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EVERY FRIDAY THE PRICE 4 PENCE

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).

John Curtin's Pie-Crust Promise

People Betrayed To The Debt Merchants

In the "Locomotive Journal," Vol. 2, No. 3, December 14, 1939, John Curtin contributed an article entitled "Labour and War—John Curtin Expounds Policy." In the course of his remarks under "National Credit," he wrote the following:

"Everything in war must be paid for, not by reducing wage standards, but by the use of the national credit. Because of a Labour Government in the Federal Parliament, there is a Commonwealth Bank. It was created as a means for releasing national credit. But because Labour lost office the national bank has been transformed by our opponents into a mere puppet of the private banks. As a requisite to national defence, the Commonwealth Bank must have restored to it its original charter. WHEN WE ARE IN POWER, WE SHALL PROCEED TO REDEEM THE NATIONAL BANK FROM ITS SLAVERY. The cost of war CAN BE MET WITHOUT PILING UP HUGE DEBTS, AND WITHOUT INTEREST PAYMENTS SUCKING OUR NATIONAL LIFE-BLOOD. The Commonwealth Bank must, with a Labour Government, work out a freer and fuller life for our people."

Please read Mr. Curtin's statement again, word by word. Now, have you any doubt about the meaning conveyed, to trusting Labourites and other intelligent citizens by that statement—and other pre-Prime-Minister statements to the same effect?

How do his recent performances measure up to that promise? Has not Mr. Curtin's regime just concluded an orgy of "piling up huge debts"—with "interest payments sucking our national life-blood"—to the tune of £35,000,000? Behind the overworked smoke-screen, of genuine "small investors," was not the bulk of the £35,000,000 subscribed, directly or indirectly, by financial institutions—particularly private banks, who CREATED "national credit" by a stroke of the pen (just as the publicly-owned Commonwealth Bank could have done), and either subscribed direct or lent this counterfeit "fountain-pen money" on overdraft to firms or favoured individuals willing to "subscribe" on that basis? (Readers of the above-quoted "Locomotive Journal" would not, of course, participate in this last-mentioned racket! They COULD wistfully re-read Curtin's promise in Vol. 2, No. 3. They COULD—if they had been extremely frugal and thrifty—subscribe an insignificant "tenner," EARNED on the "foot-plate" by all-too-literal sweat of the brow. They MUST, under the Curtin regime, pay their FULL share of "blood-sucking interest payments," not on "tenners," but on millions! That goes for others of the same ilk.)

As we have already indicated in these columns, Mr. Curtin is ready with stereotyped evasions and alibis when challenged about this issue. Let us therefore, reiterate part of a comment on these tactics quoted in our last 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 charging it up as an interest-bearing debt?

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 simple and

(Continued on page 8.)

BRITAIN'S WAR EFFORT HAMPERED A LESSON FOR AUSTRALIA

Again and again it has been shown that it is those who are most closely connected with the producing mechanism of our war effort who are least satisfied with the results obtained; it is they who know how much more COULD be turned out. At the general meeting of Birmid Industries Limited at Birmingham recently, Mr. Percy Pritchard (deputy chairman and joint managing director) said:—

"Whilst I do not wish to be numbered amongst the many who today are loud in their denunciation of the severity of taxation as such, I would like to protest at the inadequacy of the wear and tear allowances granted by the Inland Revenue, and which, coupled with the present high taxation, is making it impossible for industry to give the maximum assistance to the national war effort which they would like to do, and which they otherwise could do." The level of taxation on industry to-day is such that combined with the inadequate wear and tear allowances granted by the Inland Revenue, it is impossible for many firms to provide funds to meet really essential expenditure on the plant and equipment necessary for the purpose of increasing production.

"In support of this contention I have information relating to companies who, although making very large trading profits, are left with absolutely nothing in the form of net profit after they have made the necessary provision for taxation, disallowances for depreciation, War Insurance, and A.R.P. expenditure.

"Such firms cannot even provide dividends, and most certainly cannot find money from income wherewith to expand their productive capacity. The result in such cases is that either the extra production is lost to the nation, or man power is wastefully employed doing work which otherwise could and should be done mechanically. Either alternative is equally reprehensible.

"A further and possibly even more

NOTES ON THE NEWS

SHIPPING SABOTAGE: The London "Daily Mirror" is reported in the Melbourne "Herald" of February 26 as saying, "For post-war economy reasons Britain was building 10 and 12 knot ships" and that "Japanese 20-knot ships were waiting like fat spiders for our 10-knot flies." It is even worse to learn that those responsible are still at large.

ROBOT SOLDIERS: The following realistic words come from Mr. J. Griffiths when welcoming the new British Cabinet: "The Army was still based on the 1914 method of drilling, marching, saluting and obeying. If we are to win modern wars we must depend on initiative for success, not blind obedience." Well, said Mr. Griffiths—the spirit of freedom still flickers.

FREE INDIA: The "Sunday Observer," according to the Melbourne "Herald" of February 23, says: "A huge Indian effort will only be forthcoming if Britain wins the enthusiasm of the Indian people. Their passive obedience is not sufficient, they must be convinced that their

independence is possible only if Britain wins the war." Alas, that is only too true. Proof, not words, of a better deal is required. That goes for Britain's peace time unwanted also—there must be no more untouchables.

FLEET WEEK: The "City of London" is selected to wage a money war next month, when it intends to raise £125 millions for the purpose of buying a complete new fleet—seventy-one vessels in all. The big idea behind this bankers' hokey is to convey the idea that money builds fleets—that it is the be-all and end-all. Writing figures will not build fleets! The "City of London" boils down to the city banking institutions (or the private mints of London), who can and do manufacture countless times this amount by a stroke of the pen; but the important thing is that the Government could do likewise—and eliminate the fabulous interest charges, which cause crippling taxation.

RECONSTRUCTION: It is pointed out in the daily press that, as a result of the British Cabinet reshuffle, "both post-war reconstruction departments have been disbanded, which is suggested to be a sign of strength." This is a questionable point; but as the socialistic planners (of other peoples lives) at present dominate the situation, perhaps it will be better in the last analysis if the peace-planning is delayed until sanity returns.

MASTER TAX: Though the bankers failed to supersede State taxation via the U.A.P., they now look like being successful through the Labor Party. The proposal is for the States to evacuate the taxation field for the duration. The master taxing machine will take over and then return whatever they deem fit. Of course, taxation will not be lighter; but the control will be more centralised, which is the main point from the bankers' viewpoint, and, of course, the stress of war is admirable for such plots. It sounds like a "Red Riding Hood" story in a slightly different setting—but the "Big Bad Wolf" can be discerned.

IDLE PARLIAMENT: Mr. Dunstan tells us that State matters are being capably handled by the State War Council and various committees—so there was no work for State Parliament; it will be news for electors to learn that their State representatives have delegated their powers to bodies over whom they exercise no control. And be it noted, the pay-roll and taxation is not lighter on that account.

WAR MUDDLERS: Mr. Shean, of the House of Commons, is reported

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION

What Is Our Peace-Time Problem?

THE LESSON OF RECENT PRE-WAR YEARS

At first sight many people would say that in peace-time we are not faced with one problem, but with many. And, by way of proof, they would begin to name them—unemployment, slums, hospitals, schools, crime, markets, fear of war. Yet a little thought will serve to show that all these problems have a common basis; that they are, at least for the most part, sprung from a common source.

