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EVERY FRIDAY

THE NEW TIMES

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Now, when our
land to ruin's
brink is verging,
In God's name, let us
speak while there is
time!
Now, when the
padlocks for our
lips are forging,
Silence is crime.
—Whittier(1807-1892).

Grave Warning On Food Muddle

Criticism In Federal Parliament

The way in which Federal planners have disorganised, discouraged and sabotaged essential food production was severely criticised in the House of Representatives on March 25. According to "Hansard," this is what three M.H.R.'s had to say on this vital question:

Mr. Anthony (Richmond): I stress the danger that is likely to arise in connection with food supplies in this country, unless a great deal more care be taken than appears to be taken at the present time. The Minister for Supply and Development (Mr. Beasley), in particular, will have a very onerous duty in providing for the necessary food requirements of both Australia and our Allies in the forthcoming year. Because of the depletion of manpower on the farms, and the virtual evacuation of many country districts, due to enlistments and engagement in more attractive work in munitions factories in the cities, a very grave problem is developing. The north coast area of New South Wales, and the Northern Tablelands, constitute one of the most closely settled rural areas in the Commonwealth. I was surprised to discover, when I was up there a week or two ago, the number of vacant farms in a district in which, twelve months or two years ago, there would have been the utmost competition for any farm which became available. Now, places are being advertised and nobody is prepared to take them. Some farmers are being compelled by labour difficulties to reduce the size of their herds. The point that I make particularly is that, once a farm has gone out of production—the cattle having been turned out or the herd having been reduced by slaughter or sales, or allowed to become dry—additional production to overcome a shortage of butter cannot be achieved in a week or a month. The opportunity has gone; the farm cannot be brought back into production the owner cannot be induced to run it. Although New South Wales is a big producer of butter, for the greater part of the last twelve months it has not produced a sufficient quantity to feed its own population.

Mr. Frost: Was not the drought the cause of that?

Mr. Anthony: Drought and other causes. Labour conditions are contributing very seriously to the present position. For the greater part of the last twelve months we have had to import butter from other States of the Commonwealth. At the moment, there is a flush season as the result of good rains, with a consequent increase of production; but if we happen to have a dry season such as occurs during certain periods of practically every year, with the depletion of the herds, the closing down of various farms and the labour shortage, the Minister for Supply and Development, in particular, will have a problem impossible of solution. This applies not only to butter production but also to many other

try. It was necessary recently for the Minister to issue a regulation taking control of the entire tomato crop, because he could not otherwise obtain sufficient quantities for the troops. The shortage was due partly to drought, but mostly to the shortage of labour. The position is much the same in regard to vegetables. I have received sheaves of letters from people asking how they are to carry on if they, or members of their families, are called up, I have just received a letter from a farmer who has been called up for military service. He is the only man on the place, and he wants to know what is his duty. Should he go into the Militia, or should he endeavour to obtain exemption and remain on the farm in order to grow food? If he goes before the manpower officer, he will probably encounter some one with no knowledge of Australia's requirements in regard

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BUREAUCRACY BUNGLES, BLUFFS AND BLUSTERS-ONCE AGAIN!

The following item, "By a Dual Personality," and entitled "Shaking Off His Other Self," sneaked into the Melbourne "Herald" last Friday. It merited a suitable heading, double-column at least, on one of the first four or five pages—but, of course, it only got a small single-column heading on the back page:

While the Department of Manpower is still stressing the fact that several thousands of Australians cannot be issued with identity cards because they have not yet filled in their applications, it makes no mention of the number of people who have been doubly identified—issued with two identity cards bearing different numbers.

I thought that my double identification was singular—that I was the one in a million or so—so doing the decent thing I rang my Divisional Returning Officer to acquaint him of the facts and so save his helpers from incurring official wrath. I also had in mind the shortage of paper, for what if thousands of duplicating cards had been issued.

But, I am not thanked for doing the decent thing. First reply to my story was a curt: "You must have sent in two application cards, and if so, why?" Although inclined to become curt myself, I remained polite, and explained that I filled in only one card.

"Well, return the cards by return post," was the reply.

That I did over a week ago. There has been no reply, and I am quite unidentified now, having no card at all.

In the meantime, my father has

NOTES ON THE NEWS

HITLER'S FRIENDS: Arising from the U.S. Senate Patents Committee's inquiry, it is reported in the "Herald" of April 15 that, referring to the General Electric Co., the chairman said: "These gentlemen seem to have been holding hands with Hitler, while we are damning him." The same issue reported that Montagu Norman, the man who partly financed Hitler, has been re-appointed Governor of the Bank of England, despite strong criticism by members of the British Parliament. Hitler evidently has some powerful friends.

LEASE-LEND: There is much going and coming by lease-lend experts. The central figure appears to be Mr. Hopkins; however, the following news items in this connection is worth noting: "The U.S. Treasury department uses probably more personnel than others in the co-operative work, as instance the statement of Mr. Morgenthau: 'Britain would never be allowed to suffer from a shortage of funds.'" This implies that Britain depends on U.S. for her money supplies, which certainly is news; the practical layman would be more impressed if these financial theorists guaranteed "no shortage of planes, ships, tanks and guns"—which are much more important than funds.

COUNCIL DEBTS: Arising from the banking regulations imposed by the bankers through the Government, councils have to put the screw on

ratepayers. The Northcote Council has authorised expensive advertisements in the local press (at the ratepayers' expense) urging prompt payments "because overdrafts have been reduced—thus preventing works from being carried on." Even a child can detect the bankers "don't spend" policy, which the Government is imposing. Maybe the crazy idea of the planners is to save up the work to avoid the after-war depression—a frantic endeavour to save their unworkable financial system from crashing.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS: The obvious prejudice displayed by police magistrates in trying these cases is a sad reflection on the alleged impartiality of the custodians of the people's rights. Irrespective of how one views the attitude of conscientious objectors, their courage is beyond question; because it requires strong conviction along with equal determination to maintain them against the brow-beating and insults heaped upon them, especially from supposedly educated P.M.'s whose attitude is not likely to encourage confidence in our institutions of justice.

MAN-POWER BUNGLER: Criticising the man-power authorities for refusing to release skilled men for vital munitions production, a union official is reported in the "Sun" of April 17 thus: "Singapore, Malaya and Java were lost because of lack of equipment, and unless skilled men are released for munition work Australia will be the next country lost." It is more than strange to note the dangerous monotony with which these reports appear, illustrating the incompetence of the men in charge of these matters—they seem incapable of learning that the Army depends entirely on the civil front.

U.S. PROBLEMS: Under the heading, "Fair Deal for U.S. Workers," a report from America says that ten companies refused to employ Jews and negroes, and that unless they discontinued this practice they would be fined, and their war contracts suspended. Taking the report at its face value, it is pleasing to note that the well-being of the Negroes is also receiving sympathetic consideration.

BANKRUPTCIES: These show a marked reduction in the last few months. January, 1942, shows 43 as against 78 in 1938-39; the report does not disclose, 1941 figures, a matter which would need investigation since these figures are used in support of prosperity in propaganda by the press. It is true that war has placed many thousands of unemployed on the Government pay-roll at a few shillings per

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DEMOCRATIC VICTORY OR THE SLAVE STATE?

The conclusion of the address given at the Winnipeg Monetary Reform Convention of October, 1941, by the Technical Adviser to the Alberta Government, Mr. L. D. Byrne.

The primary consideration in all organisation is the objective—because the purpose of organisation is to gain a pre-determined objective by the most efficient means—that is, by the right means, using the term in the sense that "that is right which works best."

The objective of organised community life has never changed. It is to enable individuals to gain the maximum personal security and freedom from their association. Or, in other words, to obtain the results they want as the outcome of their organised efforts.

The form of organisation which will achieve this is one in which the members of a community, collectively, constitute the supreme authority. It entails the sovereignty of the people in determining the results they get—and this is the basis of what we call democracy.

The means by which those results can be attained depend upon the application of specialised knowledge. While some of the people will have this knowledge on one branch of activity, the majority are invariably ignorant about that particular subject. While each might be a specialist in something, they cannot be experts on every subject. So that, while there may be general agreement on the results wanted by those comprising a community, when it comes to a question of methods for obtaining those results the majority is invariably wrong. Besides, even those who have the specialised knowledge are unlikely to agree on the best method.

