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NEW TIMES

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Now, when our land to ruin's brink is verging,

In God's name, let us speak while there is time!

Now, when the padlocks for our lips are forging,

Silence is crime.

—Whittier (1807-1892)

Federal M.P.s Deplore Debt - Racket

Mr Ward Not Alone

"I have always been a little curious as to what goes on behind the locked doors of the caucus room. I never realised that we should see the day when there would be a caucus meeting open to the public. . . . The exhibition to-day shows quite clearly that the rank and file of the Labour party and some of the Ministers are in direct variance with other Ministers as to how war finance should be raised."

Thus spake William Joseph Hutchinson (Member for Deakin) in the House of Representatives during the debate on the Loan Bill (1942) on March 5.

From these remarks you will gather that, in spite of party-discipline, the much-vilified Mr. Ward is not the only Labour politician to make some sort of protest against the betrayal of the people to the debt-merchants by Curtin, Chifley and Co. Your surmise is correct. The freely-expressed views of that staunch patriot, Senator Richard Darcey, are already well known to readers of this paper. But others, such as Messrs. J. Langtry and A. Calwell, have also had something to say.

WHAT MR. LANGTRY SAID

"Hansard" reports Mr. Langtry's part in the above-mentioned debate as follows:

Mr. LANGTRY (Riverina); I am 100 per cent, in agreement with the honourable member for Melbourne (Mr. Calwell) that we should not pay interest on money used to fight this war. I do not say that we are not entitled to pay the interest on money already raised, but, in my opinion, the war should be financed by neither loan money nor taxation but by credit created through the Commonwealth Bank. As was said by the honourable member for Melbourne, we are still paying interest on money raised to fight, not only the last war, but also the battle of Waterloo. We are paying interest on something which does not exist, to the degree that many people believe, because credit is represented by book entries, in other words figures in a book. Money is the only thing in this world which is created out of nothing. It is shameful that to-day, while our own flesh and blood are being bombed, we should be arguing about interest. Money should be the last thing spoken about in connection with the war. The Government has the full control of the natural resources of this country, and is only common sense that it should employ those resources and, in doing so, eliminate debt. Debt should not be incurred in the production of commodities. I put it another way: what has happened to all the production of Australia in the last 150 years—our wool, wheat, meat, butter and eggs, every mortal thing, even our beer, whisky and the "wine that maketh glad the heart of man"? Where is it all? It has gone like the snows of yesteryear. All that remains is debt. Labour is the only wealth that this country has. If our fighting men laid down their arms and the munitions workers their tools what would happen? We should be "gone a million." There is no doubt about it: Labour, not money, is the real wealth. This Parliament and every other Australian parliament could be laden with gold, silver, copper and notes but that would not win the war. It is labor that will win

win it we argue over a few million pounds and as to whether we should pay interest or not the war is proceeding. I do not profess to be a financial expert, but I have sufficient common sense to know that the money necessary to conduct the war should be created through the agency of our national Commonwealth Bank. That should be Australia's policy. Call it nationalisation of banking or credit expansion, I do not care what name it is called, but the fact remains that, if the present policy be persevered with, when we have achieved victory, which we certainly will have, we shall be saddled with a debt amounting to millions of pounds. War debts have

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NOTES ON THE NEWS

War Soolers. The London "Daily Express" of March 1 publishes pictures of crowds at German sports meetings and points out "that everybody in Britain wants to conscript everybody else into the war effort." That goes for Australia also, and it is worth noting that the "soolers" are those who are making the least effort.

LIBERTY LIGHTS. Although they did. That's the way to defeat maximum number of bureaucratic red-tape.

control committees have been set up, with no more room on the statute book for restrictive regulations, and the people are therefore adrift on the sea of doubt and insecurity, yet our war effort is expected to soar. But the people will first have to cast off these shackles if the war is to be won—and the lights of liberty are to shine again.

DIGGERS DISOBEY. 100 actionists went to Hartwell to dig trenches for the school children, and were told they could not get on with the job because the school committee had not been approached. But the volunteers decided to get the job done—and

A.R.P. ACTIONISTS. The A.R.P. Warden for Kalgoorlie says in the "Herald" of 28/2/42:—"Kalgoorlie A.R.P. personnel are uneasy at delays experienced through red tape; we suggest power be given to authorise and conduct expenditure of Commonwealth money allocated for this purpose." Once again the super hurdle "money" stops the works. It has also been suggested that Wardens be empowered to arrest those obstructing A.R.P. arrangements. It would stimulate action if they arrested the Treasury officials for letting finance hold up the works.

BERLIN'S CLAIM. The following A.A.P. report appeared in the Melbourne "Sun" of March 9:—"Berlin Radio claims that Australian residents and employees of British firms in Shanghai have asked the Australian Government to issue immediately a declaration of independence from the British Empire, and to begin negotiations with Japan for a separate peace."

CLOTHES RATIONING. Yet another plan to standardise clothes for two-thirds of Britain's population is announced. Twenty-six million people are to have standardised suits—but 13 million with sufficient income will not be regimented. While this sovietisation of the under-dogs goes on, reports are to hand of British factories exporting luxury clothes, shoes, blankets, etc. It seems queer that the British people who actually make them have not sufficient money with which to purchase them. And while this goes on our factories are being closed down, and badly-needed shipping space is cluttered up with goods that can be made here.

RUSSIAN FRONT. According to press reports, the number of German soldiers killed on the Russian front is so terrific that there cannot be more than a handful left. The journalists seem able to annihilate whole armies and to resurrect them by a mere stroke of the pen. Lately they have worked so hard that they have paralysed the people's ability to appreciate their: prowess.

MURDOCH BLAH. For steer undiluted poisonous propaganda, Sir Keith Murdoch's recent press articles on "Unity" are the dizzy limit. The plea for the "Herald's" lost and unwanted cause is backed by stressing drunkenness, strikes and grief for fallen soldier, not one of which would be altered by a national government for which he pleads. Truly such men become more dangerous each day; the more so, if they are building themselves up for entry into the political arena.

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INTERNATIONAL COMMENTARY

By Eric D. Butler

One of the most significant of the recent moves in British politics is the sudden emergence of Sir Stafford Cripps as another "Great Leader." I would have thought that the British people have had enough of the leadership mania. Perhaps they have; but the big finance-controlled newspapers continue to tell them that they must have faith in the leaders which they (the newspapers) choose.

Ever since Cripps returned from Russia he has been hailed by the press as the new "saviour." Cripps put Ms policy in a nutshell when, in one "of the most important statements since the outbreak of war," he said: "I feel that my job here is first to do my utmost to get every aid and help for Russia at this critical stage, and secondly, to play what part I can in winning victory, which is essential, and then building the world we hope for." And this was while Japan was moving ever southwards and Singapore had reached its last gasp. Reporters were telling us that even a few hundred modern fighters would stem the tide. Those fighters never arrived.

A few weeks before this, the "Evening Star" (England), contained the following in an editorial:—

"That is a clear call that must be met at all costs. No bad news from the Far East and no urgent calls for the reinforcement of our own endangered outposts can for a moment stand in the way of General Gorovov's call." I wonder what the thousands of British, Australian and Indian troops captured by the Japanese in Malaya would think of that statement if they read it.