What we call the unemployment problem affects only those who, because they are industrially unemployed, have no income. In the sense in which we use the word "unemployment," a great many wealthy people are unemployed; so are those who have retired on a pension—including old age pensioners; so are the clergy and members of many religious orders. None of these people are engaged in producing goods for the market nor in what we call public works, yet they are not included in any rosters of the unemployed. Our unemployment registers contain the names only of those who have no income or what is recognised as an income insufficient for existence. Unemployment is therefore a money problem.

In like manner the slum problem has arisen almost entirely because the people who inhabit the slums have not had the money to move into better houses. And, if the money were available, there would soon be plenty of accommodation in our hospitals and schools. Have you ever heard of a position arising in peace time where, if tenders were invited for houses, for hospitals or for schools, no tenderers were forthcoming?

And what is the peace time marketing problem? Is it one of finding people who need or desire our products, or one of finding those who have the money to buy them? The competitive struggle for markets is called economic war; the inevitable upshot of economic war is military war. We saw this in 1914. The post-war struggle for markets reached a stage when nations were feverishly arming for a still more terrible war—not because they were short of goods, but because they

were short of buyers. Yet this state was accompanied by the greatest and most widespread destitution in history.

An analysis of crime and of criminals' histories will show that the vast majority of crimes proceed from poverty, and that desperate criminals usually began their careers by petty thieving through the same cause.

KEEPING THE NATION'S HOUSE

There are three aspects of national housekeeping, or economics. First come the needs or desires of consumers; then the attempt to meet these by producing what is required; finally, the distributing of production as and when and where it is needed.

We all know that relatively few people in Australia were in a position to satisfy even their urgent needs, that their greatest problem was the weekly housekeeping budget. The annual Official Year Book of the Commonwealth, issued by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics in February, 1936, gives (page 554) the following statement of the position as revealed by the census of June 30, 1933, in respect of Australia's breadwinners: "Including pensioners and unemployed, two-thirds of the male breadwinners had no income or incomes under £3 per-week, and three-fourths of the females had no income or incomes under £2 per week." Detailed figures in the same volume show 58 per cent, of all Australia's breadwinners as below the £2 per week class, and only 10 per cent, earning £5 per week or over. On these incomes—and the position in other recent pre-war years was not a great deal better than when the census was taken—it is only too evident

that consumers generally were very far from having their reasonable needs satisfied.

Yet, if we turn to production, we find a tale of wonderful abundance. In wool, Australia produces a quarter of the world's total clip; in wheat, she harvests about three times as much as is generally used by her people; and throughout the field of primary production there is a similar tale of material plenty. Here are some figures of exports as far back as the year 1934-35:—Butter, 262 million lbs.; cheese, 16 million lbs.; eggs, 21 million doz.; beef, 206 million lbs.; lamb, 135 million lbs.; dried fruits, 127 million lbs.; (as well as large quantities of fresh and preserved fruits and fruit juices); sugar, 306,000 tons; wine, 3,393,000 gallons. And in addition we sent away vast quantities of hides, tallow, timber, coal, iron, lead, copper, zinc, silver—and, of course, gold—as well as all sorts of other miscellaneous items of primary production. In our secondary industries, Australia's factories can now produce the greater part of our necessities and most of our luxuries. Food, drink, clothing, building materials—given the orders, there are few things our manufacturers could not supply. And how many, even of Australia's existing factories, worked to capacity in peace time?

With consumers unsatisfied in sight of this teeming production, one must turn to the third section of our economic system—to the distributive, that is, the money side. And here we find that consumers, although they needed the goods, could not order them, solely through lack of money.

WHY A MONEY SHORTAGE?

There are two possible explanations for this lack of money. One is that the amount of money in existence was insufficient to enable the goods to be distributed; the other is that the breakdown occurred because a few people had more than is fair, thereby depriving the rest of the community of what they needed. If the latter was the case, then the problem could be solved by taxation, and a distribution of the proceeds where needed; if the former, then it was clearly the duty of the Commonwealth to see that more money was issued as required.

Assume the trouble was merely an unfair distribution of money—that the poor were poor because the rich were rich. Yet what does one find? Australia had for years been trying the expedient of taxation. Commonwealth and State taxes per head had trebled since 1914. In addition, the net increase in Government borrowing during the same period amounted to over £900 millions, or an average of almost £30 millions a year. And, in spite of this, as is shown by the census figures already quoted, the majority of our people were quite insufficiently provided for. So, if taxation be the remedy, we should have required to add the £30 millions a year to our tax burden, and then to extend the process still further. And already we were almost the most heavily taxed people in the world.

Carry taxation to its extreme limits. Divide Australia's peace time money income equally among our entire population, and what would be the result? Each person in Australia would have an income of only about 30/- a week. Will anyone suggest that this is the best standard, of living possible, or even that it reflects fairly the standard-of-living represented by production?

THE KINDS OF MONEY

If one turns now, to the other aspect, to the question of extending our money supplies, one must look into the peace time quantity of money in existence, into its nature, source, and destination. One finds that our money is of two kinds. First, there is the money issued by the State (what is called legal tender

and consisting of Commonwealth notes and of silver and bronze coins, making in all about £55 millions in peace time. Usually a little more than half of this was in the possession of the public, the balance being held by the banks.

The second kind of money is known as bank credit, consisting mainly of entries in bankers' ledgers and operated on by cheques. The peace time total of bank deposits in Australia was about £550 million against which the banks, as has just been noted, were holding only a little more than £20 millions in notes and coin. The difference represents the banks' creation of money.

When a bank makes a loan or, as we usually say, grants an overdraft no one else's bank deposit is made less through the drawing of a cheque by the new borrower. On the contrary, when the borrower pays his cheque to someone else, that person's bank deposit will usually be increased as a result. Hence, the granting of "loans" by banks is really an addition to our money supplies just as the calling up of loan means the destruction of money. This is now admitted by every banker and economist of any repute the world over.

The limit to a bank's "lending" or creating money as its own property and letting it out at interest is (apart from borrowers being forthcoming) the bank's holding a sufficient legal tender money to meet the claims of depositors. To minimise these claims bankers endeavour to get depositors to defer their claims on cash for fixed periods, and such fixed depositors, by way of compensation, are paid interest—always of course, at a lesser rate than this charged by the banks.

MONEY FOR PRODUCTION

The main purpose for which banks issue money on overdraft is to enable production to take place, which is as it should be, since, money has no purpose unless there are goods on which to spend it. The producer gets new money through an overdraft, pays it out while goods are being produced, and gets it back again as the goods are sold. When the goods have finally passed into consumers' hands the book-entry money has also passed back into the bank ledger, the payment inward-cancelling the original payment out-wards—in other words, destroying the money.

In this way money is created and destroyed every day, in just the same way as goods are produced and consumed. And here it is of the utmost importance to see that the amount of money issued should always be sufficient to make sure that the goods can all be sold at a fair price. This is beyond the power of the individual producer, who can make goods, grow crops or breed stock, but cannot manufacture the money to sell them.

MONEY FOR CONSUMPTION

Through a variety of causes—which technically-minded people may find fully set out in a wealth of monetary reform literature—the amount of money issued through production is never normally sufficient to clear the market of goods in a satisfactory manner. Either producers get further and further into debt, or the community's public indebtedness grows, or both; and in spite of a feverish search for markets in which producers may sell without having to buy, goods continue to heap up which are unsaleable, or saleable only at a loss, until we reach the tragic absurdities of restrictions of output and actual destruction being subsidised through further debt while the great masses of the people have not sufficient for their bare needs. And from these conditions arise all those problems which are really the one problem of

(Continued on page 3.)

