort and other national needs, we are being continually asked to sacrifice in a land of abundance in order to conform to a financial system which bears no relationship to facts.

Labour promised to apply corrective action to all these things, particularly finance, and it is because there has been no indication of action in this direction that I, as a citizen loyal to British institutions and culture, am alarmed I desire to see a victory for the people quite distinct from a financiers' holiday. With best personal wishes.—Yours faithfully, G. F. Baker, January 11, 1942.

Prime Minister's Department,
Canberra.

G. F. Baker, Esq.,
"Hillview,"
123 Dutton Street,
Bankstown, N.S.W.

Dear Sir,—The Prime Minister desires me to thank you for your letter of the 11th instant, the contents of which he perused. Your

attention is drawn to the National Security (Wartime Banking Control) Regulations recently issued by the Government. These regulations give effect to the Government's decision to bring the operations of the trading banks under effective control and prevent them from deriving any increased profits as a result of war activities. They also give effect to certain recommendations of the Royal Commission on Banking and make other provisions to meet present conditions of war finance. It is considered that by these regulations we can be assured that the operations of the financial system will be directed wholly towards our common national purpose. I wish to add that the policy of the Labour Party as set, out in its platform will be adhered to, but would point out it is not possible to implement same in toto within any specified period, especially as we have not a Labour majority in both House of Parliament.—Yours faithfully, E. W. Tonkin, Private Secretary. January 13, 1942.

* * *

A "New Era" reader has received a letter from the Prime Minister (Mr. Curtin) in which he makes the following statement:

"With regard to the question of finance, your attention is drawn to the National Security (Wartime Banking Control) Regulations recently issued by the Government. These regulations give effect to the Government's decision to bring the operations of the trading banks under effective control and prevent them from deriving any increased profits as a result of war activities. They also give effect to certain recommendations of the Royal Commission on Banking and make other provisions to meet present conditions of war finance. It is considered

that by these regulations we can be assured that the operations of the financial system will be directed wholly towards our common national purpose."

Mr. Curtin's reply is wholly unsatisfactory. Rarely have we known him to give a categorical reply to a question. He invariably begs the question or avoids the issue.

The question of bank profits is of minor importance. The all-important question is: Are the banks to go on CREATING the major portion of the financial credit to finance the war and charge it up as an interest-bearing debt?

That is the issue. The price we are paying for victory is nothing less than insufferable debt and taxation slavery, to which the Federal Labour Government turns a treasonably deaf ear.

If Mr. Curtin had a spark of statesmanship in him he would take steps NOW to arm Parliament with REAL power over finance, not merely a show of power to satisfy his simple and credulous followers, and which leaves the POWER of the Credit Monopoly untouched. . . .

Mr. Curtin may take refuge in the point that lacking a straight out majority he hasn't the power. We notice that his Government has the power to regiment everybody by an over-night edict—the power to conscript, forbid, commandeer, or ban, which is exercised in the most ruthless manner.

Under the National Security Regulations party majorities don't count. The Federal Government has the power to do what it, decides to do.

It is transparent humbug for Mr. Curtin to claim that "by these Banking Control Regulations we can be assured that the operations of the financial system will be directed wholly towards our common national purpose."

Is it the "common national purpose" to forge chains of debt for our own bondage? Must the price of freedom from one enemy be servitude to another?

If that is Mr. Curtin's conception of victory, then it is pitifully poor, and all too many people will see in it ample reason for withholding their co-operation in this hour of crisis. — C.B.S.

The Answer to Curtin

Never in the history of Australia have we seen so much nauseating propaganda supporting the bankers' treacherous debt and taxation system. It must be answered.

In our issue of December 15 appeared an open letter to Federal Members from Eric Butler. Many people believe this to be the clearest, most damning, and hardest hitting piece of writing ever directed against the Money Monopoly and its political "yes-men." There is a challenge in every sentence. A copy was sent to every Federal Member.

At the request of many people, and in the interests of a really free Australia, we have had thousands of copies of the above letter reprinted for mass distribution.

But they are no good here in our office. They must go out. You alone can get them out. Order your quantities now.

1/- a dozen; special rates for large quantities.

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ANTI-SEMITISM IN S. AFRICA From the "Jewish Chronicle," under the heading "Anti-Semitism Has Come to Stay":

"What are the reasons for this comparatively new anti-Jewish movement in South Africa? Apart from the general reasons that apply to every country where anti-Semitism is generated, the explanation so far as South Africa is concerned is that the Jew is being made the scapegoat for what the reactionary Afrikaner believes to be the Englishman's sins against his people. . . . The South African Jew is standing by Britain. . . ."

Yes, which Britain? (Lord Moyne, in the House of Lords, indicated that H.M. Government had received no communication from the Union Government on the subject of General Smuts's broadcast demanding the reaffirmation of the Balfour Declaration.)

ALIENS IN THE B.B.C.

In answer to a question in the British Parliament recently, the Minister of Information stated that six aliens, none of them Germans, were employed on the staff of the Ministry of Information, their salaries ranging from £320 per annum to £550 per annum. The B.B.C. employs 62 Germans, and 303 other aliens. Both in the Ministry and the Corporation the officers in question have access to private and confidential information in a greater or less degree according to the responsibility attaching to the posts that they occupy; but they are selected with this responsibility in view and after careful enquiry of the appropriate authority.

A CAMPAIGN FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a "letter form" setting out a carefully considered basis for responsible government. The points therein cover matters of grave individual and national importance—which the Government have failed to deal with adequately.