Lord Moyne, the Guinness Stout peer, after the Repulse and Prince of Wales were lost through lack of air support so urgently required said: "The vastness of the aid we have given Russia will be known some day." And Lord Beaverbrook, with his usual complacency,

stated that Britain had, in 1941, sent to Allies overseas 9721 aircraft. Most of these were undoubtedly sent to Russia. He also said: "British tanks played a very big part in the defence of Moscow. All Britain's protocol obligations, with the exception of one tank, have been fulfilled. This credit we are entitled to take after the sacrifices we have made. We have a very great deal more to do. We must send to Russia, under the terms of the protocol, immensely increased shipments of tanks and aircraft. The Ministry of Supply and Aircraft Production are preparing for that additional strain on their resources."

To put the matter briefly, we must face the issue of what are the objectives of this war. The reader may well reply by asking: "Whose objectives?" Well, it is quite obvious that those who backed all the totalitarian countries with financial and material assistance, the International Jewish financiers, are rapidly stampeding the British people into accepting this war as one to establish some form of International Government. That would mean the end of the British Commonwealth of Nations (still referred to as the Empire, for the sake of brevity) as we understand it. This weakening of the Empire to send all help to Russia may, in some quarters, be based upon the utterly fallacious assumption that a strong and triumphant

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BRITISH EMPIRE

A Talk Broadcast from 7HO, Hobart, at 8.15 p.m. on Sunday, March 15, by James Guthrie, B.Sc.

These last two and a half years of war have brought, with monotonous regularity, to the British people a constant stream of military defeats and humiliations. It comes as a bitter shock to many to see a people who have pioneered so much of the world's surface being driven out with such scant ceremony, and apparently with such little difficulty, from the long-established strong posts of Europe and Asia.

The shock has been so great that questions are being asked about the whole structure of Government, and whether it is capable of being altered in time to allow us to pull ourselves out of the jaws of disaster.

There are questions being asked about the British Navy, British rule in India and in the Pacific. As much of the criticism on these points has been ignorant, unjust, and dishonest, a few facts might help to clear the issue.

The British Navy was reduced in size and fighting power by the Washington Treaty of 1921. British statesmen were forced to sign this treaty against their better judgment, because of very strong pressure from America.

This navy, inadequate although it was for the defence of the Empire, was never supplied with sufficient funds to keep it efficient. This was mainly the work of Mr. Baldwin, although he was ably supported by the League of Nations Unions and the Peace Leagues.

And, strangely enough, it is from the members of the League of Nations Union that much of the harsh criticism comes about "British Imperialism." This is the criticism I refer to as unjust and dishonest.

Anybody who knows anything about India will admit the tremendous complexity of the problem. There are many problems in India, but the supreme problem is a religious one.

When educated Indians are powerless to alter the habits of their families, how is a stranger to go in and smash the religious beliefs of centuries? The work done by individual British Civil Servants in medicine, sanitation, road-building, and keeping the peace has been beyond all praise. That an enormous amount of work has yet to be done is true; that work

has been held up, and is still being held up, by the Indian priesthood and the women who come under their domination.

It is admitted that there has been a deterioration in the personnel of the British Civil Service, and the same influence which reduced the power of the British Navy can be seen in the Civil Service.

Much long and arduous work performed by hundreds of self-sacrificing men can be undone in a short time by a few men pushed into jobs of responsibility without that long training and character so necessary in dealing with native populations.

If India has been exploited, it has not been done by the British people; it has been done by a few who have used the British people as the most handy instrument to get what they wanted.

These few persons are just as likely to use the German people or the Japanese people if they should find it convenient, and, no doubt, they are finding it convenient.

W. J. Perry, in his great book, "The Primordial Ocean," analyses the rise and fall of the brilliant periods in the life of various nations. He suggests that a nation will show most amazing and brilliant growth if it is given access to the knowledge of previous generations, and, at the same time, is not crippled by fixed religious and political theories. As soon as these fixed religious and political theories capture a nation, it collapses like a spring flower in the heat of the fierce rays of the summer sun.

No people who have come through what the British people have come through can be decadent. Even cripples who come out of the worst slums in England show wonderful

growth when they are given a fighting chance.

England was very nearly destroyed, and certainly reduced to chaos, under the Baldwin Government; probably the most incompetent Government in the whole history of the British peoples. Caught between a Financial Monopoly and half-baked Socialist theorists, the great mass of the people were rendered politically helpless.

Strangely enough, both the financial monopolists and the Socialist leaders have the same religion—"Puritanism." "Puritanism" has been and is the most insidious and destructive disease ever injected into a great nation. Its chief commandments are:

(1) If a man does not work he must starve, and no man is allowed to work unless he shows a financial profit.

(2) No man has a right to live unless he works for the "State"—the "State" meaning the financial, political, religious monopoly in power at the time.

(3) No woman who works for her mother or her own family is entitled to any income from the community.

(4) No man should have more than one job, and he must work at that job for eight hours a day for 50 years, even though his work is unnecessary.

Under these ridiculous conditions it came about that a man who polluted the countryside and rivers with factories; who filled the city with slums and the hospital with cripples, was considered a great man and duly knighted; and the man who planted trees and beautified the land of his birth was not only bankrupted and chased off his land, but ridiculed by all and sundry.

The British people are not decadent; they have been temporarily crippled by men who have great power but who accept no responsibility. It is easy to say that a country gets the Government it deserves, but the Government of a country is a very complicated business and if the people are kept in complete ignorance as to how the political machine is run, it is not an easy matter to bring about a speedy remedy.

A great centralised Government, backed by the financial institutions, has tremendous powers of coercion, and not only can it rely on a practical monopoly of finance and information, but it can get almost unlimited support from outside.

The soldiers that were demobilised after the last war come out of the army, for all practical purposes, political babes; they did not understand what was happening to the country they had saved from the invader. The term, "Fifth Columnist," was not then part of their language.

But during the last 25 years much discussion has taken place, and much literature has been distributed. Much of that literature has been purely destructive; some entirely without value; a large part has shown obvious designs to drag everyone down to the lowest level in the name of equality. But out of all this medley of ignorance, discontent and anxious thought is growing something which should produce mighty things of great value—provided, and only provided, the great swelling up-rush of human energy is not exploited by knaves, but guided and helped by the best men at our disposal.

A few capable men can do amazing work in this direction, provided they give the same application towards this task as they do to business organisation and scientific research.

I have said before that business men are afraid to talk; civil servants are not allowed to talk, or they are threatened with the loss of their job if they do; military and naval men are court-martialed if they talk. In this alone, without looking any further

THE PACIFIC WAR AND THE ENEMY WITHIN

Under this heading 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.

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afield, you have the seeds of destruction of any nation.

China was left to be exploited by the scum of the earth, because her educated and talented and learned men kept themselves to themselves; they were afraid to soil their dainty fingers and their clean linen by mixing with the mundane world.

Unless those who have training and experience come forward to help the people in their trouble, how can we expect anything more than we have had? How can we expect to survive as a nation if our best men tackle every job except the most important one? How can they claim to have courage if they always remain behind the front line?

In spite of all the talk we have had from Government officials, this country is carrying on a war under the same conditions that paralysed the British Empire during the so-called peace, Mr. Curtin is using the same out-of-date financial methods used by Mr. Fadden, Mr. Menzies, and Mr. Scullin; and the same men seem to be responsible for his publicity talks. The same red-tape is strangling men of initiative. We are fighting with our hands tied, and the same old gang is still in control.

It would be a colossal tragedy if we lost this fight because some of our most important men had not sufficient courage to speak before it was too late.

There seems to be a colossal pressure brought to bear on the leaders of the British people to prevent them talking; what that threat is many people have asked me, but the fact remains that no man will talk until it is too late. And "too late" is probably the most tragic phrase in the English language.

The British people have got into the habit of leaving everything to their Government; that is all right if it works, but it doesn't work. And so we have all to play our part and raise hell with our members of Parliament until the fighting forces are given a fighting chance.