The branch of organisation dealing with devising and applying methods to produce certain results is termed "administration." And the principle involved is for the people to appoint those who are prepared to accept responsibilities to get them the results they want in various branches of activity, and to give them a free hand to adopt the methods they con-

sider best, and to judge them by results.

RESPONSIBILITY UNITED WITH AUTHORITY

Responsibility must carry with it authority to perform the duties entailed. And just as responsibility without authority simply will not work, neither will authority without responsibility. The mess in which the world flounders to-day is evidence of this fact—for the authority exercised by our financial rulers and governmental bureaucrats is devoid of all responsibility to the people.

What do we mean by authority? It is the right to impose one's will on others. In the world as it is constituted, authority must be backed by sanctions—or, if you prefer, the means to enforce one's will.

Now, in a functioning democracy, ultimate power resides with the people, and all other authority is delegated by them. This supreme authority—or sovereignty—is backed, in the final analysis, by force; for example, the armed forces, the police, and so forth.

So much for the broader considerations of social organisation. Without going into specific details it is necessary for us to consider two other questions of major importance—the means by which the people can assert their will (a) in the sphere of government or politics, and (b) in the economic sphere.

We can, perhaps, obtain a clearer concept of these questions by comparing them, in their relation to society, with the organisation of, say, an industrial concern.

In an industry the shareholders and the board of directors elected by them are concerned with policy—and policy only. All questions of technical methods are left to the management—and if the desired results are not forthcoming the management is changed by the directors, or, if the latter do not remedy an undesirable state of affairs, the

shareholders can change their directors.

In the same way a properly organised democracy would have two distinct branches—that which has to do with deciding policy and the administrative branch dealing with methods.

The people, or the shareholders in the commonwealth, must have the means for making known their wishes in regard to the results they want and the means for enforcing their will.

THE MONEY SYSTEM IS A VOTING SYSTEM.

The most effective means which have been devised for ascertaining the wishes of individuals, and getting at "the will of the people" are the various systems of voting. Those which will be most familiar to you all are the political voting system and the plebiscite. However, there is another voting system we all use much more extensively, but the fact that it is a voting system has been very carefully hidden from the people. This is the monetary system.

Now, money is one of the chief organising agencies which has been devised by the human mind. In fact, it is primarily an aid to economic organisation. By distributing recognised claims to goods and services in the form of money, we ensure that individuals can go into stores where the goods are displayed and obtain what they want. By so doing they are getting the results they want from the economic system.

It will be plain that, under our modern complex economy, to the extent an individual has money, he possesses economic voting power. To the extent an individual lacks money, he is without economic voting power. And, finally, to the extent he can obtain money only on conditions over which he has no control, his effective economic voting power is restricted.

If, in the necessarily cursory review of these matters which I have given you, I have succeeded in presenting a clear idea of, firstly, the most important features of the situation we have been facing, and, secondly, the basic factors involved in the organisation of society to conform to the requirements of a natural social order—then you will readily agree with the following summary of the points which emerge:

(1) In a democracy the State and all its institutions exist to serve the sovereign people, and the people will obtain the results they want from the management of their affairs.

(2) In point of fact this has not been happening in the democratic countries. The people have been forced to accept conditions which have been imposed upon them—conditions diametrically opposed to those they wanted.

(3) This has been achieved by means of the monetary systems under the control of a centralised power.

(4) This money power has used the financial system to render ineffectual the people's economic voting power. And because the control of money carries with it control of the things money will buy centralised control of financial policy means centralised power over every aspect of economic activity. Thus effective government has been transferred from parliaments and legislatures to bank parlours and the small group of international money manipulators in whom resides the ultimate control.

(5) The result has been to render ineffective the sovereignty of the people and the instruments of democratic government.

Now it will be plain that the broad policy behind the attempt to enslave humanity, is to continue the process of centralisation of power until the

people do not possess even their present democratic rights.

THE ESSENTIAL TASK.

I submit that the essential task which confronts us is to defeat that policy and establish the opposite policy of a progressive decentralisation of power.

How are we going to achieve that objective? Clearly the crux of the question is to transfer power from the control by a small group of men to the people as a whole. But how?

To decide this we must, I submit, get back to first principles in the organisation of democracy. The people must become the supreme authority, so that the State and its institutions operate in obedience to their will.

Unless we remain blind to reason it is certain that we cannot hope to achieve this by using the means which have resulted in the present mess. For example, it is useless for the people to expect that they can go out and vote for this or that party candidate every three or four years, and then go home and leave their affairs to party management. The professional party politician has a vested interest in his party and is subject to control by those who control his party. And those who control his party are those who, in the final analysis supply the party funds. Is it any wonder then that representative government has ceased to represent the will of the people, and that it functions in obedience to financial domination? And that state of affairs will continue until the representatives of the people are forced to represent their constituents.

To achieve this the people, as the sovereign authority, must be organised. Unorganised they are nothing more than a helpless mob which can be stampeded hither and thither. Properly organised they become an invincible force whose authority is supreme.

The task which confronts us is to enable the people of this country to organise themselves as an effective democracy. And provided we remain true to the basic principles involved, we can do it.

Now the strategy of all tyranny is to divide and confuse. To counteract that any effective organisation of the people must unite and eliminate confusion.

That unity can be achieved on the basis of agreement as to the results desired. So the people's organisation must be able to enforce "the will of the people" at all times on all questions of policy, and be proof against the dangers of disintegration resulting from differences over methods.

Without going into the matter in any detail, I will give you my views, for what they are worth, on the kind of organisation which will meet these requirements.

The unit of organisation would be a group of ten under a leader elected by the members. In any district the leaders of ten groups would form a district council under a leader of their own choosing. These district leaders in a suitable area, e.g., a constituency, would constitute the divisional council, likewise under an elected leader. And in the same way the provincial council would consist of the divisional leaders, who would choose a provincial leader after consultation with their divisional councils. The provincial leaders together with the elected national leader would constitute the national executive.

The basis of the entire structure would be the free association of individuals in groups, and the elected leaders all along the line would hold office at this pleasure of those upon whom they are dependent for election. All questions of policy would

(Continued on page 3)

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FAKE COMPETITION AND FINANCIAL CONTROL

A Dialogue Broadcast from 7HO Hobart, at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday, April 26, by The Electoral Campaign Speakers.

B.—Last Sunday you spoke about the great modern organisations, the industrial, financial and political organisations; you said the larger these organisations become the more inefficient they become, and the more unsatisfactory are the results produced.

J.—Undoubtedly; except in a few exceptional cases—cases which are growing more exceptional every year. High quality goods are going off the market; goods are becoming more shoddy and the prices demanded for those shoddy goods are higher than the prices that were once demanded for the high quality goods.

B.—And you say this is due to the centralisation of the control of money in the hands of a few men?

J.—Yes, the centralisation of the control of money brings with it the centralisation of industry and politics.

B.—The power to do things, to decide things, to make things, is taken away from the country, the village and the small town and centered in Hobart.

J.—Yes, and the control is then taken from Hobart to Canberra.

B.—And from Canberra to London.

J.—And from London to New York.

B.—And so the world is run by absentee managers.

J.—Men who sit thousands of miles away and decide what you and I have to do.

B.—Whether we have to have a few years' depression or a few weeks of so-called prosperity. These men who control the financial arrangements of this world—according to you, they also control large-scale industry?

J.—Yes, they definitely control large-scale industry and they have definitely decided to destroy small-scale industry. And these men are being helped by the politicians—Labor Party politicians, United Aus-

tralia Party politicians, and the union bosses.

B.—Otherwise they could not have carried on their work of destruction.

J.—Of course not.

B.—But I want to come back to my question of last Sunday. What I want to know is why, with all the so-called cut-throat competition, we ordinary people have been able to get so little security, leisure or service out of it. I would think that, when people are competing desperately for the privilege of selling you all kinds of commodities, one would get excellent service, vast quantities of things of high quality at low prices—but we don't. Our clothes are not cheap, and good quality food is so high in price that large numbers of families are undernourished. One would think competition would alter all that, but it hasn't—that's the mystery.

