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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).

Statement By State Treasurer Suppressed

Daily Press Keeps Tasmanian Citizens "In The Dark"

On Tuesday evening of last week, the Treasurer of the State of Tasmania (Hon. E. Dwyer-Gray) personally handed a brief but important prepared statement to the "Mercury" daily newspaper of Hobart. **IT WAS NOT PUBLISHED.** While it was still possible that publication had been merely delayed, Mr. Dwyer-Gray said: "The public is perfectly entitled to a knowledge of the facts set out in this statement, and, if it is suppressed by the daily press, it will again illustrate that they are mostly 'bank-bossed,' chiefly because most of them have overdrafts." The statement was worded as follows:—

The Treasurer (Mr. Dwyer-Gray) referred yesterday to statements made in the February issue of the monthly journal known as "Sound Finance," wherein, he said, it was set out quite correctly that only fifteen people out of every hundred with incomes in Australia had subscribed to the Second Liberty Loan, known as the "Austerity Loan," and that 72% of the total subscriptions were in sums of £500 or over from 18,635 affluent persons and financial institutions.

Nevertheless, the total proceeds of the "Austerity Loan" were £104,000,000. Of this sum, £22,700,000 was allocated for the conversion of 3½% stock repayable in 1942, plus £4,000,000 due to the private banks in connection with certain Loan Council transactions in November, 1939.

On October 14, 1942, the Premier had strongly protested to Mr. Chifley, as Chairman of the Loan Council, against the whole arrangement in connection with this £4,000,000 on which interest was being paid at the rate of 3½%. This was part of an amount of £12,000,000 credit extended to the Commonwealth Government in November, 1939, the whole of which should obviously have been confined to the Commonwealth Bank.

As Premier of Tasmania at that time, he (Mr. Dwyer-Gray) had very strongly objected at the Loan Council meeting, in November, 1939, to what was done, and his objection had been duly recorded in the minutes. He had, in fact, described the Loan Council's policy on that occasion as "an ignoble concession to an antiquated system of finance."

The Premier, in his communication to the Chairman of the Loan Council in October, 1942, had recalled these facts, and indicated that what the Federal Treasurer proposed to do seemed altogether opposed to the spirit and intention of his Government's National Security Regulations, as fully detailed in his letter dated October 6, 1942, to the Treasurer of Tasmania by way of explanation of his Government's financial policy and the related question of the proper utilisation of national credit as proposed by the Government of Tasmania.

Mr. Cosgrove had stated that the view of his Government was that the Commonwealth Government should repay the debt due to the private banks and, at the same time, require them to place the amount so realised on deposit with the Commonwealth Bank as a special war-time deposit at 15% per cent. The private banks not only converted their £4,000,000 through the Austerity Loan, but they also

converted a still unknown substantial investment of 3½% stock, repayable in 1942. The private banks had a further loan of £4,000,000 in 3½% stock falling due on December 15, 1943.

Consequently, it could be regarded as quite certain that the Government of Tasmania would once again question, at the next Loan Council meeting, the propriety of allowing these private banks to continue their investments in public loans by means of conversions instead of having whatever is due to them paid off on the basis of war-time deposits of equivalent amounts with the Commonwealth Bank at 15% per cent, as arranged under the National Security Regulations.

Whether fully subscribed or over-subscribed it would, in his opinion, be a gross misuse to utilise any of the proceeds of the present Liberty Loan of £100,000,000 for the purpose of allowing private banks to continue their investments in Public Loans, by the convenient process of conversion.

Citizens' Meeting At Coburg

On April 7, the concert hall attached to the Town Hall at Coburg was made available, free of charge, to the citizens by the Mayor, Cr. Geo. Goff. The meeting was called to consider the objects of the Hawthorn Movement. Cr. Rasmussen acted as chairman. Mr. Martin Hannah, ex-M.L.A., moved, and Mr. Carton seconded, the following resolution:—

"That this meeting of Coburg citizens is determined to secure clean politics. We believe that Parliaments in a democracy exist solely for the purpose of giving effect to the expressed will of the people. We further believe that until the people as electors accept their personal responsibilities and express their wishes to their elected representatives, the electors will get the things they do not want. In an endeavour to create greater political interest we are prepared to co-operate with each other Regardless of Party Labels."

Mr. Hannah said that the meeting had been arranged to discuss and thoroughly deal with the pernicious system of Party Government. As one of the pioneers in the Labor movement, he and many people could see that the Labor Party had drifted until we now faced conditions which we could not, in any circumstances, support. The men sent to Parliament had never attempted to carry out the Labor platform. Decent men in the ranks of Labor and U.A.P. were defeated by the unseen hand of those who used the power of finance behind the controls of the party political machine, of which most people knew nothing. Independent members, such as Mr. Hollins, of Hawthorn, and Mr. Mutton, of Coburg, had seen what had gone on at the cross-roads.

Mr. Carton said he was glad we had six State Parliaments to debate the Powers Bill, and act as a brake upon the Federal power-lusters, who would hurry away all our freedom. Four freedoms were always mentioned, but rarely was freedom of association or freedom to act.

Mr. L. H. Hollins, M.L.A., said Democracy was in great danger. He had once been a conservative, who thought that the rules of the political game were fair. Now, he was amazed and shocked by the attitude of certain Church leaders, who could re-orient the people's attitude and wake the people up. The workers depending upon the Labor Party, after forty years of struggle, had less security to-day than ever they had. Business men, through the U.A.P., found themselves on the rocks, while the small business men had no Party to look after their interests. Farming interests were in a worse condition than ever before. All parties were controlled by vested interests. When he approached Members of Parliament on the question of liquor reform, he found that privately there was complete harmony, and they agreed to support his views. But when the matter came up in the House, there was consternation within several hours. When the representatives of the liquor trade arrived at Parliament, Party-members melted like snow in the sun. The views expressed publicly by Party-members were subject to domination. In a Democracy, the people elect their representatives. How, then, could they expect representatives to become leaders? Much blame was attached to politicians, but the electors were really at fault through their neglect to tell their representatives what they want. "If your M.P. does not act as he should," said Mr. Hollins, "it's your fault, not his." Church-goers should unite with non-church-goers in organised letter-writing campaigns.

Mr. F. C. Paice said the problem was not one of getting good men into Parliament. It was how to bring the people to political life—they were almost politically dead. A good member, such as Mr. Mutton, without support from the people of the electorate, would not get things done. Greater achievement, he thought, would come from the election of members or a Government the people suspected and did not trust. The people opposed National Insurance because

they felt that they could not trust the members or the Government. The Parties issued "vote thus" cards, hoping, to obtain the election of their "candidates by political trickery rather than enlightenment of electors. It was an attempt to mesmerise the people to "do as printed." Others suggest that impoverishment makes electors "kick, but, not long ago, 700,000 workers were literally starving. Each day they became weaker through undernourishment, until finally they were not able to "kick" or to think. It was the function of electors to reject legislation which did not give the results wanted.