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INTERNATIONAL COMMENTARY

(Continued from page. 1.)

Russia will see that the British way of life is carried on. A study of Communist literature of the past twenty years indicates that exactly the opposite may take place. But apparently Sir Stafford Cripps, who, according to a recent press report, advocated a Federation of Nations as a war aim to a big group of members of the British House of Commons, is going to prepare us for "International Socialism." Incidentally, Hitler is in favour of the same policy. But he wants to run it instead of the people who are backing Cripps. Surely, after seeing the results of National Socialism in Germany, we don't want to see International Socialism for the whole world! Well, if "we" don't want it—if the issue were put clearly to the British people, they would unanimously reject it --"we" must see that our policy prevails. That is the fundamental basis of British democracy: that the people in association decide their own policy. And if they are so apathetic that they have no policy of their own, then we can rest assured that someone else will prepare a policy for them. Cripps appears to be the man "briefed" to frame a policy for the

British people. And the press will see that he gets all the necessary support to mesmerize the people.

INSULTS TO BRITISH PEOPLE.

No sooner had Cripps arrived back from Russia that he started, per the medium of the B.B.C. and the press combines, to tell the British people what a poor showing they were making compared with the Russians. M. Shvernik, leader of the Russian trade union delegation to Britain, had already criticised the war effort in Britain compared with the Russian effort. Fancy setting Russian methods as a standard, when British industry had supplied the Russians with much-needed equipment!

There is no doubt that the Russians have fought well in this war. They fought well in the last war—even when they were collapsing through lack of equipment. But it is quite obvious that there is a definite possibility that Germany will strike back when the European spring comes shortly.

For Sir Stafford Cripps to tell the British people that they are not suffering as the Russians are suffering has no point. The British people are not suffering from invasion because the

Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force have been too strong for Germany. Should they be invaded, the British people will fight just as well as the Russians. And they won't need Sir Stafford Cripps to urge them on. Cripps set out to give the impression that the British weren't "pulling their weight" compared with the Russians. This is insulting nonsense and appears to be part of the general theme that we must learn everything from foreigners—even our political views. Of course, the British people are still not making a maximum war-effort because of a treasonable financial system. But Cripps didn't mention this. Perhaps someone would have pointed out the fact that Russia is operating under the same system, with forced loans and higher taxes.

CHURCHILL'S PART.

Cripps has had a lot of the ground prepared for him by Churchill, the man who has put other countries before the Empire, I have contended time and time again that he must go if the Empire is to survive. He has indicated that he is in favour of an International Government after the war. His Government has introduced more socialistic legislation in Britain than any socialist could wish for under the circumstance. More nonsense has been written about him for the benefit of the British and American peoples than has ever been written about Hitler for the benefit of the Germans. He even had the audacity recently to say to those who were criticising him about our military disasters that the Russians didn't criticise Stalin when they were being driven back! The British people are not operating under the Russian political system—yet.

The following brief outline of Churchill's disastrous military career appeared in the Sydney "Bulletin" of February 25:—"If he is an Australian,

others that are not, the net result of his teaching is likely to give his hearers the impression that the subject of finance is too complicated to be understood by people with less ability than Mr. Eccles.

They will confuse ability with volubility. He has everything at his fingers' ends; and as everyone knows, watching fingers is how persons come under the influence of the hypnotist.

That he does not intend to exert that kind of influence, I am prepared to believe. But the effect is the same. If I were to choose the title for the book I should call it "Bankers Know Best."

.Arthur Brenton, in "Reality" (England).

he will quote what Charles Bean wrote in his 'Story of Anzac' concerning Mr. Churchill's 'alluring vision of the power of the naval gun, which enticed Kitchener into the naval attack' on the Dardanelles, 'but proved false,' and the sequel:—

"Through a Churchill's excess of imagination, a layman's ignorance of artillery and the fatal power of a young enthusiasm to convince other and more cautious brains, the tragedy of Gallipoli was born.

"And he will certainly descant with severity on the deadly truth that two generations of Australians, organised in five divisions, have had shattering experiences of Mr. Churchill's methods of making war—two divisions in Gallipoli, one in North Africa, one in Greece and Crete, one in Malaya and Singapore; and in a great many cases fathers and sons.

"Strange and sad, in truth; but no stranger, in a sense, than the idolatry which sustains Mr. Churchill in his efforts to ride on the whirlwind and direct the storm. . . . Mr. Churchill may be the world's greatest spellbinder, but he has proved himself the world's worst campaign-planner. The direction of strategy and the disposition of forces, weapons and munitions must, once and for all, be taken from the guilty and incapable hands. From the time he sent two raw battalions of the Royal Naval Division to Antwerp to fight the Germany Army, and tried to clinch the business with 'a famous harangue' (Lord Esher), all his military adventures have exhibited the same marks and brands—imperfect information, gross miscalculation, unreasoning optimism, and reliance on words to do the work of weapons. No empire could survive Mr. Churchill's methods of making war if it let him play at being a military dictator to the finish. Judging on its record in Empire matters, the Churchill Government is the greatest calamity that Britain has had in the line of Governments since the Administration of Lord North."

And in order to cover up his own blunders, he has always used some military head as a scapegoat. Sir Robert Brooke-Popham was blamed for the situation in Malaya. It was reported that Washington was pleased with his removal. But a very interesting item appeared in a recent Saturday evening's Melbourne "Herald." It dealt with a statement by Miss Pearl Hetherington, an Australian girl who was secretary to Sir Robert. She said that he continually asked the War Office for more planes. But Malaya and the Empire troops were considered unimportant compared with Russia's desires. Miss Hetherington gave an

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THE AMERICAN MONTAGU NORMAN

A friend in the United States has just sent me a book entitled "Economic Balance and a Balanced Budget," It consists of various "Public Papers" of Mr. Marriner Eccles, is edited by Rudolph Weissman, and was published by Harper Bros. of New York last year. It covers the period 1935 to 1939 (November).

The "papers" include letters, speeches and testimony relating to all aspects of finance. Since Mr. Eccles is chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, and thus the "American Montagu Norman," this book will be useful, and I am glad to have it.

I have not had time to do more than sample it here and there, so do not propose to deal with it exhaustively. But I can say this; that the samples I have taken build up the picture of a near-sighted man leading the blind!

It emerges particularly from his testimony under examination by a Special Committee in March, 1939. There you see him giving a series of close-up views of various pieces of the financial jigsaw-puzzle, but never the complete picture.

There is no depth of focus, as photographers would say. He is very clear about the pros and cons of detailed action, but equally foggy about broad policies.

Such phrases as; "You can do that, but—," and "To do that alone won't achieve the object you want," frequently recur.

It is not to be wondered at that the Committee's reaction frequently takes the form of the interjection: "Yes, but just now you said—!"

For example, at one juncture he is telling them that credit expansion involves inflation, and at another (when the Committee ask: "Why not have some inflation to cure a depression?") calmly says that they cannot rely on achieving inflation by expanding credit, pointing out instances where prices have fallen at times when there was plenty of credit.

He explains: "you may expend credit, but that does not ensure its getting into the hands of consumers." Again, referring to producers, he says: "However much credit you make available, you can't make them borrow it: they have first to see a profit on their contemplated outlay."

Naturally the Committee are con-

tinually on the fidget to get him to strike a balance between these contradictory technicalities and suggest a practical line of action.

"Ah," says Mr. Eccles, "now you're asking something. There are too many factors in the problem and not all of them are financial: you see there are psychological factors; there is. (Yes dear readers, here it, comes!) -confidence." (Note that I am not quoting Mr. Eccles's exact words.)