J.—Well, suppose we look at it this way: The majority of families after they have paid for rent, food, lighting and fuel, have but a £1 a week or less to pay for clothes, transport, entertainment, holidays, doctors, etc., etc. Which means that the huge factory system of the world has to turn out goods low enough in price to come within the limits of the few shillings left in the housewife's purse.

B.—Well?

J.—Well, there are not enough shillings left in the housewives' purses to pay for a quarter of the things which the electric-power-driven, mass-producing, automatic machines of this world can turn out.

B.—Well?

J.—Many firms go bankrupt, others are pushed out of production by being bought up and shut down by the firms who can obtain the necessary funds.

B.—You mean by the more efficient firms?

J.—No, by the firms who have financial backing from the private banks.

B.—Goon!

J.—The result is that although we have bursts of frenzied competition in some spheres and one or two great fights, when two rival gangs meet, these are gradually being brought under control.

B.—Competition is being eliminated.

J.—Of course it is. There is competition in the making and the sale of high-quality goods, but the sale is very restricted. There are very few people in this day who can afford to buy high quality goods. People say there is no demand for high quality goods, but that is not true. What they mean to say is that people cannot afford to pay the price demanded in money.

B.—So that the only thing left for our scientists, inventors, engineers and manufacturers to do is to make cheap things.

J.—Make things for chain stores.

B.—Yes (laughing), nothing over 2/6.

J.—That I think represents a fairly good picture of the purchasing power of the people and the quality of the goods they are able to buy.

B.—I think it also gives a fairly good picture of our civilisation.

J.—What, nothing over 2/6?

B.—Cheap and nasty!

J.—So we come to the position where most of our factories are diverted to the production of low quality goods.

B.—Except in war time.

J.—Except in war time, when the "goods" are of very high quality.

B.—But these are not for sale to the public.

J.—No, these are given away free (to the enemy). But I wish you wouldn't drag me away from the argument; I don't know where we are now.

B.—I don't think I have spoiled the argument. You said most of our factories produce low-quality goods in peace time; I said they produced high-quality goods in war time, and you said these goods are not for sale to us but are given away free. What I want to know is why can't we have the high quality goods in peace time and give them away free to the people who want them.

J.—Good heavens, woman, you couldn't do that.

B.—Why?

J.—Why, look at the storm it would raise. You would have everybody up against you.

B.—But why?

J.—Don't you know that it is laid down by the Hebrews that if a man does not work, he must starve.

B.—He must starve even if we already have more food than we can use?

J.—Yes; starve if he doesn't work.

B.—But what if he can't get work?

J.—He must starve.

B.—What if machines do most of our work?

J.—He must still starve.

B.—But why?

J.—That is our religion.

B.—What, the Hebrew religion?

J.—Of course.

B.—I thought we were supposed to be Christians.

J.—That was long ago; we still retain the name, but it has been revised and "modernised." If I remember rightly I once read about the Founder of Christianity saying: "I come that you may have life, and have it more abundantly."

B.—I suppose the founders of our "modern" religion say: "You can have a peep at life at 4 per centum per annum . . ."

J.—"But, remember nothing over 2/6!"

B.—I wonder how we came to allow our ideas to become so twisted, so contrary to the realities of life?

J.—Long training, my dear woman. A hundred years of education. You will find most of the obstacles to real progress among the working men themselves; they have suffered most from false propaganda. If I want the truth I know where to find it and I get it—the working man has to rely on the daily press. The working man does not look upon a factory as a place where things are turned out for his home or his family, but as a sort of penitentiary, a prison, where he "does time" eight hours a day for fifty years for union wages. That's how he looks upon it, and he is right. That's what it is meant to be. The fact that a factory turns out anything of value is a mere co-incidence. The gang who control financial institutions have not the slightest interest in the production of goods; their chief interest is monopoly of all power. Lust for power; control of money and politics give them that power. By the crippling of agriculture people are driven into the towns for work. No work, no money. We must seek work in the giant organisations in order to get bread-tickets. The independent man is a thing of the past. Taxation and monopoly have reduced us all to the ranks of the proletariat — disinherited wage-slaves without roots, without stability, without a future.

B.—Not without a future. We are fighting for that future now, are we not?

J.—I have no faith in any future that is not built by you and me and the great mass of men and women who carry the burden of life in this country. I have not the slightest faith in the great brain trusts and the would-be planners and the international intelligentsia; they are just the same old gang with up-to-date names to hide their identity.

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Democratic Victory or Slave State?—Continued

be decided by the general membership. All questions of administration would be left to the respective executives.

At first sight there may seem nothing very remarkable in that form of organisation, but I assure you that, given the necessary incentives, it would prove invincible.

Suppose, for example, such an organisation existed in this province, and a majority of the people belonged to it. No elected member of the legislature, no newspaper, in fact no other organisation could refuse to obey "the will of the people" as expressed through its membership. Consider its control over newspapers' circulation, over elections, over payment of taxes and so forth, and you will get some idea of the sanctions it could invoke to enforce its authority.

Again, because the members of the various elected councils—district, divisional, provincial and national—could remain in office only so long as they had the support of those who elect them, they would be responsive to the wishes of the members all the way along the line.

I have merely touched upon a couple of the features of this type of organisation. Details of its constitution and its possibilities would, necessarily, be a subject for special consideration. For the present I am concerned only with raising this question in a general way.

Finally let me make it plain that the adoption of this form of organisation does not necessarily mean scrapping any existing organisation. It can proceed as a parallel mechanism which will ultimately, by a natural process, replace others as it unites people at present divided by loyalties to a multitude of ineffectively organised bodies.

* * *
That, ladies and gentlemen is the situation as I see it. It is your privilege to agree or disagree with the views I have placed before you.

The stark fact is that we are face to face with a desperately urgent situation—a situation in which everything we hold dear is being threatened by ruthless forces.

It is of little use merely recognising the peril which confronts humanity. It is worse than useless hoping that conditions will right themselves, while the forces of destruction carry us with increasing momentum toward certain and large-scale disaster. It is criminal folly to refuse to recognise the gravity of our plight.

There is one and only one hope of averting the tragedy towards which we are being hurried—and that is action along effective lines and over a sufficiently wide area.

It is within your power to give the leadership and the inspiration which will invoke such action.

—Reprinted from "Today and Tomorrow."

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THE NEW DESPOTISM

"The government which governs least, governs best." This brief statement might almost be used as the complete ideal of democracy. It is based on the principle that the State exists to enable the citizens to develop their own initiative and personality to the maximum consistent with community life.

Opposed to this ideal are those who more and more project the State into the life of the individual; those who believe that the State must plan and control the activities of the people. These would-be planners, whatever labels they may choose for themselves, are fundamentally alike. It is not mere coincidence that Mussolini, Hitler and Laval, now dictators, were formerly advocates of Socialism. Once the idea of planning by a central authority is accepted, the step from one group to another is very small. Such centralised planning has an effect on the State similar to that produced by drugs on an individual. The drug addict experiences a physical and mental degradation. For relief the victim takes more drugs. So, when Government planning produces confusion and inefficiency, the planners, unable or unwilling to realise or admit the cause of the social ill-health, have one cure for every-thing—more plans.

Prior to and during the present war Australia has seen a vast increase in Government control. Boards are growing in number and in scope; regulations and licences and restrictions are more numerous; people are being categorised and labelled and indexed. More and more they resemble ticket-of-leave men, who must make periodical reports of residence, qualifications, parentage, domestic relationships, business activities, etc. More and more time is being taken filling in forms and keeping filing systems and records, with consequent irritation and loss of man-hours. Offices, shops and factories are becoming infested with a swarm of inspectors who spend more and more time enquiring into the lives of citizens, and less and less in protecting property and social welfare.

Apple and Pear Acquisition "Schemers," unabashed by a loss of millions and the destruction of enormous quantities of needed fruit, still continue their muddling existence. Mr. Dunstan warns us against an impending food shortage, while all manner of restrictions are being imposed—all under the sacred name of "planning." Undeterred by facts, Mr. Ward, Minister for Labour, and one of our most enthusiastic planners, would nationalise coal-mining while a State-owned mine is on strike.

On all sides are would-be planners, whose only discernible qualification appears to be an intense desire to control other people—the more the better. In this respect all our Federal political parties are really "united" parties. All such parties and people are antagonistic to the principles of democracy. The function of a member of Parliament is not to practice pet theories on electors; but to implement the wishes of the majority. The degree to which this principle operates is the extent to which the democratic ideal is being attained.