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THE MESMERISM OF WORDS

A Talk Broadcast from 7HO, Hobart, at 8.15 p.m. on Sunday, March 8, by James Guthrie, B.Sc.

By force of circumstances, more and more men and women are being compelled to fake some interest in public affairs; that is, in those things outside the sphere of their own immediate personal activity. The great problems of our time are being actively discussed in the home, in the factory and in the military camps; and those abstract questions so beloved of the ancient Greeks are now common topics of conversation.

People are asking what is Freedom? Is there any such thing? What is Democracy, and where does one find it? What is Liberty? Does it mean anything? Is there such a thing as an independent man? What is Christianity? Are we to judge Christians by what they do, or what they say, or what they hope to do? What is meant by equality; is it possible, and, if possible, desirable?

Mr. Churchill once said that as long as you keep to broad statements of political and social sentiments everything is all right. There is a possibility of general agreement. But as soon as you get down to brass tacks, as soon as you become precise in your speech and define exactly what you mean, then there is immediate disagreement.

It is for this reason that statesmen, when making a speech in public, always use the abstract terms like Liberty, Fraternity, Equality; they sound grand; nobody knows what they mean; these abstract, words commit them to nothing; and everybody likes them and so agrees heartily with them.

This is why the Atlantic Charter sounds very well; it is full of fine sentiments. But unless one knows what is actually intended it means simply nothing.

One cannot discuss an abstract word like Freedom because it has no meaning. How can it have any meaning by itself? It can only have meaning when it is applied to someone at some particular time.

Many men are like the Frenchmen under German rule: they are free to work in a factory or to starve. This, of course, is a misuse of the word "free." A man is free to vote for his own representative in Parliament; he can vote for a U.A.P. "yes"-man or for a Labour party "yes"-man! Here, again, the word "free" is wrongly used. A choice of two evils is not freedom of choice; it is compulsion under penalty.

Freedom of choice, if it is to have any meaning, means freedom to choose one thing at a time. It means freedom to decide whether you will or will not take part in any enterprise.

When a man joins a cricket team he does so freely of his own choice; there is no compulsion. When he joins the

team he submits to the commands and discipline of his captain; he has given up his freedom temporarily to attain some result not otherwise obtainable. That is not a loss of freedom, because he can take it and use it whenever he pleases.

During a war, millions voluntarily submit to the temporary discipline of officers in order to preserve the right to survive in their own way. But millions also are compelled to give up all freedom of choice and to submit the ordering of their lives to the dictates of a few men.

That is the chief purpose of war: to rob people of any choice whatever; to have them under complete submission to the will of a small group of men.

That has been the great menace of the German people; they have been used by unscrupulous men to force war on Europe and so throw the entire world into a state of chaos, so that the people will submit to regimentation and loss of those personal freedoms so strenuously and with such great difficulty obtained and maintained.

There is no doubt that in war-time we see the country flooded with regulations and restrictions, many of which have no bearing on the war effort and not only don't help the war effort, but hold it back.

A great deal of time and labour and a vast amount of unnecessary annoyance could have been saved if the Government would stop shouting at us to do more and to give more. There are great reservoirs of energy still waiting to be used. That the Government has failed to use them is their fault, not ours. Let the Government clear away some of the rubbish that clutters up the various channels of activity and prevents men and women working full out, and it will be doing a better service to the nation.

The speeches by Government spokesmen suggesting to us that our soldiers will have to fight without guns and tanks if we don't contribute our pennies to buy them is something so scandalous that one wonders why Mr. Curtin permits so much energy to be wasted on this campaign.

It is not very encouraging for intelligent men to see their Government indulging in such peculiar antics. Surely our politicians could put aside such childish prattle at least until after the war.

Most of us like to make sure that the boys in the fighting services are looked after and given every comfort, and the amazing work of the voluntary workers shows how generous is the spirit animating the people of the country.

There are, however, a few peculiar people who appear to take a sadistic

delight in making everybody miserable; they seem to think that nobody can do honest work unless he is miserable. Happiness to them appears a crime. They wish to cut out all re-creation. If such people had their way they would cut out the supply of food, simply because people enjoy eating it.

I am amazed that the newspapers give such prominence to the letters of those "dismal Jimmies," especially when so many valuable letters from intelligent and responsible citizens are regularly suppressed.

This Puritanic and Sadistic instinct of a fierce minority who wish to destroy all beauty, recreation and freedom, under the guise of a war crisis, is something that has to be watched very carefully.

At certain religious festivals in some Eastern countries you can see young men beating their backs with chains until they bleed. This self-inflicted suffering may have some merits unknown to me, but I scarcely think this is the time to inaugurate similar methods into Australia. This is the time to conserve all our energies and impose no unnecessary burdens on those who are working full out.

When a man or woman is working full out every day, he or she has to have more service and recreation than usual. That service and recreation takes different forms for different people. A clerk in the city might find his recreation digging in his garden; a navy, who is digging all day, might find no recreation in digging a garden. His thirst, too, might be different from some old ladies we know. I mention no names.

The British Government has had to organise public entertainers on a vast scale to entertain the troops and munition workers. In the last war entertainers of almost any kind were considered key men; certainly the ones I knew were treated with the greatest respect.

I mention this because many people in this war will have to carry-on, day after day, work of great monotony for long hours; they will have to creep home amidst darkened streets on short rations of tobacco and tea, and other things. It is essential, therefore, that no stupid minority should be permitted to inflict further burdens on the people and make "dismal Jimmies" of us all.

There are more things go into the building of guns than steel and brass; there is a small item known as human energy, constantly applied over a period of three or four years; and my experience tells me that the first casualties under prolonged strain are those who have not enough common-sense to take the necessary recreation to release the strain, so that body and mind can be given time to replace the wastage.

For some peculiar reason the watchword of this war, which is being blazoned across the world, is the word

(Continued on page 8.)

FIGHTER PLANES FROM AUSTRALIAN WOOD

Fighter aircraft of wood and plastics may soon be built in Australia, according to a statement made by the Minister for Aircraft Production (Senator Cameron).

When Mr. R. S. Vincent was Minister for Forests in New South Wales, he frequently urged on the Federal Government the advisability of constructing fighter aircraft from wood.

At the instance of Mr. Vincent, the Forestry Commission conducted exhaustive experiments during which it was found that several types of Australian timbers would be suitable for aircraft production. Mr. Vincent's contentions were proved by the Commission's experiments, and were backed up by several experts.

Strong advocacy of the proposal was forthcoming from Mr. W. F. Dunn, who succeeded Mr. Vincent as Minister for Forests. The suggestions appear to have been pigeon-holed, with loss of valuable time, but are under consideration again.

Senator Cameron said that several Australian woods could be used as the basis for plastics in construction of fighter aircraft—a fact which Messrs. Vincent, Dunn and others have been stressing for years.

Enemy aircraft of wood and moulded plastics were having marked success abroad, a deputation, from the Institution of Engineers and the furnishing trades panel told Senator Cameron this week.

On the suggestion of the deputation, Senator Cameron agreed to recommend that the Federal Cabinet set aside money for immediate research and the construction of a prototype plastic 'plane.