That precious word is the trump card of the battle banker. It is a flight into metaphysics. It is a *tacit* insinuation that there exist disembodied spirits of Hope and Fear which alternately and capriciously upon whole classes of men (eg. "producers" and "consumers")-that not even *the banker* can predict the times of these visitations that he must be content to apply Mr. Montagu Norman's maxim: "One step enough for me"- must so finance the activities of the hopeful that the policy can be reversed at the moment when they turn fearful.

Inflation takes place, says Mr. Eccles, when consumers rush for goods in fear that their money will buy less if they wait.

Does anyone know any consumer that did such a thing unless he first had reasonable grounds for his fear— unless either he saw prices rising or, at least was warned by someone whose judgment he trusted, that they might or would rise?

No. The only state of mind that disturbs what Mr.Eccles calls the "economic balance" is that of the bankers.

Fear may be spread through many carriers, but the source of the infection is the central bank.

The people have lost faith; and they will not recover it until the tokens of things hoped for become identical with the substance of things hoped for.

In conclusion, another thing must be said. Mr. Eccles makes a good many remarks that are sound.

But, entangled as they are with

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CURTIN'S "SLASHING REJOINER"

Mr. Curtin has made what the Sydney "Truth" of March 8 has described as "a slashing rejoinder" to "continued attempts to spread the impression that there is an anti-British feeling in high places in this country."

"Truth" says: "He pointed to the decisions of the special Commonwealth Labour Conference held in June, 1940. That Conference laid down as a first principle the complete dissolubility of Australia with Britain and the Allies in the prosecution of the war. A second principle was that the entire resources of Australia should be under the control of the Commonwealth Government for war purposes. This is the policy structure on which the Labour Government has founded its outlook and framed its programme, said Mr. Curtin. 'Australian Labour is fighting for free institutions and for a decent humanity. It declares that the British way of life and British institutions are the very core on which to found a free world.'"

One might well agree with Mr. Curtin that every effort is being made to render indissoluble our ties with those controlling the governments of the British and allied countries. The Commonwealth Labour Conference laid it down as a first principle that this "indissolubility" is to operate only "in the prosecution of the war."

The Labour Conference laid it down as a second principle, that the "entire resources of Australia should be under the control of the Commonwealth Government for war purposes." This is to suggest that only the Commonwealth Government (which can only mean the members of the Federal Cabinet) has any real desire to win the war, and that Australians will not co-operate in the war effort unless they are compelled.

This word "indissolubility" has a familiar sound. It was introduced into Mr. Churchill's offer of union with France, and crops up somewhere in all the suggested schemes, for federal union of nations. Centralisation is something with which we are also uncomfortably familiar. The point at which centralisation of any undertaking changes from effectiveness to unwieldiness is soon reached. The attempt to administer the national war effort, for instance, from offices in Melbourne has itself demonstrated that the point of effectiveness has been passed. Mr. Curtin, having pointed to the decisions of the Commonwealth Labour Conference which embody "complete indissolubility" and the principle of centralisation of control, says: "This is the policy structure on which the Labour Government has founded its outlook and framed its programme."

Mr. Curtin says that Australian Labour has declared for the British way of life, but what men do is more important than what men say. Actions speak louder than words. The actions of Mr. Curtin's Government are, to say the least, not conducive to the preservation of the British way of life. The British way of life provides a progressive release of individual initiative, but we are now being subjected to a gradual "but steady increase in restriction, regimentation and compulsion. At the same time Mr. Curtin's Government is administering regulations which make possible an alien infiltration into our armed forces, which are our ultimate sanction for the preservation of our British way of life.

Mr. Curtin's "slashing rejoinder" has done little to allay "the impression that there is an anti-British feeling in high places in this country."

NIAGARA - SALVAGE DESCRIBED AS WASTE OF TIME

London, March 12—In the House of Commons to-day, Mr. Alfred Edwards asked Sir Kingsley Wood if he were aware that £30,000 worth of British labour had been used in salvaging gold, alleged to be worth £2,000,000, but which was useless to the war effort, from the sunken ship Niagara.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer replied: "I regard the operation as a valuable service. We have to pay for essential imports that are not covered by the Lend and Lease Act and the Canadian financial arrangements.

Gold is a very advantageous export."

Mr. Edwards: Is he seriously telling us that shipping space is being used to convey gold to pay the Dominions? Would not it be safer at the bottom of the sea than in New Zealand?

Sir Kingsley Wood suggested that Mr. Edwards frame another question. Mr. Stokes said that more than 500 Britons were engaged in the useless task of digging for gold. Mr. Edwards intimated that he would raise the matter again.

—"Geelong Advertiser," March 14.

AN OUTSPOKEN BROADCAST

New World Reconstruction Movement "On the Air"

The above movement's third weekly broadcast from 3AK last Sunday at 10.15 p.m. was, on the whole, a highly commendable effort, which, together with its predecessors, has evoked widespread interest and much enthusiasm. Here are some of its highlights:

It is idle to say that the poor are poor because the rich are rich. There is abundance for ALL in this world.

* * *

The future depends on us now. The war has come to this, one of the last free countries in the world. If our financial or money system is holding us back, have not we, the people, a sacred duty to see it altered?, particularly if the future were to record that such a change opened the sluices of industry and production, giving greater efficiency, winning fuller co-operation from the people, removing industrial and financial bottlenecks, achieving miraculous results and thus saving our land, giving every citizen a new hope in the future . . .

The present struggle to preserve the right to build a better world is being hampered by outworn methods of finance. Such methods will, if persisted in, lose us the war and the peace.

* * *

It is wrong to believe that party politics are the most necessary and most just form of administration. Government for the people, by the people and of the people can only be gained when the power has been taken from money and the nation is served instead of party interests.

* * *

We wish to announce the presentation, shortly, of the most momentous document in modern times—the sensational revelations on high finance and the petition to the King to save the British Empire by Vincent C. Vickers, late Director of the Bank of England. DO NOT MISS this, and other important revelations. Listen to this station every Sunday evening. Tell your friends of this movement by the people, for the people and of the people.

* * *

Economic Reconstruction: To reconstruct the basis of the economic functionings of the nation or society so that social justice and economic security become the inalienable rights of every man, woman and child; and that the first step shall be through the public control of banking, finance, credit and currency, so that money shall serve man instead of man serving money.

Political Reconstruction: To reconstruct the basis of the political function of the nation and society so that party politics or dictatorships shall be replaced by "Elective Councils"—a non-party Executive, of Municipal Councils, Provincial Councils and Federal Councils, serving electors only; not parties, juntas, or finance—the members of the councils to be controlled by the initiative referendum and recall and through the abolition of pre-selection and financial dictatorship.

* * *

Man's thirteenth century achievements: Cathedrals, guild halls, libraries, art, literature, music, philosophy, historical writing, foundation of modern, science, etc.

Man's twentieth century achievements: Slums, crowded hospitals, distressed areas, public-assistance committees, the dole unemployment, poverty amidst plenty, increasing sickness, half-health and ill-health, increased taxation, debts and worry, wars, destruction and death—and the apple-and Pear and Egg and Onion Boards!

* * *

The natural wealth of Australia is

beyond calculation, more than sufficient to support many times our present population. Yet very few people of the seven millions of our present population have any real share, much less a just share, in the ownership of the wealth in which Australia abounds.

In many instances the primary producer, the man on the land who is the mainstay and the backbone of national life, has been unable to acquire or retain the ownership of the land developed by his labour and enterprise. Bad seasons the loss of overseas markets, and numerous other factors have placed him at the mercy of financial institutions to which, all too often, the real ownership and control of the land has passed.