PITY THE POOR BARLEY GROWER

A statement that a Hopetoun grower had received only £3/8/5 for 111 bags of barley and then had to deduct 4½d. a bag to pay for their stitching was made by Mr. J. Perkins (Rainbow) at the Wheat and Woolgrowers' Association annual conference on Tuesday. Conference decided to ask Federal Government for a further advance on barley.

Even worse than the case quoted was the experience of a Cannum farmer who brought his "deductions statement" to the "Warracknabeal Herald" office this week. This farmer delivered 1600 bushels of barley, on which the first payment of 11d. per bushel, totalled £73/7/6. From this amount was deducted cost of two bales of bags, £28/19/9; dockage for smut, 3d. per bushel, £20/0/3; freight, £28/7/-. This totals £77/7/-. leaving a debit balance of £3/19/6.

There was no mention of this latter amount on the statement, but when the farmer received his certificate for the first wheat payment he found that the amount of £3/19/6 had been deducted, the Barley Board having claimed from the Wheat Board.

The debit balance shown does not include cost of fuel, superphosphate, seed, bag sewing, labour, cartage costs, depreciation, etc., so

Washington Cum Wall Street Again?

Referring to the appointment of a successor to Mr. R. G. Casey in the post of Australian Minister to America, the Melbourne "Herald," April 15, says (inter alia):—

"Federal Cabinet this afternoon, appointed a successor to Mr. R. G. Casey. The most important of these formalities is submission of the name to President Roosevelt for approval." It would seem that whilst the selection of a candidate depends, not upon Parliament, but upon our more centralised Cabinet in this country, they go one better in the U.S.A. by allowing the final decision to rest with one man! And don't forget the nominee in question is to be one of US representing OUR interests. Frequent supplementation of U.S. for "us" might be attributable to printers' errors, but our new Pacific relation is undoubtedly Uncle Slam.

~"Scissors."

that on the whole the position of the barley grower is not an enviable one. -"Warracknabeal Herald" (Vic.) April 3.

MORE SOCIALIST SCIENCE

By B. M. Palmer, in the "Social Creditor" (England).

Taking part in correspondence concerning "Social Science" in "The Times" on December 30, Messrs. H. J. Braunholtz and W. B. Fogg, president and honorary secretary of the Royal Anthropological Institute, asked for the establishment of an organisation in which the several inter-related sciences which are concerned in social research would be represented. They wrote: "In default of united action, the knowledge of social problems available to post-war statesmen and politicians is likely to be incomplete and uncoordinated, and the basis of political action will be correspondingly unstable."

It is fairly safe to predict that the criminal waste of their own powers by present day research workers will be a matter of grave concern to future generations. They will see it as a squandering of the cultural inheritance. Most aspects of this subject have already been ably dealt with by Dr. Tudor Jones, and I wish merely to draw attention to the fact, apparently overlooked by the vast majority of scientists, artists and those who write books, that research or creation based on propaganda has no value at all except to the propagandists, whose aim is not an objective view of the true facts, but a biased representation thereof to suit their own purposes. Most of the literature of the social sciences, now of a vastness scarcely to be conceived a few years ago, is based on the propagandist doctrine that man should learn to adapt himself to his environment, not to control it, and that the agenda for this adaptation should be made by politicians. This is the view put forward in the letter quoted above. Thousands of young people are giving the best years of their lives to this type of research. It is one of the major tragedies of to-day. If Messrs. Braunholtz and Fogg get their way, still more time and energy will be wasted; and there will be many more books based on the misinterpretation of those words, which were surely

spoken in irony, if any words were so spoken—"The poor ye have always with ye."

One of these publications is the "Cambridge Evacuation Survey" edited by Susan Isaacs. It is one of a series of contributions to modern education under the same editorship, published by Methuen at prices from 4/- to 9/6. each. No attempt will be made to review this book in the usual sense of the word. It is a conscientious survey, within its own frame of reference, of the organisation of the removal of hundreds of Tottenham and Islington school children to Cambridge; of what the children said concerning their new life; of what the foster parents and teachers said; of successes and failures, and indication of how pitfalls can be avoided on future occasions.

The survey was completed between October, 1939 and July, 1940, and it is interesting to note that it was thought necessary to add the following footnote to the introduction:—

"Since the bombing of London's East End, we have seen how this need to keep the family together and to cling to familiar home surroundings may override even the worst dangers. Among the simple and the poor, where there is no wealth, no pride of status or of possessions, love for the members of one's own family and joy in their bodily presence alone make life worth living. So deeply rooted is this need that it has defied even the law of self-preservation, as well as urgent public appeals and the wishes of authority."

I wonder what the law of self-preservation is, or how it could be defined: in the last few lines of that footnote there speaks the totalitarian official, amazed at the people's challenge to non-immanent sovereignty.

From the introduction turn to the appendix where you will read, among other things, the following interesting information.

"In each cell the deviation from expectation is 2.1. There are 2.1 (Continued on page 5)

PRESS BOYCOTT OF BASIC ISSUE

TASMANIAN TREASURER'S EXPERIENCE

Mr. Dwyer-Gray, Treasurer of Tasmania, called at the "New Times" office last Friday, and remarked:

"Unorthodox finance is the great taboo! I have no complaints to make against the Melbourne press generally. In fact, during the last week, though I am the humble Treasurer of the smallest State in Australia, I got quite as much publicity in Melbourne on uniform taxation as if I had been the important Premier of the largest State in Australia; which had its humorous side, as I did not utter a single word at the Premiers' Conference. But when I proffered some remarks on national credit, on the 21st inst, to the Melbourne journal with the largest circulation and the greatest number of pages, it suddenly discovered that it had the smallest space and returned it politely with that prehistoric type of excuse. Yet the theme is, in reality, the most vital topic of the day and a thousand times more important than uniformity of taxation."

Thus the rejected contribution:—

There was more in finance, said Mr. Dwyer Gray, treasurer of Tasmania, than any question of taxation, and, certainly, what ever else the Commonwealth's scheme for uniform income taxation would do, besides increasing the taxation liabilities of Victorians by round about £4½ million, it would produce no uniformity of sacrifice whatever. His

Shaw, had once sagely remarked that if anyone wanted to attract attention, in a really good cause, he should be smilingly provocative. He was not at all afraid of startling conservative Melbourne, if it was conservative, by being what some who called themselves sound financiers roundly condemned as unorthodox. Labour was definitely of that heretical quality in Tasmania. He did not believe in financing the war by huge public loans and excessive taxation. Germany got both guns and butter by quite other means, and probably Japan was doing the same. It was the present Prime Minister (Mr. J. Curtin) who was reported to have said, three months after the declaration of war: "The cost of war can be met without piling up huge debts and without interest payments sucking national lifeblood." Apparently, Mr. Dunstan's Country Party organisation thinks the same. So did the Tasmanian State Political Labor organisation, in the precise terms of the Federal Labor Party's very specific platform on national credit operated through the Commonwealth Bank only. The policy of arranging large temporary overdrafts with that institution, to be funded a little later through public loans, merely added to Australia's short-term debts, and was not national credit at all. At least three, and possibly four, of the State

THE BIG IDEA

By C. D. Douglas, in the "Social Creditor" (England).

Now that Haiti and Costa Rica have declared their unalterable determination to fight until V-Victory is assured, it is perhaps possible, and permissible, to consider how we may recognise it when we see it. So far, this has clearly been inadvisable. Haiti and Costa Rica, while enthusiastically applauding war as a spectacle, have shown a marked preference for ring-side seats, and there is, even now, a strong feeling amongst their populations that this cutting of the ropes and mauling of the "fans," to use the language of the latest belligerents, is not the treatment they had a right to expect, or for which they had bargained.

But it is one of those attributes of war, which make it so popular in the highest circles, that once you have the populations bombing and drowning each other, and in a fair way to famine and pestilence, it doesn't matter what you say caused it, or what would end it except stopping fighting. No properly brought up people ever do that until they have effectively smashed up the furniture, and made it impossible to talk of "poverty amidst plenty" for a long time. "He that will not work, neither shall he eat," is restored to that eminence from which there were dangerous signs, only a few short years ago, that it would be deposed permanently. Already, the scarcity psychology is fully re-established. Everyone has a tendency to eat too much.