"Since my return to Melbourne I have been informed that aircraft embodying wood plastics are durable, fast, and possesses great maneuverability," he said. "It is stated they are more quickly made than metal 'planes, and the risk of hold-ups, which unfortunately occur with metal supplies, would be greatly reduced." Senator Cameron added that members of the Sydney deputation had complained that

bias had been shown in Melbourne when the question of wooden 'planes was raised. There must be no such bias in future.

Had the proposal been adopted when it was first placed before the Federal Government, Australia would now have had fighter aircraft constructed from wood. There would have been no drain on metals needed in other phases of the war effort, and more metal workers would have been released for other essential industries.

One advantage of manufacturing wooden aircraft is that carpenters, joiners and furniture makers can do the work. Extensive tooling up is unnecessary, and dozens of workshops could go into production immediately plans were adopted. The only bottleneck would be in regard to engines.

—"G. & N. Co-operator," March .5.

Post-War Reconstruction

putting enough money into the hands of the people to enable them, as consumers, to buy the goods which as producers they have already made.

The first step towards solving this problem is to take the power to manufacture and destroy money out of the hands of the private monopolists in which it now rests. The second is to regulate the money supply in accordance with the statistical facts of production and consumption, in order that it may serve the needs of the community instead of being an instrument of power over the community.

Once your money supply matches your goods supply, then, in an age when science has overcome nearly all the physical obstacles to production, the remaining problem of distribution will be a matter of easy adjustment. And when what is physically possible is made financially possible, future adjustments will always tend to be a levelling-UP—NOT a levelling-DOWN.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1942.

No. 10.

MR. WARD STIRS UP A HORNET'S NEST

Those of our readers who are addicted to reading the daily newspapers will have seen what a storm broke over the head of the Minister for Labour (Mr. Ward) when he was reported, by the daily newspapers, to have said: "We should not be asked to pay for the war afterwards by paying interest on any loans raised now." (Our emphasis.)

Mr. Ward quickly made a further statement, disclaiming any implied suggestion attributed to him that interest should be repudiated on loans already launched, but reiterating that the debt-racket should be discontinued. But he was not quick enough.

The daily press—ably supported by prominent parliamentary Bankers' Yes-men—had already published reams of vituperation. The Melbourne "Sun" led the frenzied assault with an editorial (on March 4) that read like the outburst of an infuriated gutter-snipe. The bounds of journalistic license were not merely exceeded, they were annihilated. As a matter of sober fact—which gives rise to sober reflection—we cannot recall that journal (who said "rag"?) ever having abused even Hitler in such terms. (Of course, it must be remembered that Hitler hasn't denounced debt-money, he has merely insisted on plenty of it!)

Mr. Ward's disclaimer did not quell the storm, however. Why should it? Had he not threatened the sacred debt-octopus's future growth of tentacles, even if he wasn't attacking its already-bloated body?

Although we are not at all enthusiastic about the daily paper's version of Mr. Ward's alternative to loans (taxation), he has our sympathy and if he declares that the Daily Press is controlled by the Banks we will not deny it. We discovered that fact a long time ago!

New World-Reconstruction Movement

The above movement's second weekly broadcast, heard from 3AK last Sunday, was better than the first. Although the distinction between "ownership" and "control" was omitted in certain references to the economic problem, the following extracts call for our applause:

Too long have we been the victims of the divided mind and wobbling purpose. To-day the challenge is ringing in our ears—WE, THE PEOPLE, MUST ACT AND ACT NOW.

If we are to win the war we must throw off all shackles and exert a total war-effort free from interference by high finance, vested interests, political-party interests, or private interests. We must see that money serves the nation instead of the nation serving money. In short, the national credit of the country must be swung behind the war-effort. This means the co-operative effort of every man, woman and child, directed by trained minds with supreme competence for the task and holding key posts in, the battle for civilisation, unhampered, by any financial bottleneck.

Listen, then, to the warning voices of other world citizens, past and present, whilst there is yet time:

Abraham, Lincoln: "I have two great enemies; the Southern Army in front of me, and the financial institutions in the rear. Of the two, the one in my rear is my greatest foe."

Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada: "Until the control of the issue of currency and credit is restored to the Government and recognised as the most, conspicuous and sacred responsibility, all talk of the sovereignty of Parliament or of Democracy is idle and futile."

William Jennings Bryan: "The money power preys upon the nation in times of peace, and conspires against it

is the times of adversity. It is more despotic than Monarchy, more selfish than Bureaucracy, more insolent than Autocracy. It denounces as public enemies all who question its methods or throw light upon its crimes. It can only be overtaken by the awakened consciences of a nation."

The New World Reconstruction Movement's General Objectives are: 1. To unite the will of the people in their expression and desire for a just New World Order, which will serve Man and minister "to his greater Health, Happiness and Security. 2. To see that currency and credit are used only as a medium of exchange for the distribution of goods and services, and not as a means of power and control, for man must be the master and not the servant of money.

Rightly or wrongly, the world no longer has confidence in the Monetary System. The repeated failures of finance and the collapse of the Gold Standard system in each and every emergency has undermined the faith of the public in the honesty of its money. The known solidity of our banks and the proved integrity of our bankers have failed to stem the growing mistrust of the currency and credit "system" which banks and bankers uphold and operate. The "money industry" as it is at present constituted depends entirely upon its own power to crush out the human impulse to go forward and upon its ability to override the will of the people, and so govern the world. How long can this policy last?

(Continued on page 8.)

AN EFFECTIVE WAR-EFFORT AND HOW TO ATTAIN IT

This is a war of WEAPONS. The bravery of our men, by itself, can accomplish nothing. Without adequate weapons, the bravest men become simply cannon-fodder. This is a truism, which we have been compelled by bitter experience to realise, as we suffer disaster after disaster. The naked hands of our heroes are no match against an enemy fully equipped with dive-bombers.

Under these circumstances there is no more serious and scathing criticism, than the oft-repeated statement, made by those best qualified to speak, that British production of weapons is only 60% effective. Unless this condition can rapidly be changed, we are heading for disaster and ultimate defeat.

The Association of British Industries recently presented to the British Government a closely argued memorandum, supported by a wealth of statistical data, which laid bare the root cause of our failure to attain 100% industrial efficiency. Briefly, the argument presented was as follows: A successful war-effort depends upon weapons. Unimpeded organised industry is the only source of weapons. British industry is an organic growth, and to be effective must follow certain well-defined principles. Such principles may be stated in two clauses:

- Effort is stimulated by inducement, not by compulsion;
- the individual entrusted with a job is given the greatest possible freedom. That, which he must supply, is satisfactory results.

The Association of British Industries pointed out that both these principles were absolutely flouted by the Government, who insisted that industry should function as an extension of the Civil Service. Under these circumstances we continually find the expert Industrialist working under and subject to, the inexpert Civil Servant.

That the palsy which has afflicted British Industry, rendering it only 60% effective has also fallen upon Australian administration, is borne out by the following incident.

An architect, in a big way, employing a staff of 150 men, operating an extensive plant, recently undertook to erect a large building for the Government. He found that the Government representative, under whose direction he was to work, was a man with no building knowledge; he was an ex-painter, who had previously been employed by the architect. Even as a painter he had been found by the architect to be incompetent, and had been discharged.

Said the painter to his subordinate, the architect: "You must first excavate foundation trenches, so wide, and so deep, and fill with concrete of specified ingredients."