There is undoubtedly a feeling of frustration and insecurity in the community which prevents the people from developing that unity of purpose so necessary in this time of crisis.

Under those circumstances it is imperative that every loyal individual shall bring pressure to bear on political representatives to eliminate the causes of frustration and insecurity. This can best be done by obtaining "letter forms" and distributing them as widely and quickly as possible—every reader is urged to commence this task immediately.

The public's initial reaction to the "People's Charter for Responsible Government" has been very gratifying and the nature of it is such that it may be confidently presented to all and sundry for acceptance. It is self-explanatory and educative which should encourage campaigners in their task of circularising same.

Now is the time for action to stimulate the Government and to demonstrate to the public that they are not hopeless if they will use the "Electoral Campaign" idea to eliminate war effort obstruction and to

insist that it shall not be retarded through irresponsible government.

Don't wait for the other fellow. Obtain supplies of "letter forms" NOW from: United Electors of Australia, McEwan House, Little Collins-street, Melbourne, Price, 1/6 per 100.

—O. B. Heatley, Campaign Director, United Electors of Australia.

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THE DIRTY WORK

When discussing post-war reconstruction, we advocates of "paid leisure" often come up against the individual who says: "But SOMEONE will have to do the dirty work!"

Sewers, eh? Somehow, it is always the main sewers which crop up at this point. Socialist or Capitalist, be sure it will be the sewers. We will deal with this question of sewage.

When we are told that "someone" will have to do the dirty work, we should note the word "someone"; it implies some human being, and it is just here that we shall take up the argument.

It is not necessary for anyone to do the dirty work. In this matter of sewers and the disposal of sewage, for instance, it would be possible to do away with any human being having to go down the sewers, or, in fact, to deal in any way at all with the filthiness of sewage.

Every part of this work could be done—and a great deal of it is now being done—by mechanical processes from the surface. If we had enough sense, after the war, to say to the civil engineers, "You have got to work out a system of automatic sewage disposal in such a way that no human being comes into contact with the refuse, and get it into working order within a year from to-day," it could be done without difficulty. It is not a problem which is beyond the powers of the civil engineer. He has never been given the orders to do it.

"Oh, well, yes; but who's to pay for it?" The answer to that is: that so long as there is a surplus of goods and services available to be monetised anything at all can be paid for. "More taxation?" No taxation at all. A matter of sound business; an ordinary, common-sense transaction between the civil engineers and the people.

"Still, the people have to pay for it, don't they?" Yes, but not out of individual incomes. You don't expect the civil engineers to do it for nothing and starve, do you? "But where will the money come from?" From exactly the same place from which it now comes; that is, the national credit.

"So the civil engineers won't get any real money?" At this point we relapse into silence, having discovered yet another individual who cannot understand that all money is real money if, and only if, goods and services are there to redeem the pledge. On a desert island gold is worth nothing. On a fertile island cowrie shells will do just as well.

So much for this mythical "someone" and the dirty work. There is not a single problem of degrading or filthy work now done, by human beings (because they must find work or starve) which could not be solved by the inventive engineer.

Away go all the dreams of Golden Dustmen, and in their place comes the engineer and the automatic machine. No doubt the Dustmen's Union will fight a forlorn fight against being thrown out of work, and in their dilemma quote Mr. Shaw's Pauline doctrine of the "criminality of idleness." No matter; this elimination of human labour-power is at work and nothing can stop it, however slow it may be. The only question we will have to face is: Must we starve because the machines, plus a few capable men and women, can produce food, warmth and shelter sufficient for everyone? It is a question which, in another form, the peace-time army of unemployed might well ask. A queer state of affairs. The warehouses full to overflowing, and everyone in rags looking for work. "Solved" says the socialist; "we all will do a little bit of work." But how silly.

Let us dispose of these moral first principles, which are purely secondary considerations and not first principles at all. The ownership, of private property or, the common ownership of public property makes no difference to the fact that, "normally," we cannot purchase all the goods produced. Equal or unequal incomes make no difference; there is plenty for everyone equal or not equal, much or little; what is wanted, is, in the first place, that the cash possessed by the community as individuals shall equal the prices charged; for goods and services. "Normally," it does not, as anyone interested can calculate for himself. And, in the second place that, Birthright Shares in the Commonwealth shall take the place of the dole, so that the march of science shall free people from labour and not degrade them as "unemployed."

As for the "criminality of idleness," in what way is it deemed criminal if our work is not required by the productive organisation? If there is plenty of food for all without our labour, why must we refrain from eating because we cannot sell our labour?

"Oh, but if no one did any work there would be not food to eat." True; in which case the dividends on the Birthright Shares - based on productive capacity - would drop to nothing. But why should everyone stop work when those in industry receive the incentive of good pay and work they have chosen because they enjoy it, and those released from industry can do things of greater interest than hawking round writing-pads and packets of tea from door to door?

THE INFLATION BOGEY

"Like many other financial matters, inflation, its causes and results, is a simple matter." Professor Lindsay M. Fraser is reported in the London "Evening News" as having discovered this simplicity, I do not, however, attribute the singular use of the verb "to be" to the worthy Professor, though that is a simplification I might have welcomed in my school days.

The simplicity of a matter is, unfortunately, not the end of it. That appears to me to be the snag. There is a simplicity about a boil on the neck which does little or nothing to console the sufferer for instance. I am not concerned about the simplicity of inflation. It can be as simple or as complicated as may be. The thing that interests me is "What is it going to do to me?" and "Can it be stopped?"