Dr. Arnold Toynbee, Secretary of The Royal Institute of International Affairs ("Chatham House"), in a speech which has often been quoted, remarked that the surest sign that he and others were engaged in what could be paraphrased as treasonable activities was that they strenuously denied it. I feel sure that this technique is widespread. It was explained at some length in "Spanish Arena," together with other curious matters. So that what little has been said of the goal of Y-Victory

MORE SOCIALIST SCIENCE.

more unhappily adjusted boys and happily adjusted girls, and 2.1 fewer happily adjusted boys and unhappily adjusted girls than there would be if there were the same proportion of happily to unhappily adjusted individuals in each sex," (Page 206.)

And on another page:—

"If a 3 x 2 table is constructed by taking the three age groups of foster mothers and dividing the cases in the two classes (plus 2, plus 1 or 0) and (minus 2 or minus 1) we find x squared equals .28, which (with two degrees of freedom) gives P equals .2 approximately."

There are still people in the country who are fortunate enough to be free from these things. Their cases are not entered on graphs made by social workers, their children are not included in the 37.3 per cent. of those who could not afford to pay, and algebraical tables are not made concerning their adjustment to new conditions. They can afford to be comparatively independent. But it is from among these more fortunate ones that the majority of Social Science research workers are recruited. Slumming is no longer fashionable. In its stead we have one section of the population studying and experimenting upon another, because to do so provides stepping stones to a safer career.

If this is a desirable state of affairs, "The Cambridge Evacuation Scheme" is an excellent book and well worth 8/6. If otherwise, the sooner it is forgotten the better. We

is not really reliable evidence that we shall recognise the goal when we stop fighting.

I have said many times, and take pleasure in repeating, that the Germans are, and have been for generations, a godsend to war makers, and a pest to Europe. The opinions of Lord Vansittart ad hoc, convey to me the impression of being the pronouncements of a competent, trained and experienced expert, and while he has expressly repudiated a "plan" for dealing with Germany and the Germans, I imagine that he could formulate one, and that it would be effective for some time to come—when we are in a position to put it into practice, as we were in 1918, and didn't.

But to agree with all this, and to admit that we have been manoeuvred, or have got ourselves, into a position in which we have to fight a long, devastating, and completely unnecessary war to some kind of a finish which will enable Lord Vansittart, say, to embody his views, is one thing, and to say, "It's all that Hitler," or even, "those b-----y Huns," is quite another. This war is too entirely convenient to plenty of people who don't intend to fight in it, for that to be much of an idea, although it is earnestly desired that the general public should accept it. To what extent the Germans, for their part,

have allowed themselves to be manoeuvred into the position of the "goat," is their business.

If you see a man undress on the bank of a river, and plunge in, and you are sufficiently interested to wonder why he did it, you can form three hypotheses:

- (a) He wants to commit suicide.
- (b) He wants to get to the other side.
- (c) He likes swimming.

You do not say, "This is astounding. No one ever did anything like this before. I can only assume that he wants to catch the 9.15 train to his office." Which is about the level of intelligence required to accept the theory that if it hadn't been for Hitler, the world would be an example of Great Men serving Noble Ends.

There is perhaps no more convincing single piece of evidence in regard to the existence of conscious, evil, forces energising a continuous policy, than the strenuous and skilful endeavour to present a picture of events and of history, as purely episodic. History is crystallised Politics, not disconnected episodes. Where it is possible to identify a continuous organisation, it is safe to postulate a continuous policy, and as every policy besides having a philosophy, has an appropriate mechanism, or form of organisation, it is also safe to conclude that similar mechanisms have similar policies and philosophies, even if one calls itself Na-

tional Socialism, a second, the Dictatorship of the Proletariat, and a third, the New Deal.

At once, I feel sure that some reader will protest, "Are not Haiti and Costa Rica, those great New Deal countries of the West, joined with Britain (once-great) and our Russian Allies in the struggle to destroy forever the Nahzee tyranny?" To which, the answer is, in Costa Rican. "Yep." At this stage, it is, I think, desirable to consider the meaning which could be attached to the remark attributed to the Archbishop of Canterbury nine or ten years ago, that it might take another great war to bring about those changes which were necessary in the world.

(To be continued.)

RIVERINA CONFERENCE

The annual conferences of the Riverina Monetary Reform Movement will be held at Barellan on Sunday, May 24, at 11 a.m.

All delegates and supporters are urged to keep that date open and make the conference as widely known as possible. Resolutions from branches and groups should be in the hands of the undersigned by May 7.

—William Ridley, Hon. Sec., Riverina Monetary Reform Council. Address: Box 333, Griffith P.O., N.S.W.

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THE CONSPIRATORS.

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

"In view of the disastrous policy followed by the Bank of England after the last war and the part it is believed to have played in the re-armament of Germany, does not the right hon. gentleman (Sir John Simon) consider it time that the people knew a bit more about the proprietors of this unique concern?"

—Mr. R. Stokes, in the British House of Commons, April 16, 1940.

PRICE - 6d.

SOCIALISM BY STEALTH

"SHABBY TREACHERY," SAYS BRITISH PAPER

"Is Britain fighting this war to defeat Nazi-ism and Fascism or to establish Socialism?" asks the "Dundee Courier and Advertiser" (Scotland) of December 4, in a leading article entitled "The Threat to Unity":—

"This may seem an absurd question, but as readers of yesterday's Commons debate on the new national service proposals, and of the report of the Labour Party meeting which followed it will find, it is not so absurd as it looks.

"It is clear that a considerable section of the Labour Party are intent upon breaking up the party truce and upon seizing the occasion, if they can manage it, to do big business for the Socialist cause."

Pointing out that it would be a mistake to take this movement too seriously, the "Dundee Courier" adds:—

"But thirty of the members at yesterday's meeting declared themselves in favour of an amendment demanding, as a corollary of national service, the conscription of wealth and the nationalisation of transport, coal mining and all the business now concerned with the production of munitions. . . .

"The prospects of wealth at the end of this war, which is now consuming it at so portentous a rate, are so very indifferent that a fight in its defence may well prove to be a fight for a shadow.

"That aspect of the question raised is hardly worth considering. What is worth considering is the effect upon our war prospects of the kind of politics the truce-breakers are pushing to the front—assuming for a moment their success. There is hardly room for a doubt that the effect would be disastrous, and that Hitler would win the war.

"Consider for a moment the consequences, at the present time, of a conscription of property. With a basic income tax at 10/- in the pound and a surtax rising to 19/-, the whole economic fabric by which the nation lives is maintaining itself precariously. What must happen if, in addition, the Government attempts to levy a conscription on wealth?

"The answer is obvious. It is just a grand wreckers' plan to bring the whole hypothec down in chaos—to produce untold confusion at the crisis of the most momentous struggle this country has ever been engaged in. Hitler would delight in the news of it.

"Are the proposals for the nationalisation of industry any better?" One of the Socialist speakers in yesterday's debate, Mr. Alfred Edwards, said that 'everything in this country is speeded up except the Civil Service, which is so constructed that it cannot be speeded up. We have created a Frankenstein which will destroy us if we do not do something about it.'

"We have no wish to dot Mr. Edwards' 'i's' and stroke his 't's.' His generalisation may be unjustly sweeping. Beyond doubt, however, it has its element of truth. In the bureaucracies 'red tape' is the enthroned enemy of swift action—often of all action.

"And nationalisation of industries means their management by a vastly enlarged and, therefore, more incompetent Civil Service. Frankenstein's monster is to manage the mines, the railways, the great industries, and the land.

"In all these departments of the national-life the monster has already intruded his hand, and many well-informed authorities tell us that most if not all of the disorganisation and delay of which we hear so much is due just to that intrusion.

"It is a great plan for stopping the war—in just the way that Hitler would like to see it stopped."

Continuing, the article emphasises that this attempt to impose Socialism in war time is directly against the principles for which we are supposed to be fighting, as the British Democracy had rejected Socialism on every occasion on which it had the opportunity to do so:—

"And now when the Democracy cannot be consulted, the most professedly democratic of all our politicians propose behind Democracy's back to effect the unwanted revolution. The whole idea is a shabby treachery to Democratic principles.