Mr. Payne (ex-Senator) said he had given 55 years' unbroken service in the Tasmanian and Federal Parliaments. We had too many politicians and too few statesmen. The way to awaken the people to function in a democracy was to adopt a system of adult classes, beginning at youth, to guide them. Mr. Grogan said a news report showed that the Premier of Victoria, the servant of the people, seemed to hold similar views to those found in "Mein Kampf." He had insulted Australians by saying they were a pampered, spoilt people. The problem was HOW to get the people to act for democracy.

Mr. Nicholls said we do not want another political party. In Coburg the people were represented in Parliament by Labor representatives, yet the councillors of the municipality believed that bricks and mortar should have a vote before human beings. The liquor interests financed both parties at elections. A temperance advocate had been supplied with 30 cars on election day, which the liquor interests paid for.

This Week's Gem

Reviewing the financial policy of the Commonwealth (see "Hansard," No. 3, page 553 11/2/43), the Federal Treasurer, Mr. Chifley said: "There are two serious dangers in the existence of a large amount of excess spending power in the hands of the public. The first is that, if it were unrestrained, it would compete against the Government for the additional manpower and materials that are vital to our defence, and would interfere substantially with our war programme. This is the most serious possible effect. The other is that it may force a strong and continuous rise in prices."

On the same day—in the selfsame speech in fact (see next page of same "Hansard"), Mr. Chifley said: "The Government is not allowing resources of manpower or material to be diverted from war purposes to private unessential use. In accordance with the powers given by Parliament, everything that is needed for the war programme—manpower, material and equipment—is being taken and used for war. Civil incomes can be spent only on what is left after war needs are satisfied."

YOU CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS, MR. CHIFLEY!

NOTES ON THE NEWS

FISHING FINESSE: A report in the daily press tells us that Russia has once again renewed fishing rights to Japan, thus enabling our enemy to obtain vital food supplies for another year. The report also pointed out that Washington was not perturbed—but it did not mention Britain's reaction! It is worth noting that the report was dated April 1, so perhaps, in accordance with the old custom associated with that date, we were expected to ask "WHY?"

POVERTY PUZZLE: In regard, to alleged war-prosperity—the ostensible reason for the Government taxing money from the people to prevent them spending their "surplus" (which also prevents them from paying off all their debts!)—the following appeal by the State Relief Committee is rather puzzling: "Because clothes-rationing compels people to retain clothes longer, the Committee will not have enough to meet appeals for aid." If it is true, that belies the prosperity baloney, and queries the "tax-away-the-spending-power" mania. Meanwhile, we wait for the annual "Winter Blanket Appeal," which is nearly due.

GOLD GOSSIP: As an indication of the intensity of the barrage on the Gold-Standard Front, we notice that nearly half of page 2 of the Melbourne "Sun" of April 8 was devoted to the subject, under the title of "Plans For World Finance Control" (by whom not stated). The names of the contestant proposals are "Unitas" (ex Wall Street) and "Bancor" (ex Bank "of England"). Both are aliases for the Gold-Standard and International Control, so the descriptive terms are of little interest. The chief difference is voting power over policy. Wall Street wants this on a gold-contribution basis; and further, wants technicians (economists) to make all the decisions. May the Lord preserve us from this latest Yellow Peril and the economists!

FEDERAL UNION: A New York report says that a "White Paper" has been forwarded by Britain to U.S., to the effect that "whilst Britain is willing to comply under certain conditions with some kind of international supervision of Colonies, such as that of the League of Nations system, Britain draws the line firmly at anything savouring of outside interference with the internal affairs of her Colonies." That's a start, anyway. On the other hand the

report says that "only a world-wide system is likely to enlist American co-operation. . . . The League will have a new label, 'international trusteeship,' being favoured at present." This change of label indicates that as a result of considerable public discussion the smell of Federal Union is troublesome.

SOCIALISATION BY STEALTH: The action of Sir Stafford Cripps in furthering the plot to nationalise industries under the cloak of war necessity, and without a referendum, has resulted in 100 members of the House of Commons instituting a campaign to prevent this tyranny. This is a healthy sign of growing awareness of the bankers' plot to obtain complete control over people's lives in each country through socialism. This issue is coming to a head in Australia also, and it is to be hoped that it will be given the widest public discussion.

U.S. UNEMPLOYED: Press reports state that at March 31 there were 1,000,000 unemployed in U.S. This fact indicates that U.S. has some internal management to attend to before endeavouring to manage the affairs of other countries—especially if those unemployed, besides being omitted from the war effort, are practically unemployed. The reports go on to say that in 1937 U.S. unemployed numbered nearly 11 millions. That period was described as the "peace-period"; but it wasn't peaceful for the huge army of unemployed. What a powerful argument for a post-war era of endowed leisure!

WAR WRECKAGE: Recently published figures of damage to property, expressed in terms of money and buildings, give some idea of one of the effects of air raids on Britain: "A total of 3,000,000 properties have been either damaged or destroyed, and the War Damage Commission has paid out more than £100,000,000." Two things stand out from this report. Firstly, despite this tremendous damage, it does not appear to have seriously retarded Britain's productive capacity—which indicates that effective air-action would take very many years to achieve substantial subjugation. Secondly, Britain (unlike Australia) is PAYING war-damage compensation during war time.

STUDENTS' STUPOR: Following a U.S. nation-wide survey on the educational standard of American college students, which revealed a deplorable ignorance on fundamentals, especially U.S. history, a Senate enquiry is likely into U.S. teaching methods. Commenting on this the "New York Times" says that "teachers of Democracy need to improve their home technique before they set out to re-educate the Germans." In other words, it is yet another illustration of the folly of internationally-minded people attempting to

(Continued on page 4.)

The Hitler Touch

Addressing the women's section of the United Country Party conference (vide Melbourne "Herald," 7/4/43), the Premier of Victoria, Mr. A. A. Dunstan (our servant) said:

"Australians are a pampered and spoilt people, with no discipline—A STATE OF AFFAIRS THAT WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD."

In view of the approaching State elections, Victorians (particularly his own electors), should ask Mr. Dunstan, by letter etc., these two questions:—

(1) Who are the people of Australia pampered by?

(2) Who are the persons in Australia who should NOT TOLERATE such a state of affairs?

—E.J.G.

" THE BIRTH OF A NOTION "

(Condensed from a talk broadcast from 7HO, on Sunday, April 4 by JAMES GUTHRIE, B.Sc.)

" In the slumberous caverns of public ignorance an idea is stirring; There is always enough money for killing; there must be enough for feeding. We are witnessing the birth of a notion. Those who are concerned with the maintenance of the national dumbness are profoundly disturbed. As one prominent banker said to our representative: 'A cloud, no bigger than a taxpayer's brain, has appeared upon the horizon of the public unconsciousness.'—Yaffle, in " Reynolds News," London.