Let us again consult the oracle. Inflation "is the condition that arises when the amount of money being spent is in excess of the amount of goods for sale." I don't presume, of course, to know where that happens. Everywhere I've been for years, the boot has been on the other leg. I never remember being in any place where I was able to bring off even a trifling accommodation without disproportionate trouble. Conversely, I have never at any time observed a shortage of goods. In fact, the situation has usually been reminiscent of that dismal little thing we used to learn at school, "Water, water everywhere, and not a drop of beer to drink." I've forgotten how it goes exactly.

I feel inclined to go so far as to say that if there is any condition anywhere such as the writer speaks of, someone must have put it there purposely for his benefit. Anyhow, you can't very well blame the people for being short of money. They don't make the money. They are always howling for it. I wouldn't say the people are entirely blameless, but I do think they get bellowed at for the wrong thing. For instance, their cure for the condition of more goods than money is to produce more goods. I don't think the economists have to worry about inflation if they're going to leave it to the people. It never enters the people's heads to make money—and, anyway, it's the economist's mates who do that.

Take Pongo Pyke and his crowd. "Gentlemen," says Pongo, "once again we have survived a difficult year. Money has been very tight. In fact, people have practically ceased to buy useful things. But we are making out. Last year we actually manufactured twice our usual quantity to pay the interest on the unsold goods. We must go on doubling. The less the people buy the more we must make. It is an economic law. There is no other way." You'd think that all the experts present would rise up as one man and demand Pongo's gibbering head on a charger. But, dear me, no. They just clench their false teeth and mutter something about inflation.

Ever since the bankers engineered inflation in Germany to avoid payment of a lot of continental reparations—and, incidentally, ruining a lot of perfectly good Germans, if such there be—the economist is always there to warn the people to beware of that loose passion for inflation ever present in the blood of the masses.

Our friend the Professor has a certain limpity of expression when describing inflation. He says, after drawing our attention to the curious and universally unknown condition of the market in which there is more money than sense—sorry! I mean goods, "Think of a market which is accustomed to a turnover of £1000 a day. If, one morning the customers came along with £2000 in their pockets, they would have more to spend than there were goods to buy." A fire or an earthquake would, of course, produce a similar result, and would be much more likely to happen. But rare as it is, this condition is one that every economist worth his salt feels called upon to brace himself to resist.

He scents a crisis. Anything might happen, always excepting, of course, anything any good. If ever you meet an economist in this sort of panic, don't bother to be reasonable. Don't try to persuade him that people are really much more decent than he thinks they are until you succeed in frightening them rather badly. It just isn't any use. I've tried, but I've found all economists impervious to anything not connected with the gold standard or the larger lunacy.

The professor's next sentence explains the principle of trucks as envisaged by the professor. "Either the first comers would clear the market, leaving nothing for the others, or the traders would have to institute some sort of rationing system." So you and I were wrong, you see. We always thought, it was the trader who poked the price up; but, evidently, it isn't, really; it's the customer. Having grasped the outlook, the customer says, "Oh, dear me, you can't afford to do that: that's only the ordinary price. I must pay you double. I insist."

"But," moans the miserable trader, "you'll ruin me; you know you will. It's inflation you're causing: nothing less."

So the customer isn't always right, after all. If only he'd hang on to his overplus—which, by the way, has not been properly explained—the honest trader might have a chance to allow production to catch up. This catching up business is something I would like to have seen the professor devote a little more time to. He left an impression that goods were somewhat like rain: very largely outside the control of man.

To tell you the truth, I find it hard to explain these professor blokes to myself. Goodness knows where they get to in the ordinary way. It must be somewhere that you and I have never been, somewhere where everything has to go backwards or upside down. If that isn't the explanation, then we ourselves have got into a place where everything is exactly what it doesn't appear to be.

What I mean is, we might all the barmy except the economists. Frightfully dashing thought! Fancy, for instance, if it should turn out to be true that food was the cause of starvation, as they're always telling us. It would be a blow, of course, but I console myself that we should still be entitled to Democracy. The people, in that event, outnumbering the economists as they do, and doubtless still would, would be perfectly justified in demanding government of the lunatics, by the lunatics for the lunatics. Pongo agrees with me. In fact, according to him, that is exactly the kind of government we've got.

—Footle.

HERE'S A LAUGH

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has been telling the House of Commons that "the money out of which the banks lend to the Government is, broadly speaking, derived from deposits made by customers in the ordinary course of their business, and there is no question of banks creating credit for the purpose of lending money to the Government." "The Economists motherly comment that here the little fellow "strayed quite unnecessarily on to dangerous ground" must not be taken to mean that that anxious journal is yet convinced that there is anything improper in holding the community to ransom for the

"CLEAR THE DECKS"

"There never was a time when good judgment was more needed than today."—C. H. Douglas.

It was stated in a previous article under the title, "Are You a Victim of Mental Suggestion?" that propaganda and mass-suggestion were employed to shield the real impelling motive behind the Monetary System from investigation. The facts of the case being (1) that there has been for years sufficient evidence to convince any impartial mind of the existence of individuals who control, and are at pains to preserve, the present Monetary System for other ends than the only legitimate one of distributing the real wealth of the country. And (2) that the undisclosed objective is contained in a Plan of universal government.

That is tantamount to saying that there is a Plot. Any hidden plan is a plot, quite apart from whether its authors, or we, regard it as a benevolent plan, or not. And further, a plot inevitably implies plotters. If it is argued that that bold statement does not cover all the facts the reply is that no statement in words can. But that whatever other conditions may exist, it is still a fact that there is a concealed object in the manipulation of money, amounting to a plot.