"But," said the architect, "Do you know the site? It is solid rock, and an adjacent face shows rock to a depth of 150 feet. No concrete foundations can equal the existing rock."

"I cannot help that," said the painter. "Clause 48 specifies these trenches, and they MUST be excavated."

The trenches were excavated, and filled with concrete. Our war-effort was thus slowed down, and the expert demoralised; but clause 48 was satisfied, and red-tape was glorified.

If this were an isolated incident, it could be forgotten. But anyone who has first-hand contact knows only too well that it is typical. This is the root-cause of our 60% industrial efficiency.

The Government is so busy compelling everyone; so busy inflicting "sacrifices" upon everyone; so busy raising "War-loans" and imposing taxation, that it has no time to attend to its own business. What is the true and essential business of the Government at this time? Its business is to remove all obstacles which separate men from materials which they can effectively use for war-production. Such obstacles are mostly financial.

Let the Government foresake its policy of regimentation and compulsion, and apply itself to the task of removing from power those who insist upon a financial policy which frustrates our war-effort.

Planes, guns and tanks are made of innumerable gadgets. Let the Government specify in detail the gadgets required, and let it offer fair and remunerative prices to those who can supply same. This was the method of production employed during the last war. It is British and it is effective, and it yields 100% war production. By such means, and by such means only, can we have full access to the whole of our physical resources and our available man-power. It will be adopted only as the result of public clamour. If we do not adopt this British method of production, we will suffer disaster after disaster, and we will certainly go down in ultimate defeat.

The alternative is clear. We will compel our representatives to renounce the methods of totalitarianism, find to revert to sound and well-tried British methods of inducement and voluntarism; or we will be sunk without trace.

Let us go to it while yet there is time. Let us compel our Parliamentary representative to raise his voice, and to cry aloud for the necessary change.

—W. Prescott.

Political Persecution?

The following appears in the British "Hansard" for December 4:

Sir Irving Albery asked the Minister of Labour whether he is aware that men have been discharged by Government contractors and have been informed that their discharge was solely due to the fact that a former member of the British Union of Fascists could not be employed on Government contract work; and whether he has authorised this discrimination.


Mr. Bevin: My hon. Friend has sent me particulars of one case of this kind which is alleged to have occurred last June. I know of no others. No authorisation from my department was given, nor was such authorisation required last June.

Sir L. Albery: Is my right hon. Friend taking any action about the case which I brought to his notice?

Mr. Bevin: I am not empowered to do so, because the Essential Work Order did not at that time apply to that industry.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Thomas Moore: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that men who have been released from internment camps have had their identity cards marked to show that they have been so interned? How is it possible for them to get jobs?

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MOVING MOUNTAINS

By B. M. PALMER, in the "Social Creditor."

After the attack on Hawaii, we are told, the influence of the isolationists in the United States disappeared overnight, and the nation was united as never before. This will make things much easier for President Roosevelt and Mr. Cordell Hull; the legislation for complete centralisation will be hurried through without a hitch by the stages, now familiar to us, experienced here from 1939 and onwards.

There is a certain logic in events. These things had to happen, not in any transcendental or fatalistic sense, but because they are the natural outcome of what had gone before. It is tempting to look into the future to wonder how far the fifth columnists and grafters will try to exploit "the real America" which we know exists; but for a certainty these real Americans will in the end be forced to wipe out the line which they have drawn between themselves and "politics" in order to save the situation. How long this will take is another matter.

It is a question of making adjustments in the organism while it is growing, for we are dealing with life.

We should as far as possible think of ourselves as part of a living tree, rather than as part of a building. Mr. Greenwood's words about building an "edifice of freedom" are all wrong. It is a contradiction in terms. Freedom cannot exist apart from growth. It is the life in the tree that makes it an organism.

It is a good thing that the Americans have become united in intent. Without it they would have no possible means of implementing their policy, which, stated in general terms, must be to save what they understand to be their own culture from outside domination and final destruction. Exactly the same problem faces us. But the vital power that is strengthening us both has only been recognised by psychologists in its negative sense—as the "herd instinct" or "mass psychology."

Some months ago there was in the "Scotsman" a letter signed A. J. Brock dealing with this negative aspect of what I believe to be the most powerful force on earth.

He deals first with "the Mass Man," who readily develops the herd psychology, and continues:

"In fact, the whole matter is largely a psychological one, and a further interesting sidelight is thrown on this aspect in Prof. D. K. Henderson's recent annual report from the Mental Hospital at Morningside (noticed in your columns last Tuesday). Dr. Henderson points out that the morale of the neurotic and even of the potentially insane has been wonderfully sustained by the war atmosphere of the country generally. Like so many other members of the public, these patients no longer feel themselves weak and isolated beings, but now part of a great and powerful body; as Dr. Henderson says, 'they experience the comfort and protection of the herd.' Naturally this eminent authority does not advocate war, with its mass mentality, as a permanent ideal—elsewhere in his report he emphasises the primary need for the individual to develop 'faith in himself'—but he does recognise the provisional value for his neurotic patients of this mild form of what may be called escapism."

Those who had experience of the atmosphere in our cities during large scale air-raids will know exactly what is meant by "the war atmosphere of the country generally." There are no words in which it can be described. The herd instinct, so far as it goes, is a good and useful thing for the herd. But there was something more in England during the raids—it was the common conscious policy to fight and endure together that gave us the positive side of this life force. Something much more than "mass mentality" won the Battle of London. Perhaps the man who designed the Spitfire engine was the most important factor, but he who swept the streets was likewise indispensable.

We should study every manifestation of this force—for which there is at present no adequate name—wherever it may be found: in a team of actors putting on a good show, in an orchestra losing itself in the performance. No one would say these things were manifestations of the "herd instinct," but what are they? Something which as yet we do not fully understand. The orchestra creates something as real as a flowing river but much more dynamic, because part of the common will. In it the audience can have but little part, they can only experience at second hand.

Now, I do not believe, like Dr. Henderson, that the primary need for the individual is to develop "faith in himself," or that the neurotic's war time experience is nothing more than "escapism." It has always seemed to me that the psychologist came to a dead end just where he ought to begin. Surely what the neurotics need is not so much faith in themselves as faith in some method by means of which they can live in harmony with their fellows, so that they may be one of the

(Continued on page 8.)

JEWISH MONOPOLIST AND PLANNER SAID TO BE ACTIVELY ANTI-BRITISH

Regular readers of this paper are well aware of the existence of Mr. Israel Moses Sieff, of London, who is head of a well-known chain-store monopoly and is chairman of the sinister "P.E.P." (Political and Economic Planning) organisation. His popularity will not be enhanced by the following report, appearing in the British "Hansard" for December 11:—

Mr. Culverwell asked the Home Secretary upon what grounds permission was granted for Mr. Israel Sieff to travel to the United States of America, in view of the propaganda against, and attacks upon, the policy of his Majesty's Government in relation to Palestine in which this man has indulged?

Mr. H. Morrison: An exit permit was granted to Mr. Sieff on September 16, 1941, to enable him to travel to the United States of America for the purpose of promoting export sales to the United States of America.

Mr. Culverwell: Is my right hon. Friend aware that Mr. Sieff is stirring up anti-British feeling among his co-religionists in America, and that he is antagonising the Arabs by urging that they should be sent to other Arab countries in order to make room for more Jews in Palestine? Does not my right hon. friend think that this sort of propaganda ought to stop?