"Money can be found for war, then money must be found for peace." This statement which can be heard on all sides, this statement, which has spread right round the world, was not heard after the last war. And although there existed the same reasons for repeating it as now, it was heard nowhere.

One would think this simple statement of fact would have grown spontaneously out of the experiences of the people; out of their very bitter experiences; but it did not. To get this idea started has required a tremendous amount of work by small groups like ours.

I suppose it has cost us and those allied with us many thousands of pounds to put this idea round the world, but it has gone round the world and become embedded in the thought and consciousness of many people. And because of it, action will eventually arise from it.

There are, however, still a lot of people who should know better, who think that all the huge sums of money which are being used to finance this war come from taxation and loans.

A fortnight ago I quoted the Federal Treasurer, Mr. Chifley, who, on the 26th January, 1943, said, *inter alia*:

"The plain fact is that the rate of public expenditure, being what it is, no Government in Australia can obtain from the public by extra taxation and loans enough to pay for the war as it proceeds, and it is just as well for everybody to understand that clearly. Any suggestion to the contrary is mere political cant."

This financial year, 1942-43, out of an estimated war expenditure of about £550 million, only about £120 million comes from taxes—that is, less than one-quarter of the total. Loans account for £280 million, leaving a gap of about £250 million. Next year that gap probably will be much larger.

The plain fact is that no country at war to-day would be so stupid as to limit its war effort to the amount of money which it could obtain from the pockets of the people. The great tragedy was that while the defence of the British Empire before this war was limited to the amounts of money obtained by taxation, Germany and Japan suffered from no such limitations.

During this last year a sum of about £250 million was created by the banking system and lent to the Australian Government in exchange for Treasury Bills—L.O.U.'s.

If America or Australia or Russia had depended on collecting surplus monies from its own people to finance the building of roads, railways, factories, then they would have been in a pathetic position to-day. The job would have been well-nigh impossible.

The creation of thousands of millions of pounds' worth of new assets on the face of this earth has been made financially possible by the creation of thousands of millions of pounds of new money, of bank-credit. This method of financing world-development by credit-creation has been a well-guarded secret until recently.

When we state, as we have often done, that the banks can create as much credit as a country requires for war or for peace at no cost to ourselves, we are merely stating ascertainable facts; there is no argument about them; there is no disputing them.

But we keep on making these statements because we want it to be understood that those who say we must tax the people higher to get better services and better education are not only not stating the truth, they are doing a tremendous amount of damage; they are not only splitting this country into hostile camps, but they are holding up all those reforms which should have taken place years ago.

The fact is that neither in my pocket nor in the collective pockets of the people is there, or has there ever been, sufficient money to finance large-scale construction in this country, or, for that matter, in any other country.

It is for this reason when a town or a State wants to build a hospital, school or reservoir, it must go to the credit monopoly for the necessary finance. And it is for this reason that the more advanced a country becomes the greater becomes its burden of debt.

A great deal of these facts, which we have consistently laid before the public, are becoming well known. And strong opponents of ours, such as the "Times" of London and the "Economist," are becoming keen monetary reformers!

The writing is on the wall, and I hope you can read it. What does it mean? It means that whoever controls world arrangements after this war is going to alter the financial system to give a greater flexibility and to produce work for everybody and supply social services.

You can rest assured that whoever is in control after this war will supply economic security from the cradle to the grave. The credit of the nation will even be used for this purpose. But here is a point of very great importance:

The credit of the nation, which belongs to you and me, will not be handled by you

and me; it will be doled out to us by Government officials under certain conditions.

The important fact you must always remember about the Beveridge Plan and the Menzies Insurance Scheme and others of a similar nature is that they are designed to pool our poverty, to share our debts—not to share our social credit.

The great international credit monopoly is hatching out schemes of social security; conferences are in continuous session; hand-picked men are moving swiftly across the world from place to place. Everything is being arranged to turn this world into a glorified work-house, where men will be given, the security of a cart-horse, but neither freedom nor independence. Gradually and painfully another idea has to be spread across the world before we escape this nightmare, and that idea is that man cannot live like a cart-horse; he cannot live by bread alone.

And no man has a right to sacrifice himself, his family and his generation for three meals and a bed. And if the British people accept the Beveridge Plan, then we can write on their graves: "Here lies a people that once was great, but so afraid did they become of the future that they sold their liberty for the promise of a fake insurance policy."

SHAM WAR AGAINST INFLATION

(A letter to the Editor from Bruce H. Brown.)

Sir,—To all the wars in which we are already engaged has now been added the war against inflation. At least, that is what we are officially told. The weapons with which this latest war is to be conducted are higher taxes, more loans, greater personal sacrifices, curtailment of the people's spending power, fixation of wages, and pegging of prices. The whole purpose of this particular war is to "maintain the value of money." Note that particularly—it is not to maintain the value of life. Human suffering and physical hardship do not matter so long as the "value of money" is preserved.

When we preserve the value of money, we naturally preserve the power of those who control it. So when we get down to the reality of the thing, we find that all the measures are for the exclusive benefit of the money controllers, and are designed to maintain their control of society. As Gladstone said, Governments are to have no substantive power, but are to take their orders from the "City." As a lead to what we should do, great publicity is being given to the anti-inflation measures in the United States.

Before we can consider the "problem" intelligently we must first clearly understand what it is. Therefore we must ask and answer the question: What is inflation? Inflation is a rise in prices consequent upon an increase in the supply of money. There is no inflation if prices do not rise. Prices rise either because there is an increase in costs or because there is no control of prices. Clearly, therefore, if there is proper control of prices in relation to costs, then the supply of money could be increased without any rise in prices on that account.

And why is it that money does vary in "value"? The physical value of a tram ride between given points doesn't. Neither does the physical value of a field of grain, a loaf of bread, an apple, or a potato. Why, then, should the medium which is supposed to FACILITATE the exchange of these valuable things fluctuate so violently in its "value"? A ticket is a ticket, and gives access to things. It is not a commodity to be bought and sold. It is madness that we allow the money ticket to be more important than the things to which it is supposed to give access. It fluctuates in value because it is brought into existence only as interest-bearing debt, and because the

supply is regulated to suit the policy of the bankers instead of bearing a proper and adequate relation to the goods and services in the community. Under present conditions plenty of money reduces its "value"; scarcity increases its "value." So if the banker can keep us scratching for the "commodity" which he produces, then he continues to be the POWER in the land.