It was also pointed out that until society, and pre-eminently Social Crediters can bring themselves wholly to accept this fact, in all its baldness, as fundamental, and not merely incidental to the present world situation, they would remain at a grave disadvantage in forming any true judgment regarding events.

For as one progresses in the examination of this universe into which we have been born, it becomes increasingly clear that it is the unavowed, unacknowledged, unrecognised motives behind action that are responsible for making existence so complicated. That, in fact, the trouble with the world is obliquity, indirectness—objectives not openly acknowledged. And therefore the key to the problem of existence in its infinitely various aspects—the explanation—is to be found in the motives lying behind human actions in recognising and exposing which, lies half the battle. For if we ignore, or misjudge, our enemy's objective, we find ourselves at the mercy of his strategy.

So much for the Plot. Now apart altogether from the question as to whether the two are completely or even partially identified or not, we have an exactly similar condition of affairs to that associated with Monetary policy and Internationalism to what is known as the Jewish Problem. The taboo placed upon all genuine investigation of Finance, the hands-off-the-banks cry of some years back, is duplicated in the case of Jewry. Both are problems which, in a quite literal and legal sense, defy solution. They both behave very much in the manner of a wild animal caught in a snare, that screams and bites and scratches at every attempt to help it. Now the important thing is this: that in both cases all the mental confusion which surrounds them, and which in a sense constitutes the actual problem, arises from the deliberate employment of hypnotism, which in itself is an elementary and quite irrational force, as intangible and yet as demonstrable, and as much at the service of those who know how to generate and direct it, as electricity, to put certain persons and practices outside the operation of, reason and the logical processes of the law.

That is not an over-statement for, viewed from whatever angle you like it is manifestly an unreasonable, even insane, proposition that in order to preserve a system, the results of which are felt to be satisfactory by only a handful of individuals among all the civilised inhabitants of the earth, a quarter of every industrialised population

mathematical ruthlessness. Yet we know that that proposal is fundamental to the operation of the present Monetary System. The point, however, upon which we need to concentrate our attention is that that proposal, its shocking unreason notwithstanding, has been followed and rigidly carried out by all of us in our collective capacity during the period between the two World Wars. Surely no one can suggest that ordinary decent, men and women, especially British men and women, were brought by any "reasonable" means to acquiesce in that!

Nor, in the case of the Jews, is it any more reasonable a suggestion to make that any and all honest attempts to get at the true facts behind what even Jews themselves acknowledge as the "Jewish Problem," are "evidence of unpatriotic and pro-German tendencies." Yet that is the suggestion often made to-day, even in our Courts of Law; and that notwithstanding, it is quite obvious that, as concerns the great, majority in Germany, the Jewish persecution is merely evidence of the fact, that all reasonable efforts to solve the question have been abandoned in that country.

It must be obvious, then, that, as in the case of Finance, in any attempt to approach the Jewish problem, we are not in the first place dealing with rational obstacles, but with these irrational mental forces. And if we are unable from the start, to recognise their operation behind the very marked

inability and reluctance of Western Civilisation to deal with an alien and Eastern problem in its midst, we are certainly ensuring for ourselves great loss of time and heart-breaking waste of energy and emotion, and at the end of all, perhaps, disastrous failure.

What we must ask ourselves is this: Are our thoughts genuine? Or are they just the reaction to mental intimidation? Every intelligent person must recognise to-day that it is this suppression which has led all down the history of Christendom to the present time in Central Europe, to the killing and persecution of the unhappy Jewish individual. Is it out of genuine consideration for the Jews as individuals—and how else should we re-

gard them?—that we hesitate to break down this taboo and get at the truth of the matter where Jewry is concerned? Or is it something else?

It is not the Jewish problem—nor any other—that will be solved by sentimentalism. The so-called "Christian" sentimentalist is in this respect really the anti-Judaist. It is quite legitimate to say that the solution of this, as of every other similar matter, is Love—but only if we include in the field of love "understanding," which again implies painstaking and thorough examination. Just the very thing the sentimentalist is reluctant to undertake.

—N.F.W., in the "Social Crediter."

AN OPEN LETTER

To the Employes of the M. & M.T.B., Melbourne.
Ladies and Gentlemen,—

Do not allow your vision of reality to be clouded by the deceptive, if not dishonest, argument put up to you in "Tramway Topics," that the four-and-a-half millions of "invested capital" in the Melbourne tramway undertaking "earns" and is entitled to interest, as in the case of genuine savings made by individuals. The truth is that the bulk of loans ("invested capital," don-cherknow) made to Governments and to public undertakings originate in book entries made in bank ledgers. These loans are not money earned nor are they entitled to interest as in the case of savings from wages and salaries.

They are made from counterfeit money secretly minted by private bankers. Most of the interest-bearing Government Bonds and interest-bearing debentures of public undertakings are held by the king pins of the money monopoly—the banks and insurance companies—or their "dummies." So you can guess who benefits most from the huge loan charges which wipe out the £1,000,000 surplus. You might also notice that the taxpaying employes, including those who earn £400 a year or more, are feeling the pinch in consequence of these expanding debts.

Don't imagine that you can get the results you want from "The Board,"
(Continued on page 6.)

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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.

PRICE 6D.

A NEAR TRAGEDY

The comparative quiet of our office was shattered on Monday morning of last week by the entry of a somewhat flustered and excited gentleman. Pounding the counter, the intruder demanded of the young lady engaged at the typewriter that he be immediately conducted to the person who called himself "The Roving Reporter."