The vast majority of the people are crowded into a few large cities. They live and work in the cities, but they own very little in them. Few indeed own even the homes in which they live. Fewer still have any share in the ownership or control of the industries in which they work. The vast majority are wage-earners. A very large percentage earn no more than the basic wage. In times of peace thousands are unemployed, and are dependent on the dole for a bare subsistence.

The machinery of distribution has failed. The prices offered to the farmer for his goods are so meagre that in most cases they do little more than cover the cost of production. On the other hand, thousands of people are unable to procure such necessary commodities as milk, fruit, vegetables, in quantities sufficient to meet the normal needs of the average household, because the retail prices place them beyond the reach of their incomes. The food is there, good and abundant, but they cannot obtain it. They cannot obtain it because a crying injustice has been done to the primary producer and to the consumer; to the primary producer by depriving him of an equitable price for his produce; to the consumer by placing the goods he needs beyond his reach—firstly by an unreal and unjust high price of goods, and secondly by restriction of purchasing power of the consumer by low wages and general lack of money.

It is not here our place or purpose to attack Governments or politicians, but simply to state facts which show the urgency of social reform in Australia and in our own State. The present conditions cannot continue indefinitely. The question must be solved as quickly as possible and solved well, unless we want to see disorder degenerate into chaos, and chaos into violent revolution. The problem is urgent and pressing now. It will be even more pressing and urgent when the war is over - when the employment occasioned by the war workers will need to be re-absorbed into civil life...

The root of the social problem is the private control of finance, credit and currency, and that social injustice which concentrates ownership in the hands of a few individuals, thus depriving the masses of the people of a just share of the community's goods. That injustice is NOT removed by abolishing ownership altogether. It is removed by multiplying ownerships and ownership is multi-

(Continued on page 5.)

MONTAGU NORMAN'S RECORD

The following is condensed from an article by Edward Hulton in "Picture Post," 4/10/42, which was entitled "The Future of Industry and Banking," and contained a higher proportion of fact and common sense than one expects from that writer:

On April 5 we published an article "Montagu Norman—Again!" which asked whether the Governor of the Bank should not resign. Once again this subject has come to the front. Mr. Norman's record is somewhat remarkable. He became Governor so long ago as 1920. In 1921, as one of the chief advisers to the Treasury, he played a big part in the London Reparations Conference. This body decided that the German democrats must pay 132,000,000,000 marks, and be saddled for 37 years with paying it. In 1934 Mr. Norman lent Hitler's Reichsbank £750,000. Dr. Schacht was delighted, because he was having difficulty in getting foreign exchange to pay for the raw materials required for making 'planes and tanks.

Again, after Hitler had seized Czechoslovakia in 1939, Mr. Norman handed over the £6,000,000 of Czech gold which the Bank of International Settlements had deposited with the Bank of England. On this occasion Brendan Bracken showed his courage. He went bald headed for Sir John Simon, who had to admit that Mr. Norman had done this without consulting the Government.

At home Mr. Norman's policy has been restricted credit. This, it is claimed, led to the intolerable trade conditions and strikes of the 'twenties. Business could

not expand: unemployment rose. Mr. Norman is one of those antique economists who do not realise that the only wealth in the world is natural resources—coal, iron or oil, plus the labour of the workers. He still worships gold, that abomination of desolation.

Back in 1925 the Governor put us back on to "The Gold Standard." Exports fell; unemployment increased. In 1930 came the Great Slump. In 1931

AN OUTSPOKEN BROADCAST

plied by increasing the number of owners. Every man should be the owner of his own home—and that means a real home, not some shack or a flat. Every man should have a right in the means of his livelihood

Apart from personal effects, the majority of people are not owners. They are property-less wage-earners. In times of peace the wages, even when earned, barely suffice to make ends meet. How is this state of affairs to be remedied in order to allow hundreds of thousands of Australians to become owners and there-by secure a measure of economic security and independence? This brings us to a most important point. And that is—Is it moral, just or right to deprive the people of the benefits of their own social services, such as gas, electric light, water supply, roads, trains and trams and other utilities?

You say No! Would it be right if private companies, for profit and by monopoly, charged us excessively or interfered with our liberty to walk down the street, to use the light, or travel in a tram? You answer-No! These are community rights and social services.

ALL RIGHT THEN! Why do we permit the most important service of all (Money, Credit, and Currency) to be privately-owned and controlled? This is the life-blood of our industry, of our life, of our nation. This MUST be in impartial hands, not for the good of the few, but for the good of the many. Money is the root cause of our trouble to-day and until we solve the Money Problem, we have solved NOTHING.

Britain had to go off gold. Trade recovery began. Nine months later the country was amazed to learn that Mr. Norman had agreed to a resolution favouring a return to the Gold Standard.

It is difficult to understand why Mr. Norman cannot be permitted gracefully to retire "full of years."

All this inevitably brings up the whole question of the future of both banking and industry. There are those who will still clamour: "Let us leave them alone and get on with the war." This, however, is impossible. The nature of industrial organisation has been changing constantly. It is desirable that we should not drift aimlessly, but should attempt to steer a good course. We should keep an open mind on the subject. There is, of course, what can be termed "straight Marxism." A great deal of play is made with the words, "the people must own the industries." What, however, does this ownership mean? Where, as a Frenchman would ask, does the worker "touch" the thing? You and I own a lot of battleships, and the Post Office, but it does not seem to affect us very much. The dilemma always arises: either a State organ-

isation is imposed from above, or the workers own and control their own individual factories. In this latter case it would be very difficult to fit these factories into a national organisation. An Anglo-Saxon compromise is no doubt possible. Certainly the Bank of England must become a true Bank of England—or of Britain—controlled by the Government, so that credit is granted for the benefit of the community.

We are in a transitional stage. Let selfish interests and doctrinal fanatics retire into the background. Let men of good will, of whom there are plenty, come forward and make a resolute attempt to harness the growing riches brought forth by the new science.

HOPEFUL SIGN

The following cable from London, published in the Sydney press on March 2, indicates a trend towards realistic thinking:

The "Economist" says the exclusion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer from the War Cabinet is recognition that men, materials, and machines come before money in the formulation of war policy.

Even the most conservative circles have learned to appreciate the overriding importance of production, and interest in the budgetary outlook is conspicuous by its absence.

A feeling nevertheless prevails that the burden, and, frequently, the inequitable incidence, of taxation are impairing industry's war effort.

Monetary Reform Activity in Canada

At a recent conference at Winnipeg an association was formed to be known as "The Democratic Monetary Reform Organisation of Canada." Delegates present included Mr. Aberhart, Mr. Solon Low, Mr. E. C. Manning, Mr. L. D. Byrne, Mr. J. Vans Macdonald and Major A. H. Jukes. The organisation is for "the purpose of mobilising the sovereign will of the people to secure the results they want under a monetary system administered in accordance with the principles of true democracy." Among the resolutions passed at the conference was one condemning "Union Now" proposals in the following terms:

"This national convention of monetary reformers condemns the open advocacy, particularly during this struggle for the preservation of democracy, of a scheme which would divest the people of Canada of all essential sovereign authority, destroy effective democratic government, submerge the British Empire in a conglomeration of countries dominated by international totalitarian authority, render the British Crown meaningless and sweep away everything for which the British people are fighting at the present time." It was also resolved that the Federal Government be asked to take steps to expose the dangerous nature of "this plausible scheme for International Financial Dictatorship" so that Canadians would not be misled by propaganda in its favour.