But suppose money for war purposes was issued without cost against the community (and the report of the Monetary and Banking Commission clearly shows that it can be done), we would then have plentiful money without any increase in "costs" because of the extra money, and without any justification on that account for increase in prices. If prices did not increase, the money would have a steady value whether we used it immediately or whether it stood to our credit in the bank until we wished to use it later. In this respect we cannot too often repeat what the "London Times" said regarding Abraham Lincoln's proposals, namely, "If that mischievous financial policy which had its origin in the North American Republic during the late war in that country should become indurated down to a fixture, then that Government will furnish its own money without cost. It will pay off its debt and be without a debt. It will have the money necessary to carry on its commerce. It will become prosperous beyond precedent in the history of the civilised government of the world. That Government must be destroyed."

That it is possible to increase the supply of money without creating a rise in prices has been established by the experience in England since 1941. Here are some significant figures regarding price increases taken from the "New Era" of 19th April: 1941-42 United Kingdom, 0.6%; Australia, 11.9%. June-December, 1942: United Kingdom, nil; Australia, 3.8%.

A quotation is also given from the "Sydney Morning Herald," as follows: "Retail prices in Great Britain have increased hardly at all since April, 1941, owing mainly to the control exercised over food prices with the help of subsidies." Strange to say, taxation in England is also lower than in Australia. There, as shown above, prices are steady; here, prices are rising. In Britain, the income tax averages £20 per head; in Australia it averages £37 per head.

Is it not as clear as the sunshine that the Government could cease harassing the people at once on the question of finance, and could also stop inflation? All that it needs is more competent financial advisers, and a genuine determination to serve the interests of the people instead of the interests of the money controllers. Instead of this, however, it lends itself to a sham war to maintain the "value of money."

—Yours faithfully, BRUCE H. BROWN, 189 Hotham St., East Melbourne: 11th April, 1943

GLIDING AND GOVT. PATRONAGE

The power of Patronage is bestowed on all Australian Governments, and it has a greater influence on the community than most people realise. To patronise freely those who support a Government is deplorable enough, but to refuse categorically the same thing to others more worthy of such support simply because they do not happen to wear publicly the right political "shirt," is an utterly bad policy, which breeds discontent and ill-feeling; and that is what we want to avoid as much as possible these days.

This sentiment could not have been in the minds of two of our Labor leaders recently, when asked for assistance from two different gliding clubs in Victoria. One such club was a small group formed in one of our large aircraft factories, and whose members consisted of untrained and inexperienced young men anxious to try their hand at the art of gliding, inspired, no doubt, by the way in which gliders and their uses have been given so much publicity in Britain and U.S.A.

Being a branch of a Union shop organisation, they approached the "right" people, were favourably received, and were promised that any requests for the release of materials, etc., necessary to get them started would be granted.

This action, demonstrating the "progressive" attitude of the Labor Party, was suitably mentioned in the daily press. It was most regrettable that the daily press did not also remember to mention the treatment meted out to a similar request made by Victoria's premier gliding club, for release of materials, not to build new machines, but to keep in flying condition machines already in existence. This club, which has been in existence for several years, and has in its membership experienced glider pilots, and young men who have devoted quite a few years of their life to flying and building gliders, and who have

studied the art of gliding assiduously, naturally would expect preferential treatment in matters relating to gliding. It was with somewhat of a shock that they received the news that materials for use on gliders and similar flying machines would not be made available to them for the duration. Such treatment to a club which does not happen to be connected with a Union or other Labor organisation is hardly in keeping with a Government which has so often professed publicly that this sort of favoritism should not be allowed to introduce itself into the administration of Government policy.

As I said earlier, the power of patronage has a considerable influence on the community. The restraint or, alternatively, the exercise of that power, can give us either a contented community or one in which its members are simply a pack of underlings fighting for the favours thrown them by those in authority.

—Hilton Ross.

LETTERS TO WAR PRISONERS

Facilities for close relatives of Australian prisoners of war in Japanese hands to have their letters typewritten free of charge are operating smoothly at Victorian Division of the Australian Red Cross Society at Red Cross House, 289 Swanston-street, Melbourne, C.I. Fifty volunteers are available to handle the letters, and the permanent Red Cross typing staff is ready to assist if necessary. Strict confidence is observed by all typists. The request from Red Cross for relatives to have letters typed was prompted by suggestions from Australian prisoners themselves. Japanese censors particularly have difficulty in reading English hand-writing, and it is believed that typewritten sheets would be less likely to be delayed. In some cases, hand-written letters may even be destroyed by Japanese censors unable to decipher them. Only one sheet of note-paper may be used for letters to prisoners of war, but both sides of the sheet may be written on. Those sending letters to Red Cross for typing should remember that more can be typewritten than can be hand-written, and, if they wish it, they can write up to 400 words. But relatives should not take advantage of this fact unnecessarily, as Red Cross advises that the shorter letters have more chance of passing quickly through enemy censorship. Letters for copying by typists should be sent in stamped envelopes addressed to the Enquiry Bureau for Wounded, Missing and Prisoners of War, Red Cross House, 289 Swanston-street, Melbourne. After typing they will be returned to the sender for signature, and, whenever possible, senders are asked to enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for this service to save Red Cross funds as much as possible. After relatives have signed the typewritten copy of their letter they should send it in the usual way, in an unstamped envelope marked "Prisoner of War Post," to the Central Bureau, Red Cross Headquarters, Spring-street, Melbourne, C.I, for transmission overseas.

THE NO-CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—The No-Conscription Campaign appreciates very greatly the support you have given it and also the growing interest of your readers.

You will appreciate that a big effort over a wide area is essential to convince the Government that its action in amending the Militia Act is, as we believe, contrary to the will of the Australian people, and to induce it to submit the matter to them by referendum.

Your readers could give the campaign great impetus if they would undertake to act as local agents or at least advise us as to persons likely or willing to act as such for the distribution of leaflets, etc. If the formation of local groups can be arranged more effective work still will be accomplished.

We appeal to them through you, Sir, to cooperate in checking the attack on a vital liberty. If your readers will communicate with the undersigned, supplies of pamphlets will be forwarded together with hints regarding suitable action.—Yours, etc., Leslie B. Harsant, Secretary (pro tem), No-Conscription Campaign, Room 4, Temperance Hall Bldgs., 172 Russell St., Melbourne, C.I.

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BELIEVE IT OR NOT

This Happened in Australia:

Sydney, Friday.—Taking dancers and other patrons by surprise, manpower officials raided two fashionable city dance-restaurants simultaneously this afternoon in search of persons not gainfully employed.

The raids were at Romano's, in Castlereagh-street, where 260 people were interrogated, and at Prince's, in Martin-place, where 40 people were questioned. Of the total 250 were women.

Immediately they entered the premises, the manpower squad, comprising both men and women, ordered the doors to be locked until they had checked identity cards of all present and questioned them regarding their occupations.

At least 60 per cent of those interviewed were eventually told to report at the manpower offices on Monday afternoon for further interviews.

When the squad entered the restaurants, music was stopped and the patrons placed in groups. Some of the women tried to escape by seeking the sanctity of the powder rooms, but they were ordered to "come out and get it over."