Appearances conveyed to our typist the fact that the excited gentleman did not seek the reporter out of a spirit of good fellowship. "The reporter is not in the office at the moment, but I could send you through to our manager; perhaps he could help you in some way," said the typist. "Good," snapped the excited gent, "and if I don't succeed in having that reporter fired I'll eat my hat." "What name, please?" from the young lady, with a tremor in her voice. "John Citizen," barked the flustered one. "This way, please. You will find the manager in his office."

Without waiting to be announced, our visitor brushed the typist aside and burst in on the manager. "My name is John Citizen, and I demand the dismissal of your Roving Reporter." Recovering from his shock, the manager invited John Citizen to be seated—offered him a cigar. "Now, Sir, ----" commenced the manager, but John Citizen cut him short. "You published an interview in your paper last week between myself and your reporter, and I feel that owing to the fact that my knowledge of finance was somewhat limited, the result of the interview would lead your readers to believe that I am a fool. After your reporter left me in the street I turned over in my mind the questions he had asked me and I felt that he had raised a point that I had never considered during my life. I knew that the figures in my bank book had never been altered to provide anyone with a bank loan, and I decided to ask some questions among my friends. On my way home from the city that evening I encountered Charles Blank, a personal friend of mine, and a prominent business man, a man with years of experience in matters concerning money. It took me some time to pluck up courage to put the question to him, because after all there must be alterations in depositors' bank books to provide a loan such as the reporter suggested, but apparently, mine was not one of them. "Charlie," I said, "If a bank lends its depositors' money, does it deduct the amount lent from the figures appearing in the depositors' passbooks, because if it does not, how can it lend money, and still leave its depositors with their credits intact?" I then went on to tell him of my interview with the reporter. A knowing smile spread across Charlie's face, and I began to feel a little uncomfortable.

"My dear John," he said, "You have been the victim of one of these monetary reformers. He cunningly built up an argument (of course previously prepared) then knocked it over before your eyes and left you in a daze. Very clever, John, but it will not hold water. A bank does lend its depositors' money, but you should have been able to see for yourself that to keep altering the passbooks of its depositors with each loan would entail a huge amount of work for the bank staff. What happens is this, and I know what I am talking about: Let me use the same figures that the reporter used. The bank in question had 100 depositors with a deposit of £1 showing in their pass-books; that makes a total bank deposit of £100. The reporter borrowed £5 from the bank, but before

lending the £5 the bank manager said to himself, 'I can lend this £5—the security is good and I know that all the depositors will not all, arrive at the bank together and demand their money (£100), otherwise I would be £5 short. If I keep sufficient of the total deposits in reserve to pay the usual withdrawals, the loan to the reporter will be a sound banking transaction and the interest he will pay for it will find its way into the depositors' accounts. So you see, John, that's how a bank lends its depositors' money without altering the pass-books."

"Well, Mr. Manager, you can understand why I want the reporter fired. He has made me a laughing-stock in the eyes of my friends, and no doubt has represented me to readers of your paper in a similar light. He is a menace to the community, sir! Nothing short of his dismissal will satisfy me." Although the temper of John Citizen had improved a little since his arrival, here was a delicate situation and our manager felt that it was now or never if the reporter was to be saved.

"Mr. Citizen," he said, "I offer the apologies of the paper, the reporter, and myself, for any inconvenience

NEW MOVEMENT "ON THE AIR"

The first broadcast of the recently-formed New World Movement was heard from 3AK, Melbourne, last Sunday at 10.15 p.m. This was introductory, and, to a certain extent, experimental in character. Future broadcasts, when they "get into their stride" and "get down to tin-tacks," should be even more interesting. The next will take place this week-end, at the same time.

In last Sunday's broadcast, the Movement's "Five Pillars of Reconstruction" were announced. They are: Economic Reconstruction, Political Reconstruction, Educational Reconstruction, Nutritional Reconstruction and Reconstruction of International Relationships. Each of these will be elaborated in future weekly broadcasts.

The following extracts are from a "Call To Action," which formed part of the first broadcast:

"Half measures will not do, for, above all, we must focus the searchlight of truth on the errors of the past, and seek fundamental realities in the future. We must be courageous and face the facts of our dilemma—parting with things that are false. We cannot and will not be content with palliative measures, for we have stood by too long and watched the ills of our civilisation patched up too often. No, this will not do; we must, at all costs, recognise, and remove the cause and seek to establish a rational and fundamental existence. If we do anything short of this, the contradictions within any new order so built, will become manifest and sow the seeds of its own destruction. There is but one set of ultimate laws. To these and; by these we must mould our new existence and our new conception. How can the peoples of the world follow the ways of Christ and seek the brotherhood of man when gold has become a god, and

that we may have caused you. But, before you leave, could I take the liberty of asking you another question?" After considering for a moment, John Citizen nodded his assent. "Supposing you, sir, were one of the depositors of the bank in question. In the course of your business the reporter had requested you to do a job of work for him, the agreed price being £5. The reporter borrowed the £5 from the bank and paid it to you as settlement of his account. You then proceeded to the bank and deposited it in your account. Now let us look at the bank position in the light of Mr. Blank's explanation:—

100 depositors at £1	£100
Less £5 lent to reporter. ..	5

Balance in reserve	£95
--------------------------	-----

You then proceed to the bank and place to the credit of your account the £5 which the reporter paid you. The position now is:—

99 depositors at £1	£99
depositor (John Citizen) at £6	6

New total of deposits ...	£105
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—Less £5 borrowed by reporter, leaves the bank with a reserve of £100—and the reporter still owes the Bank £5.