❖ A Sensational Booklet ❖

SECOND EDITION NOW AVAILABLE

The Enemy Within the Empire

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND

By ERIC D. BUTLER.



THE CONSPIRATORS.

Dr. Schacht (of the German Reichsbank) and Mr. Montagu Norman (Governor of the Bank of England) talking things over before the Second World War.

On the right is a facsimile of the front cover of our latest publication in booklet form.

It's a winner!

Those who read its contents when they appeared as a series of articles in the "New Times" will agree that it should be.

There was never such an exposure of "The Enemy Within." It's devastating!

52 pages. Price, 7d., posted. Dozen lots, 4/-, post free.

Order NOW from the "New Times," Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne.

"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.

BANKING CONTROL REGULATIONS

The National Security (War-time Banking Control) Regulations, made under the National Security Act 1939-1940, were notified in the "Commonwealth Gazette" on November 26, 1941. Although they have been extensively quoted and commented on, our readers may like to have the complete and exact wording for reference purposes. We therefore quote the official threepenny copy, obtainable from the Government Printer, Canberra:—

1. These Regulations may be cited as the National Security (War-time Banking Control) Regulations.

2. These Regulations shall come in to operation on the twenty-sixth day of November, 1941.

3. These Regulations shall be administered by the Treasurer.

4. For the purposes of these Regulations—

"the Commonwealth Bank" means the Commonwealth Bank of Australia established by the Commonwealth Bank Act 1911;

"trading bank" means a body specified in the Schedule to these Regulations.

5. A person or corporation (other than a bank of the Commonwealth or of any State) shall not, at any time after the expiration of three weeks from the commencement of these Regulations, carry on in Australia the business of banking, unless that person or corporation is in possession of a subsisting authority in writing granted by the Governor-General under these Regulations to carry on such business.

6.—(1.) Within three weeks after the commencement of these Regulations, the Governor-General shall grant to each of the bodies specified in the Schedule to these Regulations an authority to carry on in Australia the business of banking.

(2.) The Governor-General may withdraw any authority granted in pursuance of the last preceding sub-regulation if, after inquiry and recommendation by a Justice of the High Court, he is satisfied that the holder of the authority has persistently and wilfully contravened these Regulations.

7. In making advances a trading bank shall comply with the policy laid down by the Commonwealth Bank from time to time.

8. A trading bank shall not, except with the prior consent of the Commonwealth Bank, purchase or subscribe to government, semi-governmental or municipal loans, or purchase or subscribe to securities listed on any Stock Exchange in Australia.

9.—(1) Every trading bank shall lodge in a Special Account with the Commonwealth Bank such part of its surplus investible funds as is directed by the Commonwealth Bank in accordance with a plan approved by the Treasurer.

(2.) For the purposes of this regulation, "surplus investible funds" means, in the case of each trading bank, the amount by which its total assets in Australia at any time exceed the average of its total assets in Australia at the weekly balancing days in the month of August, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine.

10. A trading bank shall not withdraw any sum from its Special Account except with the consent of the Commonwealth Bank.

The Commonwealth Bank shall pay interest to each trading bank on the credit balance of that trading bank's Special Account at a rate determined from time to time by the Commonwealth Bank:

Provided that any rate so determined shall—

(a) not exceed a rate fixed by the Treasurer from time to time,

(b) be designed to secure that, in the judgment of the Commonwealth Bank, the trading profits of the trading

bank shall not exceed the average of its annual trading profits for the three years ended the thirty-first day of August, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine.

12. Every trading bank shall prepare and publish an annual balance-sheet and profit and loss account in accordance with a form specified by the Treasurer by order published in the "Gazette."

13. Every trading bank shall—

(a) furnish to the Treasurer, through the Commonwealth Bank, a statement of its profit and loss account in accordance with a form specified by the Treasurer; and

(b) furnish to the Treasurer, through the Commonwealth Bank, such statements in respect of its business as the Treasurer directs, and to the Commonwealth Bank such statements in respect of its business as the Bank directs:

Provided that such statements shall not disclose particulars of the accounts of any

individual customer.

14. Every person or corporation which accepts deposits of money shall furnish to the Treasurer, through the Commonwealth Bank, such statements in respect of its business as the Treasurer directs, and to the Commonwealth Bank such statements in respect of its business as the Bank directs.

15. The Auditor-General shall investigate periodically and at any other time when so directed by the Treasurer the books, accounts and transactions of every trading bank, and shall furnish to the Treasurer and to the Commonwealth Bank such reports upon the affairs of each bank as are directed by the Treasurer.

16. The Treasurer may, by order published in the "Gazette," either wholly or to the extent specified in the order, and for the period so specified, and subject to such conditions and restrictions as he may direct, exempt, from the whole or any of the provisions of these Regulations, any person or corporation or any classes of persons or corporations who are or may appear to be carrying on in Australia the business of banking, or who intimate in any way that they are performing banking services.

THE SCHEDULE.

Ballarat Banking Company Limited.
Bank of Adelaide.

Bank of Australasia.

Bank of New South Wales.

Bank of New Zealand.

Brisbane Permanent Building and Banking Company Limited.

Commercial Bank of Australia Limited.

Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Limited.

Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris.

English, Scottish and Australian Bank Limited.

National Bank of Australasia Limited

Queensland National Bank Limited.

Union Bank of Australia Limited.

Yokohama Specie Bank Limited.

NOT HIT BY PROFIT LIMIT

"Although many companies find it impossible to peg their position accurately under the Government limitation of profits action, the uncertainty would not appear to apply to banks to the same degree.

"By limiting profits to 4 per cent, on capital, a virtual ceiling is placed on dividends. On the basis that capital can be defined as share capital paid up in money or by other valuable consideration, plus accumulated profits, it means that companies paying dividends ranging, say, between 6 and 10 per cent, and possessing small or no Reserves in the way of accumulated profits will be obliged to cut returns to shareholders.

"The trading banks in Australia . . . have . . . been able to build up huge accumulations of profits and thus, for example, we find the Bank of New South Wales with Reserves in excess of 70 per cent, of the paid up capital. At 30th September, 1941 (last balance date) the Reserves of the 'Wales' totalled £6,379,345. Capital is £8,780,000. The total is £15,159,345 and 4 per cent, on the total is £606,373 or the equivalent of 6.9 per cent, on share capital. This Bank has been paying shareholders 6 per cent, p.a. for the last five years. Profits over the same five years averaged £546,769. Thus, it would seem that the fixation of profits at 4 per cent, on capital to a company so constituted would not affect dividends or even peg profits at current levels.

"The Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Limited is somewhat in the same category. Share capital is £4,739,012 and, at the 1941 balance, visible Reserves totalled £4,422,428. Profits for the term were £384,589, and, although the profit yield on capital last year was 8.1 per cent., the yield on capital and Reserves combined was only 4.2 per cent. The C.B.S. is paying shareholders 7½ per cent, and the dividend is not taking all the available profits.

"Indications, therefore, are that the new Regulations will not affect bank profits and dividends to the same extent as in the majority of trading companies."

~"Rydge's," March, 1942.

It is curious how such dangerous errors keep on recurring.

CHINA FRONT. "At long last China has been brought within the circle of countries with which payments to and from the sterling area are regulated by official agreement." Those words are used in the "Herald" of March 2, to describe the culmination of Sir Otto's negotiations mentioned some time ago, and they leave no doubt about China being firmly snared in the financial debt-trap.

-O.B.H.

NOTES ON THE NEWS

(Continued from page 1.)