—Melbourne "Sun," April 10.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUR M.P.

Why has Dr. Coombs, the Director of Post-War Reconstruction, gone to America? What has Australia's "Reconstruction" after the war to do with Wall Street?

COMMUNISTS CONDONE CURTIN A SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

By G. K. TAVENDER.

The President of the U.S.A. once admitted that the duty of a politician is to "yield to pressure"; but he did not go on to explain that the pressure might come as autocratic demands from "financial interests"—or that it might come from the people of the community, thus making "Government of the people BY the people" a democratic reality. Parliamentary representatives are the proper channels for making sure that the people do get what THEY want, and that no person (openly or secretly) has the power to impose conditions which he thinks ought to suit the people, or conditions which they do not want, or conditions actually injurious to individuals, and therefore to the community.

The celerity with which democratic demands are implemented may depend on the number of electors who tell their respective Members of Parliament what it is they want; but not always, for Parliamentarians can sometimes sense the importance of a few who voice the undoubted wishes of the many, not yet awakened from their ingrained habits of servility or apathy.

Recently, as a result of pressure from financial interests, applied through the Fascist Press, the Labor Government departed from its real policy, and increased taxation on the "lower income group." As a sign of protest, a few democrats at the S.A.R. Islington Workshops gave their fellow-workers an opportunity to exert pressure for results more to their liking, and at the same time support the financial policy actually enunciated by Mr. John Curtin when he expressed himself as follows in the "Locomotive Journal," on December 14, 1939:—

"Everything in the war must be paid for, not by reducing wage standards, but by the use of the national credit. As a prerequisite to national defence the Commonwealth Bank must have restored to it its original charter. When we are in power, we shall proceed to redeem the National Bank from its slavery. The costs of the war can be met without piling up huge debts and incurring interest payments that suck our national life-blood. The Commonwealth Bank must, with a Labor Government, work out a freer and fuller life for our people."

A form as follows was prepared:—
"TO MR. CURTIN AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

"We, whose signatures are attached, hereby register our protest against the present high rate of taxation, and the proposed unnecessary increase on wage and salary earners.

"Here are some of our reasons:—
1. Clause 504 of the Banking Commission's Report states that the Commonwealth Bank can make money available to the Government free of charge. Financing the war from this source would permit wage earners to save money and create a demand for goods when thousands of extra workers will be available to produce them after the war.

"2. The purchasing power of a tradesman's wages is lower than before the war.

"3. Thousands of munition workers had no income before the war. It is not conducive to high morale to have their pay taken away through high living costs and unjust taxation, with no guarantee of a post-war income.

"4. If the Government persists with the higher taxation proposal, its action may be interpreted as evidence that it acquiesces in the international financier's policy of keeping a large reserve of slave labour power."

The Trades Union Shop Committee approved of its use. In the Works Committee, however, a forceful minority were outvoted by those who would not officially sanction the use of the form; and so the said democrats conducted a more limited canvass and sent hundreds of signatures to Mr. Curtin. It was found that less than one per cent., of those who were given an opportunity to sign, refused.

A few weeks later the United Democrats issued another leaflet and demand form, on which additional good reasons were expressed against the piling up of a financial debt. This would further have supported the Labor Government against pressure from "financial interests." To the astonishment of the canvassers, some men, who had unhesitatingly supported the first protest against "Labor's" departure from policy, now refused to sign, because they said "It would be opposing the Curtin Government's financial policy!" The explanation of this change of attitude can probably be found in the influence of the local branch of the Communist Party, which had since issued a leaflet which, after urging workers to give "wholehearted support" to the loan, continued thus:—

"United Democrats and Misplaced Zeal."

"We believe that the action of United Democrats in the works in persuading workers to sign their protest forms can have no useful effect on our war effort. In relation to this question, the first decision must be: 'Do we or do we not wish complete victory in this war?' In other words, 'Is victory essential for the workers of the world?' To this question we must unhesitatingly answer, 'Yes.' This means, then, that the only policy for us is one that guarantees a maximum war effort. What, then, is it that determines our war effort? Our war effort is governed by the most efficient use of our available labour power in producing a maximum of those things that are essential to the war, such as guns, tanks, planes and essential civilian goods, reducing to an absolute minimum goods of a luxury nature. Under a war economy a section of the people are producing consumable goods, and in the production of these

goods sufficient money is distributed to purchase all of these goods. As well as this smaller section, there is that vast army of workers building engines of war plus the armed forces. All these workers receive wages, and as they do not produce consumable goods that they can buy, it means that their wages are in reality an extra claim on the goods produced by the section producing civilian essentials. Failing an adequate Taxation, Loan and Rationing policy to reduce and control this surplus spending power, the effect will be to increase the demand for unessential goods, thus reducing our war effort. Now, the abolition of loans and taxation and issue of Central Bank credit, advocated by the United Democrats, would create the situation explained above. Willing sacrifice now, in the form of taxation and repayable loans to ensure victory, is surely better than sacrificing everything, as would be the case if Fascism triumphed. The choice is in our hands. Forward to fulfil our £60,000 quota."

The present writer realises the estimable personal qualities, of members of the Communist Party contacted by him, but he suggests that confidence in the leaders of the Party is not warranted when they publish such a misleading statement about finance as the sentence above, commencing, "Under a war economy. . . ."

The truth is that every producing concern, if it is to stay in business, must "charge" more for its goods than it distributes in purchasing-power. Additional money to permit consumers to buy all of the goods, and so keep the wheels of industry busy, must come from another source.

At present, the main course is new money created for Government expenditure on munitions, etc.; i.e., workers produce goods they do not buy (planes, tanks, shells, etc.), and use wages thus obtained to buy the goods they require at once. It is agreed that in many ways we should defer our spending until after the war, and if Mr. Curtin followed his own words about using the National Credit for war-production, then the workers, instead of losing a part of their wages through taxation, could PUT IT IN THE BANK—and, therefore, be able to create a demand for useful goods (and so keep workers in useful jobs!) when the flow of money for munitions is shut off after the war. Such a policy would improve the war effort, for workers would feel more strongly that they had something worthwhile to work and fight for—the secret, it is said, of the great Russian effort!