"You might ask Mr. Charles Blank when you see him to explain to you where the extra £5 came from."

As he left the office, Mr. John Citizen was heard to murmur: "Blank! Blank! Blank!"—Or words to that effect.

NOTES ON THE NEWS

(Continued from page 1.)

is drought, flood, drought—ad nausea—simply because of an artificial shortage of pieces of paper with numbers on them. Nature has given an abundant average rainfall, which if conserved would solve both these unnecessary effects.

PROFIT-MANIA: The socialistic complex of Curtin and Co. impels them to concern themselves with profit problems in preference to real things such as 'planes, tanks, ships and guns. If attractive profits will assist in producing the real sinews of war, why oppose it? It is difficult for some people to see the bankers' hand behind the Government's policy, because it is made to appear to be directed against them also—but such is not the case. If business men made profits and wiped off overdrafts, and workers were able to quit the time-payment vultures, that would not suit the banker; it would never do to let the people out of their debt system. Of course, Curtin, Chifley and Co. are quite unable to see they are simply being used—or CAN they?

SINGAPORE: The Melbourne "Sun" of February 14 says: "At a time when military strategy demanded the evacuation, why was not Singapore evacuated? Since the strategic implications were tragically clear, what were the considerations which dictated the immolation of our own and allied troops on this doomed island? Were political considerations or uninformed demands for a 'last ditch' stand allowed to over-ride military wisdom?" This question might well be asked of every reverse we have suffered, and until it is satisfactorily answered public enthusiasm will not reach high-tide level.

CRIPPS: The daily papers describe Sir Stafford Cripps as a sincere and ruthless man; and, with their usual clairvoyance, say that the public will acclaim him in any responsible post. The oracles further say: "It is certain that if he ever becomes Prime Minister, *he* will not hesitate to remove any Ministers or commanders who make mistakes." Cripps will have to shoot at higher game than Ministers or commanders if he would locate the real enemy within. As a matter of fact, the real culprits, using the press propaganda, are putting up the new scapegoats; and, like the famous Canadian mounted police, they always get their man.

WAR-GUILT TRIAL: The Basle (Switzerland) newspaper, "Basle Nachrichten," says that "Berlin is dissatisfied because the 'Riom' court is not allowed to deal with political questions." War-guilt trials are new and promising—but, if confined to dealing only with military operations, they cannot possibly shed light on those who cause war. Armies sometimes finish wars, but they never start them.

POLICE GESTAPO: Seventeen members of the N.S.W. Police Association were transferred to (and later brought back from) country districts for disloyalty (charge not laid) to the Police Commissioner and the Government, says the "Herald" of February 21. In commenting on this, Mr. Cosgrove (secretary of the Police Association) said: "In the dispute there seems to be all the elements of the establishment of a police gestapo that is above Parliament." As a result of this action, the force is reported to be seething with discontent—but the Commissioner would not make a statement. The price of liberty is eternal vigilance.

the people.

RISING OPPOSITION TO APPLE AND PEAR BOARD

(Continued from page 1.)

"a terrible mess," and had given the public fruit that was neither good nor cheap. The system was not right nor democratic in principle, and growers were sick and tired of appealing to members of Parliament. They had had a "worse spin" with the Labour Government than with the U.A.P. even. He could not grow fruit at the price offered, and they had met that night to protest, against the impossibility of the situation. The matter was specially important for the young men, because, although there were plenty of jobs now off the land, it would be different after the war. Their only hope was to stick on the land, and pull together in an attempt to better their position.

Mr. D. Lechte (Glen Waverley) said that although protesting growers had been accused of being unpatriotic, they were just as loyal as anybody in the community, but they were not going to be "sat upon" and made serfs. "Why can't we go on strike?" asked Mr. Lechte, adding that growers could do so by refusing to deliver their fruit to the Board, because they were not getting a living wage. He wanted them to make up their minds and come to a definite decision as to whether they would all stick together for strong action because they "never had a better opportunity of breaking the Board." The consumer had been charged 6d. 8d. and 10d. per lb. for fruit that had not been worth 2d.

Mr. Barclay (Mornington Peninsula) said that, formerly, a good percentage of their growers had favoured acquisition, but now 95 per cent, were against it. Growers should agree not to support any Member of Parliament who favoured Boards, and to stand solidly behind those who did not. If that were done all over Australia, producers would get somewhere. He himself and his brother were not selling a case of fruit to the Board; they were just letting it drop on the ground. He had been informed that the reason why the price had been dropped to 4d. a unit was so that the loss would not be more than a million whatever happened.

Mr. G. Handasyde. (Wantima) pointed out that the problem had been created by about five million cases, the export, coming on the local market, but people had been given confused ideas by the mention of fifteen million. The actual problem was only the export surplus. It was granted that this year the quality of the fruit was poorer than last, so how could the scheme be more successful on this occasion? To have it accepted, men had to grow beautiful fruit, well knowing that a lot of it would be wasted. This was useless labour, worse than a man on the dole chipping grass on the roadside. Mr. Clark had referred to the assistance given to secondary industries without taking control of them. There was one exception to the control taken over primary produce, and that was the lamb export; that, Mr. Handasyde suggested, was because it was run by moneyed interests, and the Government "cannot afford to buck them." It was anomalous that the grower, in whose interests it was alleged the scheme had been introduced, was the only man not secured. They should put up a fight for the principle of the thing. Law became a mockery when flouted, and was brought into disrepute, but this law had brought a feeling of revolt into the hearts of the men who were suffering unjustly.