"Long before this war is over it will be evident to all that the chief of our difficulties will be to keep this country as a going concern, capable of repairing the immense damage war and our industrial organisation for war have done to its economic structure.

"And almost if not quite the greatest lesson we should learn now is to abstain from unnecessary damage to that structure.

"Already thousands of small businesses have been ruined by damage which was not necessary, and the neglect of others, traceable directly to the centralising fetish, is gravely impeding war production. One reason, said Mr. Henderson Stewart yesterday, 'why we do not yet come in sight of maximum production was

that we had failed to make effective use of the smaller industrial establishments scattered in thousands throughout the country.'

"That is a true saying, and in our case, both actual and looming ahead, infinitely more to the point than the disloyal clamour for more and ever more centralisation of industry under the guidance and control of giant bureaucracies — the revolution by stealth which certain people are intent upon engineering behind the back of British Democracy."

PRESS BOYCOTT OF BASIC ISSUE

(Continued from page 4.)

Parliaments of Australia, had, by express resolution, fully qualified themselves to be placed in the reproachful category of the unorthodox. He (Mr. Dwyer-Gray) was, therefore, cheerfully sinning in pretty good company. But in a few years' time national credit would be altogether orthodox in all civilised countries, and was a prerequisite to any real "new order." Then those who described themselves to-day as the apostles of "sound finance" would be regarded as the senseless heretics of the world's unhappiest times, and the Montagu Norman (appropriate alias, Professor Skinner when travelling) type of figure-juggler and interest collector, would become as dead as the dodo, and as much beyond recall as the late lamented Julius Caesar.

—P. Dwyer-Gray, Treasurer of Tasmania, Windsor Hotel Melbourne; 21/4/42.

NOTES ON THE NEWS

(Continued from page 1.)

day, and that thousands more are obtaining more income by working the clock around. But when the thousands are considered that have been reduced from £6 to £2/2/- per week, and the almost bankrupt primary producers, it would be unwise to accept the idea that total incomes are greater than pre-war. Especially when the daily press presents the proposition.

LASTING PEACE: Following Lord Halifax's statement that post-war problems can only be solved by Britain and America, now comes Soviet Ambassador Maisky, who declares that "lasting peace cannot be obtained without Russia's aid." Presumably Indian and Chinese representatives, and others, voice similar platitudes. Under the circumstances it looks as if they are heading for trouble if the U.S. bankers' "federal government" is persevered with, unless "Wall Street" can fix it so that all can come to the party.

PRODUCTION: The "Christian Science Monitor's" correspondent says "Australia's war production is already one quarter ton per person per year, compared with America's half ton per person per year." The measuring unit of tons per person per year is certainly a more realistic method of comparison than the unit of dollars or sterling. The report also stated that Australia's plant compared favourably with that of America in terms of efficiency, skill and technique. Sez you!

CAR REGISTRATIONS: Public pressure having compelled Mr. Dunstan to reduce motor registration taxes by 25%, he now presents himself as a benevolent fellow, and prattles about Victorian motorists being the lowest-taxed people when compared with other States. When this public servant learns that he is paid to do what his electors require, and not what he wants to give them, he may become a useful politician.

RUSSIAN FLEET: Now that the French have fully surrendered to Germany, with the grave danger of the French

Fleet being used against the Allies, it would not be too much to expect our gallant ally, Russia, to balance the scales by using her powerful fleet, at least for the purpose of bringing her own requirements from Britain. Probably the urgency and the wisdom of this move will be stressed very soon by the Australia-Soviet Friendship League?

CHILDREN'S HEALTH: As a result of employing mothers in industry, states the Education Department in its report for 1940-41, they frequently noted the harmful effect on children when the mother had to hand her responsibility over to neighbours. Impetigo, scabies and verminous heads were very noticeable. The percentage of underweight children was more noticeable where mothers were working. All this is largely the result of insufficient income, which compels the soldiers' wives to supplement the inadequate soldiers pay. It is certainly a disgraceful state of affairs for which our parliamentary representatives must accept responsibility.

A.R.P. EFFICIENCY: The city warden says that unless wardens sign the special form, setting out how they had carried out their duties, they would debar themselves and dependants from compensation for injury arising from war work. Here again can be seen the dictator-mind using the threat of cancelling benefits promised—it is certainly far from the British way of playing the game.

CANADA and INFLATION: Canada, we are told, is winning the battle against inflation (not against the enemy) by fixing a ceiling for prices, wages, salaries, etc. This is claimed by the press as a daring experiment. If the effort expended on beating the inflation bogey was put behind defeating the bankers who cause it by rigging the money supply, Canada and other countries could do a spot of extra war work.

TREASURY TYRANNY: Major Oliver Stewart puts the view in the London

URGENT JOB FOR ALL ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNERS

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—This letter is an urgent appeal to all Electoral Campaigners—particularly Electoral Campaign Groups in the various capital cities—to seize immediately the opportunity of demonstrating to the public the power of public opinion.

All members of the fighting forces from the rank of an N.C.O. upwards are to pay increased taxation. The scale of the new taxation varies as the rank increases.

Members of the A.I.F. coming home from abroad are aroused and angry that they are now being called upon to pay taxation—particularly as they were given a promise that they would be exempt.

The biggest outrage of all is the suggestion that soldiers—members of both the A.I.F. and the A.M.F.—be taxed on deferred pay!

The time has arrived when the public must get behind their fighting men and demand that there be no taxation of soldiers' pay. And soldiers themselves can still write to their Members of Parliament.

Send a letter to YOUR Member to-day. Make our slogan: "No taxation on soldiers' pay. Taxation destroys morale. Down with the financial fifth columnists."

I am convinced that this is an issue which can be used to take this country a big step towards really winning this war.

Social crediters, what about it?—

Yours, etc., Eric D. Butler.

BOOKS TO READ

"Money": What it is and how the Money System Works. By S. F. Allen. Price, 1/- each.

"Banks and Facts": How to Finance the War for an All-in War Effort. By Bruce H. Brown. Price 6d. each.

"Victory Without Debt": Showing that Victory can be Won Without Creating a Huge Burden of Debt to be Paid Off After the War. By Barclay-Smith. Price 1/- each.

"Answer to Tax Slavery": Explains the Taxation Racket, and shows WHY we Really Pay Taxes. By Barclay-Smith. Price 1/- each.

"New World Order": What Shape Will it Take? How Can it be Achieved? By S. F. Allen. Price 6d.

"Story of the Commonwealth Bank": The Story of the People's Bank and How it Could and Should be Used. By D. J. Amos. Price 1/- each.

Obtainable from the United Electors of Australia, Room 8, 5th Floor, McEwan House, Little Collins-street, Melbourne, C.I.

"Evening Standard" that "Treasury regulations are holding up aircraft intended for India and Australia, He further says that "when Ministers call for harder work, it merely causes civil servants to busy themselves in increasing forms and formalities—it is the work of some officials simply to go round in circles—a call for more action just means that they go round faster." It's a pity the troops can't get at those behind the scenes who prescribe the circles for the civil servants.

PRESIDENT MacARTHUR: The "Sun" of April 24 says: "The name of General MacArthur seemed naturally to crop up at the Republican conference in Chicago as a presidential possibility for 1944." An examination of this chap's record discloses that it is purely military. It would be strange indeed for any candidate for presidency not to have a strong financial tie-up. His rise from comparative obscurity and the propaganda handed out by the daily press indicate that he will be worth watching.

THE "FUTURE" OF MUSIC AFTER THE PRESENT WAR

By Kaikhoshu Shapurji Sorabji, in the "Social Crediter" (England).

I have purposely put "Future" between inverted commas, as I am immorally certain that as far as England is concerned, music after the present and second outbreak of "Freedom and Democracy" has none. Music, the most intimately personal, the most individual and individualistic, of the arts, is not likely to be tolerated—except in the most Marks-and-Spencered, the most standardised and robotised of forms after a War whose real and concealed purpose—as distinct from its propagandised purpose is the production of the Universal Robot under the Universal Totalitarian Tyranny, whether it be "European Federation" genre Adolf Hitler, or "Federal Union" genre Streit-Kuhn - Loeb - Bank - of - International - Settlements.