Mr. Dedman has said in Parliament that the only purpose of war loans is to take purchasing-power from the people, who might spend it on goods, the production of which would absorb man-power needed for war work. Obviously, putting the "surplus" money in the banks answers Mr. Dedman's purpose (it couldn't be spent on "non-essential" goods, anyway, unless the Govt. allowed them to be produced), and all the manpower, paper, etc., now used in appealing for loans would be saved for REAL war work. If the money is banked, one may point out that the profits of the "financial interests" are reduced by interest payments to depositors, whereas interest

LABOR PARTY AND NATIONAL CREDIT Tasmanian Conference Again Demands Federal Action ISSUE TO BE RAISED AT NEXT LOAN COUNCIL MEETING

The following resolution, somewhat similar to that passed last year, was passed by the recent Tasmanian A.L.P. Conference, held at Hobart, and has been communicated to the Prime Minister (Mr. Curtin) and the Federal Treasurer (Mr. Chifley) by the Treasurer of the Tasmanian Government (Mr. Dwyer-Gray), as well as being officially communicated to the Prime Minister by the State Executive (Tasmania) of the A.L.P.:—

"Recognising the vast importance of monetary reform in the solution of social problems and the vital necessity of meeting the financial exigencies of the war without creating an intolerable burden of interest-bearing debt that will mortgage the future to the affluent, this Conference calls on the Federal Labor Government to implement national credit in the terms of the Financial Planks of the Federal Labor Platform, as demanded by the Federal Labor Conference in November last.

To give practical effect to the financial decisions of the Federal Conference as the supreme authority in regard to Federal Labor Policy, it calls upon the Federal Government to implement immediately the national credit policy of this Party as far as it can be done without legislation, and to introduce without delay legislation to give full effect to the financial decisions of the Federal Conference. Further, this Conference requests the representatives of Tasmania at the next Loan Council meeting to resubmit the national credit motion prepared by the Government of Tasmania for the Loan Council meeting in August last,

HOW BUREAUCRACY GETS THINGS DONE (EVENTUALLY!)

The external effects of bureaucracy are—unfortunately—becoming only too familiar in this country. But the inside workings of bureaucracy are somewhat veiled from the vulgar gaze of the bureaucrats' employers (the "sovereign" people of Australia!). As bureaucrats are much the same the world over, the following satire on their ways, reprinted from the London "Punch," and consisting simply of a series of communications ("minutes") between various bureaucrats, will serve to lift the veil a little:—

Minute 1. 1st June.
Mr. Talkinghome:

I beg to report with regard to the new Wash-places on the second floor that the word "Ladies" has been placed in error on the door of the Gentlemen's Wash-place. A similar error has been made in respect of the Ladies' Wash-place.

In these circumstances there has been some apprehension among officers of both sexes on the floor in question. It is understood that in order to avoid complications through using the Wash-place assigned to them by the Accommodation Section, they are descending to the first floor, and even ascending to the third.

It need hardly be emphasised that this involves a considerable waste of official time, and has an adverse effect generally upon the work of the staff. Moreover, we must bear in mind the waste of public money if we continue to keep immobilised in this way two well-appointed Wash-places.

The following solutions are suggested. The operative words are painted on the doors, and you may consider it desirable to have them painted out, and the correct words painted in. Or you may prefer to adopt the speedier plan of having suitably inscribed placards pasted or nailed over the present lettering. It would obviously be cheaper to follow one of these courses than to have the doors interchanged as they stand.

It is hoped that an early decision may be given.

—N. O. Plugton, Higher Clerical Officer, Accommodation.

Minute 2. 10th June.
Assistant Secretary, Accommodation:

The preceding minute raises a question which may assume some importance if prompt action is not taken.

The short point is: owing to a regrettable error, which I am having investigated on another file, the door of the Ladies' Wash-place on the second floor has been inscribed "Gentlemen," and vice versa.

Not unnaturally, there is some discontent among the officers on the second floor, and the matter may very well become a bone of contention with the staff associations.

Alternative courses of action are indicated in the penultimate paragraph of Minute 1. I have no observations to make on these, except to endorse the suggestion that it would be unwise to interchange the doors "in toto," if only because they are right and left-handed respectively, and could not be satisfactorily refitted without having the door-posts transferred with them.

on war loans has to be paid through taxation, largely on the working subscriber, directly and indirectly.

Aiming for a distant goal may be commendable, but antagonism to a course which will bring immediate all-round benefits is not fitting from a "People's Party," especially when this course directly benefits those who impose the debt system upon us—the very system which it is agreed must be overthrown.

In view of the possibility of staff side repercussions, may we have an early decision, please?

—R. S. Talkinghome, Principal Accommodation.

Minute 3. 17th June.
Director of Accommodation:

You should see this new Wash-place tangle.

The preceding Minute wisely draws attention to the possibility of staff side repercussions. It may even be argued that because of this error these Wash-places do not come within the scope of the definition laid down in Part IX., Section 7, para. iv. of the Fifth Report of the Second Royal Commission on Hygiene in the Civil Service, which is our authority on these matters, and consequently that we are guilty of a breach of faith which may land us in hot water.

This sort of thing has been happening too often of late, and you may care to take the matter up with the responsible Department.

I am delaying action until I know your views on this aspect, but you will agree that we must not hold things up too long.

—A.B.C., Assistant Secretary, Accommodation.

Minute 4. 21st June.
Permanent Secretary:

We spoke yesterday about this troublesome case. I agree with A.S./Accommodation that representations should be made to the Board of Construction, and attach a letter for your signature accordingly. The matter appears to be one of some urgency. —D.E.F., Director of Accommodation.

Minute 5. 24th June.
Director of Accommodation:

I agree. We must kick them as quickly as possible, and keep kicking them as necessary.

—G.H.J.

Minute 6. 30th June.
Assistant Secretary, Accommodation:

The Secretary has now written a strong note to the Board of Construction. You will want the papers back to pursue the adjustment of the legends on the doors. In all the circumstances I incline to repainting. —D.E.F., Director of Accommodation.

Minute 7. 4th July.
Mr. Talkinghome:

Accordingly, please.
—A.B.C., Assistant Secretary, Accommodation.

Minute 8. 9th July.
Mr. Plugton:

To see Minutes 6 and 7, and take necessary action immediately.

—R.S.T.

Minute 9. 15th July.
Painting Division, Board of Construction:

Please arrange for the words "Ladies" and "Gentlemen" on the doors of the second-floor Wash-places to be painted out, and the words "Gentlemen" and "Ladies" respectively to be substituted. It is important that this work should be carried out at once.

—N. O. Plugton, Ministry of -----.

Minute 10. 20th July.
Mr. Talkinghome:

I beg to report that in accordance with the terms of Minutes 6 and 7 above, I gave instructions to the Painting Division of the Board of Construction for the work to be carried out (see Minute 9). This has now been neatly and expeditiously done.

I regret, however, to have to report further that in the interim the Plumbing Division of the same Department had detected the manifest inaccuracy of the inscriptions, and (acting upon whose instructions is not quite clear, but this point is being pursued on another file), took independent action to correct the error.

This they did in the only way open to the Plumbing Division—namely, by exchanging in their entirety the internal fittings of the two Wash-places.

You will note that we have thus arrived back at the situation outlined in Minute 1, except that the Ladies' Wash-place (inscribed "Gentlemen") is now where the Gentlemen's Wash-place (inscribed "Ladies") was, and vice versa.

May I, therefore, have your instructions please, as the matter is now becoming rather urgent.