Mr. A. J. Noble (Tyabb) said that the marketing system inaugurated by the growers themselves had gone by the board. Although it was said that it was only the metropolitan growers who were protesting, that was not true.

Mr. H. S. Tainton (Forest Hill) asked the growers if they were going to be downtrodden for ever? He

hoped they would all speak with one voice that night and say they would sell their own fruit.

Mr. J. H. Tainton moved: "That this meeting is of the opinion that the growers' position has become so intolerable under the Apple and Pear Acquisition Scheme that they find it impossible to give any support to the scheme."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Bloom and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lechte then moved: "That a committee of six members be constituted a growers' management committee, and this meeting pledges itself to follow the committee's lead in whatsoever it determines."

Mr. Tainton seconded the motion, and again there was no dissentients.

The committee as appointed was as follows: Messrs. Clark (chairman), Lechte, H. S. Tainton, Handasyde, H. N. Reid, Noble and J. Cowan.

Mrs. E. Serpell, Williamson's-road, Doncaster, secretary of the league, issued an appeal to growers to subscribe towards a fund for the appointment of an organiser who would engage in a State-wide campaign to unite the industry in its efforts to better its, position.

AN OPEN LETTER

(Continued from page 5.)

which is bound by the rules of our financial masters. You must look to the supreme authority—Parliament.

It is not true that trams and buses function solely upon the work done by individuals in your own and other industries. What about the enormous power provided from electricity, petrol and so forth? This power is the result of scientific investigations made by people who are now dead. It has been handed down to us for our use and benefit. We have been disinherited of its money value by the debt merchants. Instead of paying money for debts and taxes, we should be receiving credits and additional money as dividends from the work done by power machines.

If the banks get interest-bearing Government Bonds in exchange for money created out of nothing, then why shouldn't all taxpayers, particularly in the fighting forces and in war-industry, receive interest-bearing Government Bonds for all the hard-earned money they are paying to the Government to help to win the war. You could do with such bonds after the war as a safe guard against post-war depression.

Why not exercise your power and demand your rights to subsidise wages, after the war, through your representatives in Parliament? In

unity with your fellows in other industries, tell your parliamentary representatives at Canberra that you insist that bonds and debentures, if any, must be used for the benefit of the people—not the banks.

Send thousands of letters to your Federal members from everyone who has a vote and you will then realise how powerful the electors are. If you won't act for yourselves, no one else will. Remember that the will of a united people, expressed in Parliament, is the supreme power in a democracy.—Yours for an all-in victory,
"THE NEW TIMES."

TRENCH MUDDLE

After one bureaucratic body ordering trenches to be dug, and another ordering them to be filled in again, fathers and sons who had volunteered to dig trenches in the South Yarra "domain" refused to dig them 500 yards from the school, where officialdom decreed. As a result, permission was granted to dig them where the fathers' commonsense dictated. Well done, fathers!

PEOPLE'S CHARTER FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

Electors' Function—Is to Instruct Parliament Parliament's Function—Is to Obey Electors

Citizens accepting this principle, and in agreement with the objectives set out hereunder, are urged to sign the following CITIZEN'S LETTER TO THEIR FEDERAL MEMBER:

Mr....., M.H.R.,
Parliament House, Canberra.

Date.....

Dear Sir,

As a loyal British subject, exercising my prerogative, I require you, as my Federal member, to maintain, and where necessary obtain, the following conditions:—

- Loyalty.** Members of Parliament shall honour their oath of allegiance and oppose all propositions which may prejudice the status of our sovereign King, our traditions and British way of life.
- Foreign Pacts.** To prevent post-war international difficulties, no agreement, trade or otherwise, shall be entered into for a longer period than the duration of the war.
- Responsibility.** The Federal Government shall provide full compensation to each individual for losses arising from its legislation.
- Rationing.** All persons engaged in civil production or services which may be rationed or prohibited shall be compensated to at least the amount of the basic wage until such time as their services may be otherwise availed of.
- Living Costs.** The Government shall immediately discontinue the practice of increasing living costs through indirect taxation.
- Soldiers' Pay.** All members of the fighting forces shall be paid at least the basic wage plus a war risk of 25%—in addition to this, they, and their dependents, shall be exempt from all taxation.
- Finance.** All finance required in excess of direct taxation shall be obtained direct from the people's Commonwealth Bank, at a cost of not more than 1% to cover administration charges.
- Bureaucracy.** Immediate steps shall be taken to remove all bureaucratic Boards and their time-wasting "forms," "returns" and red-tape regulations.
- Members' Duty.** Members of Parliament who do not strive to obtain these results shall be deemed unwilling and unworthy to represent loyal British subjects.

Name (block letters).....

Signature.....

Address (block letters).....

Federal Electorate.....

—Issued by The United Electors of Australia, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, C.I.

"RED TAPE-ITIS" IS HAMPERING OUR WAR EFFORT

A most disturbing report on the way in which the war is being run in Egypt, and the strangling red tape methods which are hampering complete freedom of action even in military circles, is contained in an article by the "Daily Mail's" Cairo correspondent:

"Cairo G.H.Q. is in danger of being strangled by red tape. Even more than a year ago people were talking about the 'Muddle East.' Cairo is bursting with keen, energetic officers, whose talents are being wasted. A far-fetched and over-complicated system of squandering time, energy, ability, and money is the main trouble.