Mr. Morrison: I have no evidence that Mr. Sieff desires or seeks to stir up anti-British feeling. While there are various views on the ques-

tion of Palestine, I think everybody is entitled to have his opinions.

Mr. Culverwell: Has my right hon. Friend seen the report of a speech which Mr. Sieff made in New York, to which I drew his attention, urging that the Arabs should be displaced in order to make room for Jews, and ought not British subjects who are given trade permits to go to America be told to keep their mouths shut?

Mr. Morrison: It is, of course, the responsibility of everybody who has an exit permit, particularly trade permits, to be discreet in what he says, but I have not seen the report to which my hon. Friend refers, and I do not think he sent it to me—

Mr. Culverwell: I sent it to the department.

Mr. Morrison: If we have received the report, I will take an opportunity of looking at it. I do not want to go so far as to seek to prevent a British subject travelling abroad from expressing reasonable views on matters on which there is not universal agreement.

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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.

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LEARN TO THINK

By "H. R. P.," in the "Social Crediter."

The misdirection of the public by and for those secretly wielding political power can be traced back to the origin of civilisation. Then it could almost be summed up as superstitions. Nowadays, probably because we have progressed in knowledge, though not in intelligence, the deliberate fostering of wrong ideas, faulty methods of reasoning, and perversion of facts covers almost every field of human thought.

The B.B.C., being universal of access and a relative novelty, has been chosen as one of the champions of this sinister activity. Some of the regular features of its programmes are chronically half-baked and tendentious. It is proposed here to refer to some of the gems to which the listener has been subjected.

There was a discussion as to what intelligence is. The "authority" on the subject, a Professor and a Socialist, gave as his definition that it was the ability to distinguish what facts were relevant and which were irrelevant to the solution of a given problem. Admittedly the definition of intelligence is not easy; but this one is woefully deficient. The shortest possible definition while still covering almost the whole of the meaning is probably that intelligence is the capacity to draw the right conclusions from a given set of facts. This definition covers that of the B.B.C. spokesman but goes far beyond it. You will ask what does it matter? To collect information and tabulate it as relevant and irrelevant is a useful preliminary, in fact, an essential one; but it leads nowhere by itself. To come to a definite conclusion must affect, probably even bring about, action. And let us always remember that the one thing which is really fatal to hidden government is correct action, correctly timed.

There is a mass of evidence to show that those in power are afraid of action by the people. How often do we not have to listen to the definition of democracy as being the right to free speech and nothing more? References to freedom of action are given no publicity. Some men are evidently convinced that the general public can be hypnotised into believing that free speech is the be-all and end-all of Democracy. They are wrong, because the individual thinks that freedom of action is implicit in the promises and will be de-hypnotised by failure if he puts his theory to the test.

Then there was a discussion about Agriculture. Someone had asked what should be done to prevent agriculture sinking back into the chronic slump of pre-war days. The listener was treated to a few expressions of opinion of what the speakers thought would be the state of affairs after the war. The last speaker pointed out that none of the others had replied to the question, and he put forward some suggestions, the main one of which was the establishment of an agricultural wages Board and a fixed minimum wage for farm labourers. Many listeners must have been delighted at the way he pulled up the others for speaking irrelevantly; probably so delighted that they would be very uncritical of all that followed. If the whole affair had been staged for the purpose of avoiding a genuine discussion of agriculture, it could not have been done better. There was no understanding that the labourers' wages have to come out of the farmers' profit and that if agriculture is to flourish all persons engaged in it must secure for their services a reasonable reward and economic security. There was no reference to the fact that ever since 1902 a large part of the legislation passed has been aimed at impoverishing those connected with land to any shape or form. No mention, in fact, of any of the fundamental reasons why farming was

such an inefficient and heartbreaking job.

On another occasion the discussion turned on whether the forming of character should be in the hands of parents or handed over to experts. The discussion, of incredible superficiality considering the reputations of those engaged, left a general impression that those engaged in it preferred the expert provided he was sufficiently skilled. Listening to the discussion one wondered whether those engaged in it knew what character is. There certainly was no appreciation of the fact that character must be something intensely individualistic and must grow from inside the person. Mass production of character is a contradiction of terms and yet those people advocated it. Attempts at mass formation of character have been made repeatedly in history. The National Socialists have been quite "success-

ful" in their attempt. Every time the result is, however, not character, but a monstrous distortion of character. Skill can impart knowledge but can have little effect in the building of real character, which is a harmony of soul and strength of mind which every individual must build for himself. External factors can test it or disturb its growth, but only to a very small extent can they further its more or less laborious formation.

That any parent who has even a spark of love for his children should agree to their character being formed by a stranger seems unthinkable. The parent has a bond with and understanding for the child's make-up that is completely lacking in every stranger. What British democrat would agree to a "skilled" National Socialist forming his child's character? It is interesting in this connection to remember that the German authorities of the last ten years deliberately broke the natural bond that exists between parent and child by teaching the latter that it was his duty to inform against his parents if they did what had been forbidden—e.g., listen to foreign broadcasts, criticise the Fuehrer, etc., etc. This monstrous kink put into the child's mind, formed an impossible barrier between parent and child, estranged them, and

made it all the easier for the "skilled" teacher to turn young Germans' characters into the terrifying monstrosities which can be seen in many of the German prisoners here, and in the behaviour of Germans in general in this phase of the war.

None of these things were brought out in the discussion: neither that attempts at mass production of real character are most undesirable nor that mass production of real character is psychologically impossible. The curse of our day is that in high places, through stupidity or treachery, theories, apparently created in a vacuum, count for more than solid facts. To put through the theories, despite their patently being contrary to reality, the public must be not merely misled but hypnotised. One way of doing this is to try to take away from them what capacity for critical thought and for original thinking they still possess. Readers of this journal are far beyond the reach of such foul methods, and a word here or an argument there should go a long way to counter the plots of evil men.

NOTES ON THE NEWS

(Continued from page 1.)

in the "Herald" of February 26 thus: "Lives had been needlessly thrown away, and the whole strategy of the war was in the hands of blunderers and muddlers." Presumably he meant the financiers and the daily press, who, by their propaganda, dominate the policy of Parliament. It is curious to note how Parliament hastens to obey the tunes played on the press drums.

SCORCHED EARTH: The London "Economist" says: "Nowhere in the world is the scorched earth policy more essential than in 'Whitehall.'" Quite possibly this is a reporter's error, because the "Economist" surely must have had Threadneedle or Wall streets in mind.

WARD'S WORDS: The Melbourne "Sun" of March 3 reports Mr. Ward, M.H.R., as saying "that the war is fought from current production, and that it was not right for bondholders to draw interest from loans after the war had been fought and paid for." Ward's words are wise words—sometimes. The "Sun" issue of the 4th inst, in its leading article, reported Mr. Fadden as expressing the hope "that Mr. Curtin would take the earliest opportunity of declaring that Mr. Ward is not talking Government policy." That should be quite a simple matter for Mr. Curtin.

HOSPITAL MUDDLE: The bed shortage in public hospitals, which has been bad in peace time, and all other times, has been accentuated by A.R.P. demands; latest figures disclose that the four principal ones could only take fifty casualties between them. This muddle is the sole responsibility of the Government, who apparently suffer from that disease which Premier Dunstan prattles so childishly about — "apathy;" a contagious disease contracted through contact with bureaucratic officialdom.