In other departments of human activity the suppression of individual activities—part of the conspiracy against the integrity and security of the individual, which is anathema to the not-so-hidden-hand of the International Wirepullers of "La Haute Finance"—which has made such frightening inroads since 1914, I will leave others better qualified than myself to animadvert: I propose to pass in quick review here just what has happened to musical activities in England since 1914, when the asphyxiating fungus and pest of broadcasting was still in embryo.

Those of us who remember the bulk—and quality—of music in London alone during the decade preceding 1914 and contrast it with what is now left after the breath of the B.B.C. has blown over it, and the first "Freedom and Democracy" shattered it, are tempted sometimes to wonder almost whether we are living on the same planet, let alone in the same city. In those years there were in London alone four full-blown Symphony Orchestras, which between them were responsible for at least six series of Symphony Concerts a season, not to mention the Sunday afternoon series conducted one apiece by the National Sunday League and the Sunday Concert Society, which brought the total up to eight. There were three or four seasons of opera in the year at Covent Garden alone, totalling anything from twenty-eight to thirty-five weeks of opera in the year, not to mention the operative activities of the many well-known and old-established organisations such as the Carl Rosa, the Moody-Manners, and many other companies who thought it both worth their while, and financially practical politics, to start other seasons as well, such as the public for music and opera in London in those days. The more cloistered and ascetic practice of chamber music was as prevalent there were bodies like the Classical Concert Society, the "Societe des Concerts Francais," the London String Quartet, the visits of such famous parties as the Roze of Vienna, the St. Petersburg String Quartet, the Geloso of Paris, and others whose names for the moment escape me, all of whom gave regular London series of concerts.

The great society hostesses vied with one another in giving the most brilliant of musical parties and receptions as well as, by their regular patronage, keeping music in a vigorous and flourishing condition both in its operative and its purely instrumental manifestations.

When "Freedom and Democracy No. 1" had finished its dire and nefarious course, the number of orchestras left giving regular series of

and the opera season at Covent Garden to four or six weeks for the whole of the year and most of the great string quartet bodies vanished entirely. All this has been counterbalanced (?) by the monstrous fungoid growth of wireless, which has gradually—and not so gradually, either!—assumed a position of totalitarian monopolism, has in instance after instance utterly destroyed independent concert-giving and concert enterprise, has, moreover, degraded standards of performance to an extent which it would require many columns of "The Social Crediter" merely to enumerate, has caricatured the sound of an orchestra so that even what a musician hears—or is allowed to hear, after the control-panel-functionary has exercised his knob-twiddling fingers upon it, often bears a relationship to the score as he knows it which is only discoverable with difficulty and some perseverance, and which has such an infinitely perverting and corrupting effect upon untutored ears that has only to be stated to be hideously obvious; a state of

affairs that brings it about that otherwise fairly reasonable and sane people can now be heard to say that they "like" the sound of an orchestra over the wireless better than the sound of the real thing, thus reminding one of a Devonshire family of whom one once knew who, producing everything in the way of food they—or anyone else—might require, from vegetables to home-cured bacon, preferred to feed out of tins, as they liked the "taste" of the tinned stuff better!

As for the effect of wireless upon singing, the omnipresent yodelling wobble as of an epileptic calf in his first love-affair, is the best (and worst) indication of what it has achieved, coupled with the fact that it is often quite openly admitted that great singers—such a tiny handful of them as still remains—do not "broadcast" well, which is the equivalent of saying that bad singing is best for broadcasting. It, of course, occurs to no one but musicians and such-like lunatics to ask "but what about music?" From this the further interesting position is reached that we can see openly derided, ridiculed and denigrated the great singing artistry of the singers of an elder, happier and wireless-free generation, and this not, mark you, in what one might

suppose to be uninformed quarters, but in important daily sheets. This all serves only as additional evidence of the working of the levelling-down conspiracy and its ramifications, of which, naturally, a systematic attack upon all fine craftsmanship, great workmanship and exalted standards is part and parcel. Such things are "aristocratic" in the very truest and most essential sense of the word; that is to say, they represent the acknowledged primacy of the best, and are therefore intolerant in an egalitarian, totalitarian tyranny such as is being planned and plotted.

All these things will react and are reacting most direly upon the most important of all musical activities, around which satellite fashion all the others revolve, namely that of the creative musician, the composer, and we need not be surprised—even if we are distressed—at discovering that the only supremely vital creative musical work still being produced today is either the work of men well over middle age, such as Sibelius or Ernest Bloch, or that if and when the work of younger men shows any real creative vitality and drive, as opposed to a cheap-jack smart-Alec musical wise-crackery, it is the work of men creating in comparative obscurity, unknown, boycotted, or both, and for one reason or another "personae ingratisimae" with the organised gangs, cliques, rings and institutions of music, which, along with the Financial System, are the greatest "cess-pools of corruption" (to use a telling phrase of Mr. Pasco Langmaid) one could wish not to find.

"The Future of Music" . . . well? What then? If what we see is what has happened to our wretched Art after the first Free and Democratic Outburst what does anyone with any imagination suppose is likely to be its state after the end of the Second? Margaret Cooper's witty song used to tell its hearers "If you HAVE a past . . . FORGET IT!" Music and musicians had better, it strikes me forcibly, forget its and their "future" as well else more or less deliberately withdraw from the "World" in the cant-phrase, work in secrecy and silence, and, like one living creative musician at least, not only refrain from seeking public performance of their works, but actually prohibiting it.

MASS MEETING DEMANDS DEBT-FREE WAR FINANCE

On Monday night a meeting of eight hundred representative citizens, convened by the New World Reconstruction Movement, at the Central Hall, Melbourne, unanimously passed the following resolution:

"In view of the finding of the Royal Commission on Banking (vide Section 504 of its report) that the Commonwealth Bank can even make money available to Governments or others free of any charge, this meeting of Melbourne citizens urges the, Commonwealth Government to use the Commonwealth Bank exclusively for the purpose of providing all credits necessary to win the war and the peace, debt free and interest free to the people."

The meeting was presided over by Cr. B. A. Longfield. The speakers were: Mr. Bruce H. Brown; Mr. Gilbert (treasurer of the Free French Movement in Victoria); Mrs. I. Moss, C.B.E., J.P.; Mr. J. Bradshaw, A.F.I.A.; Mr. C. Cutting (secretary of the N.W.R.M.); Mr. L. H. Hollins, M.L.A.; and Rev. J. T. Lawton. Senator Darcy and Rev. Dr. McMaster Kerr (of Canada) had also arranged to speak, but were prevented from being present by unforeseen circumstances.

Cr. Longfield, in opening the meeting, gave a general outline of the financial problem; prefacing his remarks by quoting the observation that "orthodox economics is not an exact science, it is like looking in a dark room for a black cat that isn't there." The N.W.R.M., he said, was 100 per cent, behind the Government in the fight against Japanese aggression. But to win the war was not sufficient—we won the last war but lost the peace. He described the horrors of the depression. "Unless we take action now, it will happen again. The financiers are still in control," he said. We could only win the peace by financial reform.

Mr. Bruce Brown, in his inimitable style, gave a clear exposition of the money problem, which we hope to report in full next week. His serious remarks were frequently applauded, and his occasional humorous touches delighted the audience. He received a tremendous ovation when he concluded.

Mr. Gilbert said that the betrayal of France was begun many years ago by the Bank of France, whose ramifications and anti-social, unpatriotic, international policy he laid bare to the audience. He concluded by saying: "I am now a naturalised Australian. I love this country, and I don't want to see the same thing

Mrs. Moss declared that we must not lose the peace again. "My heart is sore to-day when I think of what happened to the Anzacs when they came back. We've heard of the power of the banks, which we know is true, and this Movement will come up against such interests, but with your support this new little barque will safely enter the harbour of security," she said. Women were eager to do what they could.

Mr. Bradshaw said that it was no good listening to speeches and then doing nothing. He exposed the futility of party politics and made an eloquent plea for the democratic "electoral campaign" strategy. "Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom, and that is an individual responsibility," he said in conclusion. Mr. Cutting spoke briefly about the objectives of the Movement, and appealed for the active support of all present. He said it was a people's movement, and the people should use it to get something better than the "present economic treadmill."