"There seems to be a reluctance to delegate authority. Quite minor matters must be sent up for senior decision, which any clerk in a London business firm would take without hesitation.

"One reason for this may be the haphazard way G.H.Q. has grown up, with departments scattered all over Cairo. It has spread into flats, hotels, and villas. Colonels work in sculleries and brigadiers in bathrooms. The G.H.Q. system has been adapted, modified, patched up, and improvised until it has become an incredible, intricate jumble which will take a lot of hard work to undo and simplify.

"Perhaps Cairo's safety and luxury make it difficult for some people to realise the seriousness and urgency of the war. However, it is unfair to accuse them of not working hard enough. The main blame lies in the unwieldy system."

* * *

He quotes one instance where a requisition for a very small item was made by a junior officer, and his written request was allowed to drift from one correspondence tray to another for weeks before it was finally attend to. The good old army saying, "S.T.R."—shift the responsibility—is put into practice. Any hope that we will be able to muddle through this war, as we have through other troubles, is only going to get us into more strife, and could eventually be the cause of "our defeat.

This sort of "red tape-itis" is affecting not only army G.H.Q.'s, but is evident everywhere that civilian activities come into contact with Government departments. Our effort to speed up production to the utmost

is being impeded by those whose job it is to see that any obstacles in our way are removed.

When will the Government wake up to the fact that it is the people who make the war effort, not parliamentarians and Government depart-

REPLY TO U.S. CRITICS OF ENGLAND

The "New York Post's" noted columnist, Dorothy Thompson, in a stirring article, replies to critics of Britain's defence of Singapore. She says:

"Yes, I read Cecil Brown (American journalist, who recently broadcast from Australia) and so did Goebbels. He is quoting Brown all over the place. Yes, I know that the show in Singapore wasn't so good. Yes, I know they didn't follow the 'scorched earth' policy.

"You can't feel worse about it than I did. Just the same, I can't stand cackling.

"Whose calling whom names? Is this war in the Far East the fault of the British? We talked for a year and a half about Representative Hamilton Fish, with a German agent in his office, and the 'America First' Committee was riddled with Nazi agents.

"About whether this was our war, The British supported us in the Far East, not we the British.

"Do you remember Pearl Harbour? Were we so hot at Pearl Harbour? Have you heard the British say a word against the Americans? Did they crow over Pearl Harbour? Did they rush into print to talk about our smugness and complacency?

"You don't know what England means, my friend, England is very tired, and England is old. Yet, though it slay me, I tell you this: England is the last refuge of the civilised soul in the hour of her greatest distress and her greatest disaster.

"I, an American, write these, lines to England, and I say to England, in spite of Singapore, I sing with you 'Land of Hope and Glory, Mother of

ments? How many more disasters is it going to take before they learn that their job is simply to pass the enabling (not disabling) legislation which will help us to push production to the limit, instead of creating department after department, each one trying to control and regulate our efforts and seeing that we fill in the right forms and make out the right returns at the right time? We can do the job, but for heaven's sake get rid of all this paraphernalia of regulation and all these meddling official and semi-official departments, and give us a decent chance.

—HILTON ROSS.

the Free,' and I sing with you, 'There'll Always be an England, and England Will Be Free.'

—Melbourne "Herald," Feb. 20.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

The following letter appeared in the "Dundee Courier":—

Sir,—As one of the many thousands of your readers who admire the fearless way in which the "Courier" is tackling bureaucratic bungling and ineptitude, I would bring one more instance to your notice. A firm in a North-East Scottish town was successful in securing a large Government contract for the supply of a certain manufactured article for the forces. For its transport several goods trains would be required. Another firm in the same line of business in the extreme south of England was given a contract for a like amount of exactly the same material at exactly the same price. So far so good. In these days of waggon shortage and over-burdening of the railways, of which we hear so much, one would naturally assume that the Scottish firm would be required to forward its goods to depots "somewhere in Scotland" and the English firm to depots in the south. But, oh, no, nothing so simple and rational as that. The Scottish firm is required to forward its goods by rail to the furthest point in England,

Better Deal for Australian Militia

(Continued from page 1.)

millions of pounds of production in the shape of shells, bombs, etc.

Is there any good reason, apart from a crazy money system, why deferred pay equal to that being spent on war production at present, should not be paid to members of the armed forces in order that the great productive machine being built up for war can be switched to supply them with goods and services when they win the war? There is not. Then the Government must start to credit every militia-man with deferred pay immediately. They have the constitutional power to provide the money without taxing the rest of the people or borrowing from the banks. Mr. Curtin has explained money creation so often in the past that he cannot claim ignorance now.

THE ELECTORS MUST ACT.

This issue is vital. The economic future of thousands of Australian homes has been seriously jeopardised by the universal training system. Surely we don't expect our fighting men to change their King's uniform for a bum's rags at the conclusion of the conflict. And what of their families? Action must be taken.

The militia, together with members of the other services, are ready and anxious to keep the enemy out, Surely, then, they are at least entitled to the same treatment as the A.I.F.

The electors must write to the Federal Members on this matter. They must get their friends to write. The "money-is-short" nonsense should find no place in a country fighting for survival. Every victory against the money mesmerism is a move towards military victory. But you must act, and act quickly. The above issue can be won quickly. Public opinion exists; your job is to focus that opinion in the right channels. Mr. Curtin must realise that the unjust treatment of the militia must cease immediately. He is not "dictator of Australia—yet.

while the English firm has orders to rail its goods to a depot less than three miles distant from the Scottish firm's doors. Could fatuity go further?—I am, etc., READER.

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