THE GOOD OIL: The following useful information comes from the Melbourne "Sun" of March 3: "The Federal Government, in conjunction with the Victorian State Government, had agreed to contribute an interest-free loan of £50,000 to assist the search for oil at Lakes Entrance. This reference should be of special interest to advocates of a sane money system.

LOAN BOLONEY: The Education Department has approved the suggestion that children over ten will be instructed in the purpose of the

(Continued on page 7.)

SET-BACK FOR PLANNERS IN BRITAIN

The following article, which appears under the heading, "Wife or Conscript?" in an English contemporary, indicates that those who seek to regiment their fellows are not "having it all their own way":

The following news item is probably as important as any that appeared in the "Times" on December 10:

"Defending the exemption of married women from compulsory service, Mr. Bevin stated that grave concern was felt in the fighting services, especially overseas, about suggestions that married women should be conscripted. He told Lady Astor, who asked where the objections came from, that they were made by the Service Ministers in touch with the feeling in the Forces."

We must not forget that Lady Astor stated at the beginning of the war that the mother was only necessary to the child during the first year. What sort of world has this Unionist M.P. for Plymouth in mind? It is a world where the family, as English people know it, does not exist; where women are mere breeders, giving up their offspring to the nursery schools as soon as they reach the winsome age of childhood, the dawning intelligence and affection of the first years; where there will be no homes; where the population will be divided between workshop, hospital, school or camp, and live under conditions of total abstinence from everything which Lady Astor thinks sinful.

These are the only possible conclusions that can be drawn from the statements she has made from time to time.

She and those who support her have access to all the avenues of publicity. They are highly intellectual. They can write clever articles and make telling speeches. They reiterate the fact that people cannot do anything for themselves, and that everything must be done for them by those who know the way. Their photographs are to be found in every magazine and illustrated paper, their names in the list of honours; but they are power-less when they are confronted with "the feeling in the Forces."

I feel there is cause for much rejoicing. This is a victory before battle was even joined. The conscribers must give way. Moreover, it is difficult to see what further they can do towards the breakup of the home. They have done, a tremendous lot of damage, it is true. But if the forces are determined that they will stand no more the conscribers are powerless.

After all, what are the forces fighting for? Nursery schools and communal feeding centres?

The fact that large numbers of people are seen in the copies of "Picture Post" does not mean that they are ready to adopt the ideals of Mr. Edward Hulton. They buy it for the illustrations. So we should not be too ready to believe our men are eager for the blueprint state.

I think the spirit shown by our fighting men in this matter is as much a surprise in some quarters as was the victory of the battle of Britain. And it is just as significant. These men, whatever may have been said about them by Mass Observation, are brave and self-reliant and devoted to their wives and children.

Many of them may be away from home for years. All that keeps them going is their longing to return to their wives, children and familiar surroundings. The war is not likely to lessen their regard for these things.

A letter in the "Radio Times" of December 5, expressed the view that it would be tragic if among the distinguished company of the Brains Trust, none knew the value of a mother's love. But it seems more than likely that an intellect developed on purely mechanistic lines gradually kills the capacity for affection, which when all is said and done, is one of the main things that makes life worth living. The idea that children can grow to their best anywhere, or with anyone, provided they are in a correctly planned environment like plants in a green house, is experimentally untrue, and the threat to impose it is only equaled in insolence by the threat to interfere between man and wife in, the attempt to make her believe that she owes her first allegiance to the "State" rather than to the man she has married. Our fighting forces understand this very well, and have said that they will have none of it.

This will be a great blow to those who have been crying out for "equality" between the sexes. But every woman who has made a success of her married life knows that the secret of happiness is to be a good pillion rider.

UTILISING "SURPLUS" PRIMARY PRODUCTION in U.S.A.

The "Food Stamp Plan" was instituted in May, 1939, and was the outcome of the objectives of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation: "To help hungry people on relief rolls and to keep farmers from being overwhelmed by surpluses of the commodities they produce."

The economist of the Rural Bank (N.S.W.), in a statement from the Service Department of the Bank, explains how it operates:

Persons eligible to participate (ranging from local relief to Works Progress Administration clients) may—there is no compulsion—purchase a book of food stamps issued by the United States Treasury.

The stamps are orange and blue, each of them valued at 25 cents, but the number of blue stamps is one for every two orange. For example, the eligible applicant pays one dollar for a book containing one dollar's worth of orange stamps and 50 cents' worth of blue stamps.

From the viewpoint of the primary producers, the blue stamps are particularly important, as it is with these that holders purchase a wide variety of farm products designated as "surplus" by the Secretary of Agriculture.

PRODUCTS OBTAINABLE

How wide, indeed, the variety can be is shown by the following list:

Butter, raisins, dried prunes, citrus fruits, apples and pears, eggs in shell, pork, lard, corn meal, onions, wheat, flour and dry edible beans.

Other commodities, all of them primary products, may be purchased, the list given being merely an illustration of the comprehensive "cover."

Seasonal conditions and circumstances make alterations in the list of "surplus" commodities necessary from time to time.

The orange coloured stamps may be used to purchase foodstuffs and household articles usually bought in grocery stores, excepting intoxicating liquor, tobacco, or food usually consumed at the store itself.

Safeguards against the abuse of the scheme provide that stamps cannot be transferred. Orange stamps cannot be cashed unless accompanied by the requisite number of blue stamps, and stamps cannot be used to settle old accounts.

REDEMPTION OF STAMPS

Stamps are accepted, by retailers who have co-operated in the scheme, at their face value, and where the value of stamps exceeds the value of the goods, "credit slips" may be given.

Retailers either cash the stamps at the banks, or use them to pay their wholesalers who, in turn, obtain their cash equivalent from the U.S. Treasury.

The minimum orange stamp purchase per person is fixed at one dollar a week, research having revealed that

The following appears in the British "Hansard" for December 4:

Sir A. Gridleys . . . If I may burden the House with just one example of how tardily the cumbersome Government machinery may work, I will quote this case. It concerns a works wholly engaged in producing materials most urgently required by the Admiralty and the Air Ministry. The works are crowded out. Production is carried out under one roof, and, having regard to war risks and to the fact that the company have land available for a works extension away from the main works, application was made to the Admiralty, as far back as June last, for a licence to put down a building about a quarter of a mile away from the existing building. On July 23 the Admiralty advised that application for a licence should be made to the Ministry of Works and Buildings at Reading.

During August, this was done. Some official in that Ministry then urged that a particular type of building should be adopted. This type the company rightly refused,

this is the average normal food expenditure for each member of a relief family. The maximum is \$1.50.

Retailers who have co-operated in the scheme are so well satisfied that some of them have reduced) profit margins in order to increase trade from this source.

for safety reasons, to adopt. When October arrived, the Ministry of Works and Buildings agreed with the company, and referred the matter back to the Lands Department of the Admiralty. After further delay, the company were informed that the matter had to go before the Board of Trade Controller of Factories at Reading. On October 3, two officials from that department visited the works, and indicated that the necessary licence might be expected in the next few days. The next intimation was that the application had to go before the Contracts Allocation Sub-Committee, presided over by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Buildings, and, later, that it must go back to the Admiralty again, because they had not put it forward, as they could not fit it into their labour allocation programme at the moment. Apparently, in the meantime each Government department had been given a labour allocation, and had to reduce its programme to keep within the limit of that allocation. Even after all those steps, it was intimated that the matter must go before the Lord President of the Council before final approval could be given. The result of all that meandering through Government departments has been the absorption of six months in time and in no decision being yet reached.