BORROWING PROFITS. The following report from the "Herald" finance writer illustrates the stranglehold the banks have on the business community, and the stupidity of business executives: "Availability of cash will be the principal problem in the payment of dividends; most energetic, sound companies hold only small sums in cash—generally, dividends are paid by bank overdrafts against assets." Just like borrowing money to save up. This should also make it clear that there is a difference between big business and banks, and that in the last analysis the banker holds all the aces.

PARTY BOSSES. Senator Sampson (U.A.P.) is reported in the daily press as having asked in the Senate: "If the Prime Minister intended to discipline Mr. Ward for objecting to investors receiving interest from war loans while soldiers give their lives." He evidently thinks that Mr. Curtin elected Mr. Ward to Parliament—not the electors of East Sydney.

CAMOUFLAGE. Behind the meaningless abstraction of the "Atlantic Charter," specific decisions were made which only now are being presented. The following comment on post-war matters comes from "the 'Herald'" of February 25, and sheds light on dark spots: "Benefits to U.S. may be repayments in kind, property or any direct or indirect benefit which the President deems satisfactory." It is reported that the dominions have been consulted in this matter—which, of course, does not mean the people in the dominions. Trade arrangements of a nature likely to prevent satisfactory post-war arrangements should be limited, to "the duration" only.

SOLDIERS' PAY. Following the Japanese practice of doubling the coolies' pay in occupied countries, the U.S. Senate have doubled their soldiers' pay to bring private's income to £3 a week in Australian money. It is not stated whether or not the Wall Street bankers follow our practice of taking it off them again in taxation. Our financial controllers will certainly be busy, through the press, discounting

the need for increasing the niggardly pay of our troops. However, they cannot blame the shipping position for our money shortage, because every million is made in Australia by local "tradesmen" from trifling materials.

CHRISTIANITY? The N.Z. Methodist Church, after discussion behind closed doors, announced that the Rev. Burton is no longer a minister of that Church because of his attitude to the findings of their conference on questions of peace and war. Although Rev. Burton held pacifist views, he served in the last war, was wounded several times, and won a French decoration. Heil, the modern Christianity!

COMMISSAR CRIPPS. Berlin Radio, according to the "Herald" of February 28, says: "Cripps has pushed Kingsley Wood from his Downing-street flat, and established himself as Churchill's neighbour as Bolshevik Commissar of Downing-street, to see who comes and goes out of No. 10." The German observer seems to think that Cripps put himself there; which, of course, is not done under the bankers' code. Cripps has a past and a future, and may present the Sir Richard Acland's policy enunciated in his book "Unser Kampf." Keep your eye on the ball!

MORE "FREEDOMS." Following the "Atlantic Charter" and the U.S. "nine freedoms," now comes the British Labour Party's "four freedoms" which are too hackneyed to be repeated, except to say that the work-complex and planning (other people's lives) dominate it. The present time calls for specific results which will prevent the flood of totalitarian regulations and keep the sea lanes to liberty open.

SUGAR BUNGLER. The camouflaged conscription (call-up) now causes a sugar shortage. Senator Keane is reported in the daily press as saying that he is arranging for the release of refinery workers to correct the position. There have been hundreds of similar blunders, but our socialistic planners seem incapable of learning, even by actual experience.

A BANKER'S NEW ORDER

RED TAPE IN BRITAIN

Commentary on Sir Alfred Davidson's "The Economies of Peace"

Post-war reconstruction in Australia will entail more than enough work if by that time democracy is an actuality with the people authorising a monetary policy which enables them to organise their resources to achieve the effects they desire. Experience, however, occasions in realists the belief that an age of progressively greater freedom from economic mal-distribution, human oppression and frustration, and war, will not be entered until a policy of elimination of work (and the sharing without penalty of the resultant freedom) in the attainment of objectives is adopted, instead of making "full employment" the objective. The former makes for efficiency in production and Government administration while the latter encourages waste, manifestly bureaucratic "red-tape" government, destruction of produce, struggle for export markets and war.

As naturally expected, the reversal of cause and effect and confusion of means and ends, which go with the "full employment" philosophy are prevalent in Sir Alfred's new book. Taken separately, some passages would suggest that the quality of life desired and possible of attainment by the people has no part in "the new order." The chief end, it would seem, is "to promote the largest possible volume of international trade," to "begin an energetic and effective export drive as soon as the war is over"; in short, to elevate the idea of work for work's sake, and head straight for another war.

Other passages, however, have the stamp of sincerity in upholding much that social crediters and others have been advocating for years in the way of housing, education, nutrition, and general security.

The high-light of the book is the acknowledgment that economic policy "must make provision for a reasonable income for those thrown out of employment from time to time." Apparently the banks are to remain in control, for there is no suggestion for debt-free finance.

Regarding pre-war restrictions on essential international trade (my emphasis), Sir Alfred sees that the crux of the problem was not supply, but purchasing-power, "and," he adds, "the problem will not be different after the war." (!) He indicates that the distribution of raw materials will depend upon supplies of foreign exchange accruing as the proceeds from exports from the country wishing to buy raw material. Yes, Sir Alfred, but the ultimate sale of exports depends on the supply of spending money of the people in the importing country, and that, in peace time, thanks to your debt-finance policy, is never sufficient to buy all home production at just prices, and, therefore, it is not sufficient to buy imports of the same value as exports and the remaining goods, except at a loss. This deficiency in turn can only be bridged by the

further pledging of the people's assets to the Banks for the purchasing-power they lend us.

Frequent reference to the need for "cheap food," "raw materials at lowest possible prices," etc., are witness to the author's unawareness that prices are only relative to the purchasing-power distributed in generating them. When the Banks restrict credit (purchasing power) they cause a depression, prices are reduced to below cost because consumers cannot "afford" to pay more.

Sir Alfred naively puts the cart before the horse thus:—"In the between-war period the prices of raw materials fluctuated violently, causing alternate booms and depressions. . . ."

A complete analysis of the inconsistencies in "The Economies of Peace" would occupy pages, but to Sir Alfred's credit it can be said that there is little evidence of his letting lack of FIGURES IN BANK LEDGERS obstruct his "full employment" programme, nor does he parade unduly the inflation bogey.

—G. K. TAVENDER.

Messrs. Burden Limited, of Charington-street, Euston, a firm of cloth makers and waterprooferers, and J. Douglas Scott, of Elgin-avenue, W.9, an architect, were summoned at Clerkenwell Police Court for executing a building or structural operation without the authority of a licence granted by the Ministry of Works and Buildings. Messrs. Burden Limited, pleaded "Guilty," and Mr. D. A. K. Morgan, counsel for the Director of Public Prosecutions, agreed to withdraw the proceedings against the architect.

Mr. Christmas Humphreys, for Messrs. Burden Limited, said that since the factory was damaged the defendants had to deal with eleven or twelve separate authorities. Some £4000 worth of machinery was left exposed to wind and weather, and a valuable export business to America was held up. When Mr. Scott took charge for Messrs. Burden, said counsel, a good deal of work had already been done. An example of the way in which an elderly architect afterwards had to spend his time was provided by a letter he wrote to Mr. Ricks, a director of the defendant company. He spent a Friday afternoon with the District Surveyor and the L.C.C., but was referred to the Ministry of Works and Buildings, where he spent the Saturday morning. From there he was

referred to the Borough Surveyor of St. Pancras, who sent him under a new regulation to another authority which had been set up. "If this," asserted Mr. Humphreys, "is the way in which the ordinary citizen, trying to carry out what is reasonable in the circumstances to protect his property and carry on with his war work, is treated, it is not the Crown which can complain about the behaviour of Burden Limited, but Burden Limited who are entitled to complain about the way in which they were treated by the Government department. I suggest that this is not a case in which Burden Limited should leave the court with the stigma of a conviction for what is really a technical offence."