—N. O. Plugton, Higher Clerical Officer, Accommodation.

EDUCATION AND DEMOCRACY

It has been all too common in the past to regard history as a succession of events, as a series of wars, of rising and falling dynasties, etc. But underlying these, and related to them as cause to effect, are certain principles; an understanding of which alone gives significance to the episodes of history.

Viewed in this way, history may be regarded as a combat between Liberty and Law, between the "common people" and those whose power and position depend on controlling and guiding them. In the past this control was exercised openly, through the medium of an army. With the advance of social and political knowledge, control to-day must be exercised more cautiously, by propaganda, and the careful manipulations of an unseen hand, so thwarting social progress.

Thus, approximately 100 years ago, in response to a popular movement, the franchise was obtained by citizens generally, who thereby expected to increase their control over their own affairs. This involved an abdication of power in name only. Ready to hand was the Party System, which, by astute control, still kept the choice of representatives a matter beyond the reach of electors. To-day, as in the days of "rotten boroughs," the people have no say in the selection of their ostensible lawmakers. They are merely electors, but not selectors. In more modern times, since the war of 1914-18 and stimulated by the depression, we saw a rising demand for a financial system which would reflect the productivity of industry and not the interests of those, who, through the control of finance, control the destinies of the people. The fight centred round the creation of financial credit, and the consequent power of its creators. All the resources of vested interests and academic learning were mobilised to discredit and resist such a demand. Yet, truth gradually spread until "Branch Banking," an English banking journal, declared, in its issue of July, 1938: "There are enough substantial quotations in existence to prove to the uninitiated that banks do create credit." Yet there is little reason to believe that this admission would have been made, and the position abandoned, if it had involved any serious loss of power. The enemy is often more dangerous in the moment of apparent defeat. What has now to be watched is to see that the people are not given "the shadow of the substance," and be as far from real freedom as ever. Money can be made to serve any system. It serves Germany. It is not merely debt-free money, but control of our money issue that is necessary. And issues of "Central Bank Credit" do nothing towards giving the people that.

Similar examples could be quoted, "ad infinitum," of how the desires of the people for democratic progress have been side-tracked. And to-day the process is very much in evidence. It has become clear to all who really think, that unless citizens understand the social structure, that is, unless they become educated in a true sense, even the best of institutions and laws must fail to produce the results desired by the people.

True to method and precedent, to-day all manner of suggested cures of the social ills are given publicity, suggestions whose effect would be to check, divert or weaken the urge to progress. Whether those who advocate these are subtle foes, or misguided friends of democracy, is not quite clear; but the result is the same in each case. Latest in the lists is Professor Browne, who, in the daily press of March 19, outlines a ten-point programme of the "fundamentals" of Educational Reform. Except in one point alone, No. 7, where an implication may exist, there is nothing to show that the professor has any awareness of what is the problem before society to-day. In common with many other would-be educationists, he advocates, inter alia, extension of the school leaving age and increased technical training. While no one wishes to deny the value of these, even a casual regard proves their futility.

Thus, in Germany, to take one case alone, the leaving age is in cases as high as 18. In U.S.A. technical training has reached a standard nowhere excelled; yet in the depression years of 1929-32 that country had an unemployment roll of twelve millions. Greater technical training means greater production, and if the past is any guide to the future, all we can expect from greater production is greater destruction, and more unemployment and doles in the next depression.

Moreover, to speak of technical education, as many do, is quite incorrect. It is merely technical training, and not education. It has as its objective the attainment of certain skills, and any education is merely incidental. It is no more correct to speak of "technical education" than to say we educate a soldier to walk twenty miles, or we educate a horse to win the Melbourne Cup. Education has a double purpose. It develops the "mental muscles"; but its distinctive purpose is to bring before the student those problems and experiences which will enable him to make unbiased decisions relative to his life in society. It aims to improve the quality of life. When the fighting forces return, and those engaged in war production return to production for peace, we could quite clearly be faced with a standard of living far beyond our most optimistic hopes in the past. The problem will not be one of increasing production, but of the utilising

of our capacity to produce. In other words, it will be the problem of understanding society by its members. Unfortunately, our universities, from where we could expect a lead, show either complete ignorance or deliberate misrepresentation. Professor Copland, as head of the Economics School of the Melbourne University, is the person who helped impose the notorious Premier's Plan, which destroyed goods and limited purchasing power while people remained in semi-starvation, all in the sacred name of keeping up prices. He it was, who taught that banks could not create credit, and that price fixing was impossible, whereas he now receives a munificent salary as head of the Price Fixing Department. Quite clearly his ability as a teacher is at the service of those who will pay him sufficiently.

If social problems are to be solved, they must be discussed not only by undergraduates (who are merely mentally conditioned to accept certain specific opinions), but by all, adolescents and adults alike, free from the choking restrictions of official dogma. Freedom is the essence of education. It is the teaching of all history that conformity of ideas kills progress. "In things essential, unity; in things doubtful, liberty." Thus, even the most extreme advocate of liberty will no doubt agree that it is desirable that children should learn to read and to calculate; that they should acquire habits of honesty, etc.; and that they acquire some knowledge of the fundamental rules of health. But when one considers the problems which confront society to-day, no enforcement of official opinion is compatible with either Education, Liberty or Democracy.

And it is only vested privilege or cherished prejudice which compels this. Only those who doubt the truth of their opinions or fear the loss of their power employ violence or propaganda.

If society is to progress, all citizens must be free to discuss their problems; all sources of possible information must be available to all. If we are to understand anything, we must give time and effort to its consideration. Among questions agitating people to-day are: "What are the justification and limitations of private property? What are the merits and demerits of conformity and individuality? etc., etc." In such questions the conflict between reason and prejudice is most strong. And it is in this conflict that one is trained to think as only a truly educated man can think. An educated man is one who, in the acquisition of relevant information, has learned to control his prejudices.

How, then, is a genuine Education System to be instituted? One visions a new "Chartist Movement," inspired by men and women with a vision; and, above all, understanding of liberty and its foes, with an unassailable honesty and tenacity of purpose.

—F. A. P.

BEWARE INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY!

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—In the press the last few days there has been quite a lot of information, both from Washington and London, about a new international currency. When are we going to rise up against this great racket of international financiers, whose only aim is world domination through finance? If this new international money scheme is brought in—whether the "American" or the "British" version—every participating nation will be controlled and dominated by those international gangsters. Let us demand from our Government that they use their sovereign powers over credit and finance, so that our internal currency will be a true reflection of the physical facts. This would set an example to other independent nations to use their sovereign powers also. So far as international exchange is concerned, we do not need that obsolete measure of value—gold—to measure our currency—directly or indirectly. Britain might export machinery to Australia, and we would then owe them, say, £1,000,000. But we could send wheat, wool, or any other produce they desired to the extent of £1,000,000. Our figures and theirs would be based on the same principle: cost of labour, depreciation, etc. It might be said that they pay lower wages than we pay, therefore there would not be fair exchange of goods. If we were not satisfied with the exchange, then the two sovereign Governments, representing the people, could arrange a more equitable exchange of goods. Fixing the exchange is not a job for the private banks nor international financiers, but a business transaction between two nations, which should be done by the responsible Governments of those nations in the interests of the nations. If these things were done, I feel sure one of the main causes of war would disappear, and all nations would get a higher standard of living, and be content to live at peace with each other—and be free from debt.—Yours, etc., DAVID McINNES, Moreland, Vic.