NOTES ON THE NEWS.

(Continued from page 6.)

"Liberty" Loan by teachers, and encouraged to write letters to their parents on the subject. There may be a few teachers capable of explaining that the principal reason for borrowing money is to provide pensions for the bankers' by way of increased taxation; but for the most part the innocent children will be indoctrinated with false banker-propaganda.

MILK MUDDLE: The planners' symphony has reached a crescendo of muddle; but the latest milk muddle, which threatens a shortage, should convince the public that socialistic planners (of other peoples' lives) should not be at large. They have now frozen the Bacchus Marsh supplies; moreover, the 125 suppliers from this district fear their cash returns will also suffer. Apart from upsetting public morale, the idea seems to be to cause as much insecurity as possible.

BOTTLENECKS: The London "Evening News" says: "Bottle-necks, red tape, excessive debate and insufficient action is preventing initiative." The "Herald" of March 2 reports that "the recent important War Council decisions on war strategy will be transmitted to Britain and U.S. for approval." Now that we have two bottlenecks instead of one, we will presumably get a better flow. The main issue is that those on the spot must not make decisions in case they upset the delaying actions.

PARTY POLITICS: Mr. Menzies is now posing as an expert military strategist in his broadcasts from 3AW, and follows the lead given by the newspaper strategists by taking up the cry of an offensive war policy. This is used as a cloak for subtly defending the U.A.P. policy of sending our soldiers overseas. And so the game of defending party politics goes on, and by the very man who denounces it most. Electors would be well advised to ignore words, and judge on actions or results only.

STRANGLER BY RED-TAPE

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:

Date.....

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

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 ¼% 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.

JOHN CURTIN'S PIE-CRUST PROMISE

(Continued from page 1.)
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?

* * *

CUT OUT THE ABOVE ARTICLE AND POST IT TO MR. CURTIN. ENCLOSE A LETTER DEMANDING A STRAIGHTFORWARD ANSWER TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED THEREIN. DO IT NOW!

The Mesmerism of Words

(Continued from page 3.)
"Sacrifice." That word, like most abstract words, can mean anything.

To inflict useless sacrifices upon a defenceless people just for the sake of making sacrifices is criminal and cowardly. To break down on one's job just to show we like making sacrifices is the act of a fool. To keep going day after day doing the best that is in us, taking precautions and maintaining our health and sanity irrespective of what other people might think or say, that is what is needed: the men who do this are the men who carry the world's burdens while others lie in hospital.

I am getting very tired of all these harangues that are coming over the air, urging us into greater effort. Let the Government clean up its own mess, call up half the tax-collectors for the army; turn some of the Government offices into munition works and ration the use of red tape; then, perhaps, honest men and women will be per-

The Use of Centralisation

To the Editor, "The Social Crediter"
Sir,—I should like to underline the very sound reservation made by B. M. Palmer in your issue of the 13th inst., to the quotation from "Economic Democracy" which deals with the uses of centralised administration.

"Economic Democracy," as its preface suggested, was a severely concentrated presentation of principles. There is nothing in it which the twenty-five years since it was written have shown to be unsound, I think, but there is much in it which is helped by such elaboration as that to which I refer.

I might, perhaps, add that, as the result of further close contact with practical problems of organisation since it was written, my opinion has hardened that the limits of useful centralisation even in administration are much narrower than I should have been willing to concede twenty years ago, except in a few special cases, and that every extension of them demands executive ability of geometrically progressive quality—rarely available in quantity.

Unfortunately, however, centralisation is one of the easiest forms of organisation to arrange as distinct from its efficient operation and is in fact the only form which a mediocre and untrained intelligence can grasp. The curious outcome of this situation is that in national services, and particularly in improvised war-time services, where the limits of centralised authority for which adequate executive ability can be found are even narrower than in ordinary business, we are saddled with huge bodies of "administrators" whose only technique is either to evade action or to pass every problem which is pressed to someone nearer the apex.—I am, etc., C. H. Douglas.

mitted to get on with that job of work which they are so anxious to complete. There are few Australians satisfied with the war effort; most are anxious to do more, but can find no means of doing it. There is a great reservoir of human energy and initiative still neglected, discouraged and untapped.

**THE "NEW TIMES"
IS OBTAINABLE
AT
ALL AUTHORISED
NEWSAGENTS**

ANOTHER TRAP FOR THE UNWARY

The London "Evening Standard" says that a new sixpenny edition of the Russian "Internationale" is selling in Britain like a popular song hit, but few buyers know that both music and words have been revised by Sir Granville Bantock and his wife, in order to conform to popular taste.

The new version begins:—
"Awake, o sleepers, from your dreaming,
Uplift, uplift your longing eyes,
The star of truth above is gleaming,
And to fight for freedom, arise!"

The first four lines of "The Internationale" actually read:

"Arise, ye workers, from your slumbers!
Arise, ye prisoners of want!
For reason in revolt now thunders
And at last ends the age of cant."

* * *

This is a mild example of the subtle and insidious way in which millions of honest Britishers are being misled into accepting the thin end of the wedge of alien ideas and institutions which, if presented in their true colours, would be instantly and emphatically rejected.

In this instance, any hint of the FACT that the Russian Communist Party normally seeks bloody revolution in all other countries is carefully suppressed. A majority of Britishers

(including workers) don't want the workers to arise in revolt. Britishers have evolved beyond the unnecessary and futile savagery of civil war.

If deceptions such as that reported above were not "put over" them, they could not be led to regard "Socialist" Russia as anything more than a merely military ally for the duration of the common fight against "National Socialist" Germany. Which wouldn't suit certain people. Hence the deceptions. You get the idea, don't you? Mind they don't pull the wool over YOUR eyes!

Moving Mountains

(Continued from page 5.)
orchestra and play in harmony and rhythm, not constantly missing the beat. They need to learn how the sovereignty of individuals can hold sway without impinging on the sovereignty of others. And how can this be done? By learning, painfully perhaps, the meaning of membership through their associations. In so far as we have not learned to be members one of another we are all neurotic, in greater or lesser degree. It seems strange that Dr. Henderson should not realise that his patients were cured, not merely by "war with its mass mentality," but by a manifestation of a force which before many years have passed will be recognised as strong enough to move mountains.

Future progress will be possible because we have learned through a systematic study of the Social Credit, that the principles of association are as capable of exact definition as those of any other science. Without them, all that has gone before would be as vague as a dream. But the problem is for individual Englishmen here, and for Americans overseas, to see that the war-time strength which is supporting them is not wasted when the war danger dies down; but is diverted into its proper channels, as the water from the Niagara enters the turbines.

A wise man uses what is lying to hand. Examine such associations as are in your neighbourhood and see what can be done.

New World Reconstruction Movement

(Continued from page 4.)

We have failed to realise that production must exist for consumption.

* * *

At the end of the session, listeners were asked to: (1) Write to 3AK, sending name and address and applying for a copy of the "New World Charter"—a 32-page document explaining the movement's ideas and objectives. (2) Form study-groups to study the "Charter." (3) Forward any authentic books, documents, writings, or quotations that might be helpful. (4) Listen-in to the next broadcast—Sunday, 10.15 p.m. from 3AK—and tell friends to do likewise.

The broadcast closed with these words: "You, the people, have the power to demand better things. In the name of the New World, let us use that power. Let us all unite and act."

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