Mr. Hollins spoke forcefully on "the need for action now." He said: "We may not agree on details, but let us unite to get results—results that we can agree are urgently necessary." For one thing, he said, our war effort is less than physically possible. Financial symbols must not stand in the way. "To-day," he said, "we are calling on boys whom we previously allowed to walk the streets, cold and hungry. What are we prepared to do for them? Not one of us can escape his or her responsibility to see that the peace is won, so that these boys, when they come home, can have the conditions they deserve." Mr. Hollins concluded by appealing for financial support and moving the following motion, which was carried unanimously: "This meeting of Melbourne

Reconstruction Movement, pledges its support to the Twin Objectives of the Movement—namely, to Win the War and Win the Peace, against Totalitarianism, so that sacrifices made by the Free Peoples of the World, and particularly our Fighting Men, shall not have been made in vain."

Rev. Lawton said that we stand at the close of an era and the opening of a new era. Finance, originally intended to be man's servant, had long been man's overlord, with three results: (1) Insecurity; (2) Unemployment—which should be regarded as acquired leisure; and (3) world-wide depression. These effects would be acute again after the war if the present orthodox policy were pursued. He indicated the tremendous possibilities of vastly better conditions inherent in the amazing productive capacity of modern industry. One boot factory in Central Europe could supply nearly all the world's boots and shoes. There was something each could do by which financial domination would be broken. He moved the resolution which appears at the beginning of this report, ably seconded by Mr. Brown.

A member of the audience moved that the meeting be not closed, but adjourned to a later date at the Melbourne Town Hall. This motion

GRAVE WARNING ON FOOD MUDDLE

(Continued from page 1.)

to food supplies, and little sympathy with men on the land. The officer's attitude will probably be that the applicant is not engaged in an essential industry, and that he should be in the Army. Therefore, exemption will be refused. I say that these matters should be determined by the Government itself. The Minister for Supply and Development (Mr. Beasley), the Minister for Commerce (Mr. Scully), and the Minister for Labour and National Service (Mr. Ward) should take heed of the position into which we are drifting regarding food supplies. If our food supplies fail, then we shall fail in everything. I am afraid that we in Australia have a kind of Maginot Line complex about food. We have the idea that this is a vast continent which produces an abundance of all kinds of foodstuffs. There may be abundance of wheat and of one or two other commodities, but, as the Minister for Commerce himself pointed out, there is at present an alarming shortage of beef. That is why the controversy regarding the use of Werribee beef has assumed fresh importance. I warn the Government that, unless action be taken now, it may be too late. In New South Wales, we do not grow enough apples to supply the people of that State. Ordinarily, large quantities have to be imported from Tasmania, but at the present time transport problems aggravate the position. Though there may be tons of apples available in Tasmania for export, the difficulty will be to get them to New South Wales. Therefore, we must endeavour to make the various States as self-contained as possible. I ask the Minister for Supply and Development, who is the person responsible, to see that adequate food supplies shall be maintained to feed the civilian population, our own troops, and particularly the troops of our Allies stationed in this country. To-day, I asked the Minister for Labour and National Service a question on this point, and I was not altogether satisfied that he had a full grasp of the significance of the question. He replied courteously enough that the matter would be investigated, and that the man-power position would be explored, but such inquiries may take months. In the meantime, if farms go out of production, and cows are dried off and slaughtered, the damage will have been done, and a

long time will be required to get those farms back into production again. I urge the Government to take action immediately.

Mr. McLeod (Wannon): I support the remarks of the honourable member for Richmond (Mr. Anthony). It is possible that the food position may be acute before twelve months have passed. We are concentrating at the present time on the production of armaments, but we should not for that reason neglect the production of food. Evidence appears to be accumulating that we shall face a shortage of food before the war is over, and this would be just as serious as a shortage of military equipment. Several factors are contributing to this state of affairs. In the past, we always had too much food, but it should not be forgotten that food stocks can quickly disappear. Every State has been suffering, to a greater or lesser degree, from drought, and there is a shortage of labour everywhere. Under the system of voluntary enlistment many thousands of countrymen entered the forces. They were of a good type, and were eagerly seized upon. As a result, there is an acute shortage of labour on many farms. Another factor making for reduced food production is the shortage of superphosphate. It may be that supplies will be entirely cut off. It is also possible that the food which we have at present stored may be destroyed by enemy action. Much of it is stored at terminal ports. It is possible to increase largely the production of armaments in three months, but no such sudden increase can be effected in the production of food. If you plant potatoes you must wait the normal time for the crop to grow. The special needs of the forces of our Allies in this country should be considered, and if extra supplies of pork, for instance, are required, at least nine months' notice should be given to the producers. In Victoria, the effects of the shortage of man-power and superphosphate are already serious. In some instances, potatoes have not been dug, and we know that potatoes are urgently needed. As the honourable member for Richmond pointed out, many of the man-power officers are not practical men. They are soldiers, and they naturally think that the best way a man can serve his country is by going into the Army.

I know one man with a disabled arm, whose only son was called up for service, leaving him with a farm of nearly 2000 acres to work on his own. The man-power officer who sent that son into the Army had obviously no sense of values, because the young man would undoubtedly serve his country better by staying on the farm. Unless action be taken immediately to meet the position, there will undoubtedly be a food shortage, but I feel sure that the Government will do what is necessary.

Mr. Beck (Denison): While the Minister for Commerce (Mr. Scully) is facing a barrage, I should like to have a "shot" at him on behalf of certain primary producers in Tasmania who consider that they have been let down by the Commonwealth Government. I refer to those who, at the request of the State Government, put in large crops of blue peas under a virtual promise given through the Tasmanian Minister for Agriculture, that the British Government would take the entire crop at a fixed price of 21/- a bushel. The Minister for Commerce will remember that a few weeks ago a deputation consisting of the Tasmanian Minister for Agriculture and members of the Parliament of Tasmania waited on him and the Minister for Commerce, and put up a very strong case. We now find, however, that although the Tasmanian growers were promised 21/- a bushel, the Federal Government, acting it is stated, on the advice of certain economists, is offering only 15/- a bushel for the peas. As a matter of fact, I do not blame Professor Copland for this; the Government must accept responsibility. The only argument I have heard in justification of the Government's action is that 15/- is a payable price for blue peas. I have no doubt that it would be a payable price in ordinary circumstances, but the growers had to pay up to 30/- a bushel for seed, and then struck the driest season experienced in Tasmania for many years, so that the crops were extremely light. The growers feel that they have been turned down by the Government, and I am inclined to agree with them. I have received the following telegram from the growers:

"Big meeting last night Sheffield largest blue pea district Tasmania. Resolution passed expressing loyal desire of growers to co-operate fully with Government in production food and other essential national commodities but regards 15/- as breach of

faith view of price virtually promised. Cost production very high this season, particularly seed. Yield probably half average. Fear expressed that unless present price increased many growers will lose heavily creating lack of confidence necessary for complete co-operation in future."

These growers are willing to do their utmost in order to produce a maximum harvest, but seasonal conditions in Tasmania this year have operated against them. For the fixation of this unsatisfactory price, it is useless to blame Professor Copland; the growers believe most definitely that they have been "turned down" by the Federal Government. I ask the Minister to reconsider the matter.

Fake Competition and Financial Control

(Continued from page 3.)

Their catch words: Centralisation of power, and sacrifice, reveal the identity of their backers—International Finance.

B.—The international financial gang may plot and may plan, but they are not yet all-powerful. They haven't stopped you from talking; they haven't stopped people from listening, and they can't stop people thinking—and, what's more, they can't escape the consequences of their own acts. These international gentry may have had a big hand in helping on this war, but this war has not gone to schedule; it was not in the scheme that Russia should be in the war at the present time. America was not supposed to be in this war. England should have been crumpled up by now, but she is not. She is struggling through to new life. No. I think planners may plan and scheme many schemes, but there are certain things in the making that no one can stop—not even dictators and all their storm troopers.

J.—That's quite true. I think everything will come all right in the long run. But meanwhile I don't suppose you would care about the Nazis and the Japs taking charge of this country.

B.—I think I would rather die first.

J.—And leave the long run to others.

B.—We are all in this long run; no one knows where it will end, but we can all help each other to make the journey as pleasant as possible.

J.—I wish you would tell that to Mr. Curtin.

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