The magistrate (Mr. W. J. H. Brodrick) said that he agreed and dismissed the case under the Probation of Offenders Act on payment of 50 guineas costs.

This Week's Gem

British Official Wireless states that it is noted with satisfaction in London that American industries have been ordered to give Russia priority over all other countries in supplies of war material. Supplies to Russia from America are expected to increase.—Melb. "Herald." March 12.

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 ½% 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.1.

S.C.M. OF S.A.

The next monthly meeting of the S.C.M. of S.A. will be held in the A.N.A. Building, Flinders-street, Adelaide, on, Thursday, March 26, at 8 p.m. After the general business is attended to, an address will be given by the chairman, Mr. D. J. Amos, on "How Australia Can Finance the War." All members are urged to roll up and bring their friends.

— J. B. Burgess, Hon Sec.

INTERNATIONAL COMMENTARY

(Continued from page 3.)

entirely different impression of Popham.

In the meantime, the "famous reporters," mostly supporters of the "Left," have been trying hard to tell us that Russia will eventually fight Japan. They told us that the first shot in the Pacific war would bring the Russians in on our side. Such was not the case. Both Russia and Japan said that they would maintain their neutrality pact. Russia will only fight Japan when it suits her. Stalin is fighting for his own ends. Possibly he is a little more realistic than some of our leaders. He has put Russia first all the time. It is high time that our "leaders" started to adopt the same policy in the British Empire. We want to know what we are fighting for. We don't want the policies of Churchill, Cripps, or any other "great leader." The ordinary people of the Empire are the people who matter. They are the basis of the Empire. It is time that they were considered more and the "leaders" less. Hannen Swaffer, the British journalist, summed the matter up when he wrote:—"Mr. Churchill entered the Commons, on returning from America, expecting an ovation. He didn't get one. His stock is falling every day. Yet, if by a calamitous happening, he had been drowned returning from Washington, Britain and the British Commonwealth would still go on."

But the Empire will not go on if it is made subservient to the demands of Russia or any other country. And that applies to our war aims as well as our war material. There must be a clear understanding on this matter. We fight side by side with the Chinese, the Russians and the Americans. We appreciate any assistance they can give. But that doesn't mean that we must allow the Empire to be modelled on the Chinese military dictatorship, the Russian Communist dictatorship or the American financial dictatorship.

Postscript: Since writing the above article, I have read the following extract from an article by Eugene Lyons, the well-known former Communist journalist, who spent many years in Russia. This extract is from "Liberty" (America):—

"In giving aid and sympathy to Russia, let us, therefore, be thoroughly realistic, to the point of

cynicism. We must never forget that Stalin will sell us out without the flicker of an eyebrow at the first opportunity . . . Now that Russia—through no wish on its own part—is on the democratic side of the struggle, all the slimy Stalinist termites in America will work more openly . . . We must guard against them—because, now, as before, they have only one 'principle': service to the Kremlin. The fact that their interests coincide temporarily with ours makes them an even greater danger."

We must, here in Australia, prepare for a further flood of pro-Communist ideas when Russia "joins" with us in the war against Japan. But I think that Japan will make the decision for Russia the same as Germany did. The "Australian" Reds will conveniently ignore that.

Federal M.P.s Deplore Debt-Racket

(Continued from page 1.)

never been paid in the past. All that has happened has been an accumulation of more debt. In peace-time there was not sufficient money to keep our people in employment, but if this war goes on for another ten or fifteen years we shall have the money with which to fight it. Yet, if it finished tomorrow, our returned soldiers would be thrown on the scrap heap. It would be the same old tale that there was no money. I refuse to believe that the national Credit cannot be used in order to provide, free of interest and debt, every penny required for the war.

[We cannot, of course, agree with Mr. Langtry that "labour is the only wealth that this country has." What about our God-given natural resources and our common cultural inheritance of technical knowledge, invention, etc.?—Ed. "N.T."]

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ALICE IN ORDER LAND

From "The Dundee Courier and Advertiser," November 15, 1941:— (Contributed with Apologies to Lewis Carroll.)

"Silence," shouted the Madcap. "We must have orders and economy—economy of paper, coal, light, food, clothing, and things."

"What's orders? What's economy?" asked Alice.

"Economy," said the Madcap, "is getting an office, appointing officials, clerks, and issuing orders. Orders is orders in Orderland. Everybody gets orders—orders how to live, how to eat, how to clothe, how to spend, how to travel."

"Give me an example," said Alice.

"Eggs," said the Madcap. "Take eggs. There's registration, collection by motor car, petrol, coupons, clerks, graders, distributors, and then eggs —"

"Vanish," said Small Voice. "Rot-

ten."

"Who said that?" shouted the Madcap.

"I did," said Small Voice.

"Do you mean rotten eggs or rotten system or rotten Vanish?" asked the Madcap.

"All three," said Small Voice.

"Hush," said Alice. "It isn't good form to criticise an official idea."

"Who said forms? We must have forms," shouted the Madcap. "Forms! We can't economise without forms. Forms and coupons and orders—fill 'em up—rush 'em out."

"Is that what you call a campaign?" said Small Voice.

"Indeed it is," said the Madcap. "If you don't obey orders then comes the real pain."

"Ha, ha," said Small Voice. "Good joke."

"It's no joke," said the Madcap. "Those who disobey are threatened. Those who have thought out the most forms and most orders will be rewarded with free trips to Snoopoo."

"Where's Snoopoo?" inquired Small Voice.

"Everywhere and anywhere. That's a great secret," said the Madcap.

"I know," said Alice, "It's not a nice place. That's where people spy on each other."

"Is it anywhere near Gestoopoo?" asked Small Voice.

At this there was loud disturbance.

"Order, order, shouted, the Madcap.

"That seems to be our motto," said Small Voice.

DEFERRED PAY FOR THE MILITIA

Sir,—Since my article on deferred pay for the militia in your issue of March 6, I have noticed the following report in the Melbourne "Herald" of March 10. It was written by D. W. Lockwood, the "Herald" representative in Darwin:

"Surely it is time that troops in Darwin received the same status and consideration as the A.I.F. If ever Australian soldiers were in the front line, Darwin defenders are now, but they are still paying income tax, and getting only half the deferred pay allowed to oversea volunteers.

"Army officers here think it would help the morale of the men greatly if they were given active service status." (My emphasis.)

Everyone in the Forces is concerned about his position after the war. Give him practical evidence that he is fighting for security, not for another post-war depression, and he will redouble his efforts. Morale must increase.

I consider this issue, deferred pay for the militia, without increased debt or taxation, as one of the most promising issues for an Electoral Campaign that we have had for some time. Public opinion exists. Will we tap it?

I suggest that all Electoral Campaign groups throughout Australia give some thought to such a campaign.—Yours, etc., ERIC D. BUTLER, Melbourne

[Since this letter was written, the daily press has reported a Government decision to equalise Militia and A.I.F. conditions—"shortly." But daily press reports and politicians promises (lacking electoral pressure) are not always reliable.—Ed., "N.T."]

PROF. SODDY'S VIEW

Professor Frederick Soddy, the distinguished British physicist, wrote in "Cavalcade" (England), November 15, page 4:

" . . . On the other hand, a growing and progressive civilisation demands, as the Social Credit people advocate, the continuous issue of new money TO CONSUMERS—not as a loan or debt, but as a GIFT. This the writer unreservedly endorses."

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