THE "TALMUD" TEACHINGS

By BORGE JENSEN, in the "Social Creditor," England.

(Continued from last issue.)

From monotheism to monarchy, in the sense of centralised government, there is but a step. The "God" who demanded that His word, the Law, be promulgated by means of the sword (war being compulsory against certain neighbouring tribes), quite naturally delegated His power to a leading swordsman, His Anointed One, the Monarch to whom all had to bow down.

The worship of the one and only God resulted in a "rigid intolerance toward every form or snare of idolatry" which became "the characteristic feature of the rabbinical law" and endless persecutions were the result. Moses's wholesale slaughter of the dissenting clique who preferred to dance round the Golden Bull, encouraged, so it seems, by the brother of the prophet, to dancing to the pipe of Moses, whether it is considered to be a historical fact or a myth, is at least highly indicative of the methods and temper of the hierarchy. At the same time, the blind obedience to the "Leader" which is stressed time and again in the Talmud involved the Jews, as all

* "Jewish Encyclopaedia."

WHO FINANCES THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN GREAT BRITAIN?

LONDON.—Tremendous sums of money are being spent on Communist activity in Britain, but the source is hidden, says a newspaper article entitled, "Where is the Communist Party's Balance-Sheet?" issued by the Labour Party Press Publicity Department.

The article continues: "The Daily Worker" alone in 1943 is costing double the Labour Party's annual income from the affiliation fees of 2,500,000 organised members, and that journal is only one of many expensive Communist enterprises. For what is all this wealth being poured out? Communist leaders have admitted that they take directions from an authority outside Britain. We know, therefore, who calls the tune. But who pays the piper?"

In conclusion, the article warns Labour men and women to be on their guard against this money power wielded secretly by people who for years have proclaimed their enmity towards the Labour party. —Melbourne "Argus," April 1.

THE CITIZEN OF TO-DAY

"The mind of the citizen of to-day is continuously bombarded, through the agency of newspapers, magazines, books, the cinema, and wireless. Overwhelming results in the moulding of public opinion are obtained when these weapons come under the control of a ruling person or clique. If democracy is to survive it must be immunised by an education which trains the power and habit of independent thought rather than that of indiscriminate gulping down of propagandist fare.

"Alertness was the normal condition of primitive man. How different is the product of our own educational system, with his unthinking automatism and his wits either commonly asleep or wandering away from the matter in hand."

—Sir J. Graham Kerr, British MP.

NOTES ON THE NEWS

(Continued from page 1.)

manage the affairs of others (supposing they had the right) whilst being unable to satisfactorily manage their own.

PUERILE PRESS: In the light of present-day international line-ups and press attitudes, the following report from the Melbourne "Sun" of January 23, 1940, shows how fickle and unreliable such journals repeatedly prove themselves to be. Speaking of the Russo-Finnish war, the "Sun" said: "The Red Army, in a climate which should be more suitable for Russians than Europeans, has proved inferior to the best European standards." Of course, practice does make perfect, but WHAT an improvement the Red Army has shown since then (according to the same newspaper)! The "Sun" reported in that same issue that "a delegation of Finnish financiers has left for U.S. to negotiate an American Loan." It was also stated in the same paragraph that "Nurmi and Maki, the renowned foot-runners, accompanied the delegation." (Presumably in order to quickly locate the money-dispensary.)

TINNED TROUBLES: Sir Stanton Hicks (Professor of Physiology), speaking on food trends, gave the following timely warning: "It would be a tragedy if compressed substitute foods in tins became an essential Australian diet in the post-war years. These are merely expedient to overcome supply difficulties in war-time; they are no basis for normal feeding. Australia must become 'fresh-food-minded' to avoid health defects." Will tin-pot planners please note?

FOOD FROLICS: Following meat-price fixing by the U.S. Office of Price Administration, says the daily press of April 8, "Gangster salesmen conduct marketing in the cities. They buy small slaughterhouses, and control a fleet of trucks for collection and delivery. These gangsters demand bribes from retailers for supplies. Other gunmen roam the countryside intimidating farmers into selling cattle." This news-item indicates (yet again!) that those global-minded U.S. planners have a full-time job in their own "backyard"; and further, that as the gangsters are delivering the goods, the shortage cannot be real.

—O.B.H.

other people who have rendered up their destiny unconditionally to an outside authority, in constant warfare. All of which provided the necessary atmosphere in which people would accept the sacrifice of freedom and leisure and privacy: "The more we are together the sooner we shall win." The next thing to aim at is, as we know, to make this barracks-existence appear so attractive as to transform it into a "peace-aim." Dr. Cohen maintains that the desirability of companionship is constantly stressed in the Talmud, and quotes the text:

"Hence it is declared: a man should acquire a friend for himself, to study the Mishna with him, eat with him, drink with him, and disclose his secrets to him (Sifre Deut., para. 205), and 'Either companionship, or death' (Taan, 23a)."

I have written that a belief in one God, and One Monarch, results in mass-life; but at the same time one might say mass-life is necessary for a continued belief in the absolute ruler, the philosophy (Judaism) and the policy (Slave-state) inter-acting upon each other. In the mass-life of large cities each "unit of the mass" feels small and helpless* and they naturally feel that if anybody is to rule effectively he must be a really big guy and be given really big powers. It is invariably the majority of the masses of big cities who vote absolute leaders into power. "Majority is only a specialised and deceptive word for the 'Fuehrer prinzip.'"† Mass life further conditions people to accept a mass, or collectivist, faith; just as a collectivist faith, like Judaism, helps people to be content with life in the mass. All the main temples of Judaism are built in, or near, the centres of large cities. Any reference book on Jewish theology contains innumerable statements to the effect that Judaism conceives of Israel as being more important than the individual Israelite. The "Jewish Chronicle" has written:—

"Judaism just in this respect so different from Christianity, has always paid less regard for the individual than for the congregation, less for an individual soul than for the soul of all our people."‡

The leaders of the synagogue saw to it that there should always be ample opportunity for their co-religionists to "descend to meet" and in this they were greatly helped by the all-important doctrine of the Sanctity of Labour. When we are not at war together, we can at least work in common. In modern prolonged "states of war" we call it war-work. Even the Quakers will do it.

(To be continued.)

* "We are so small, we cannot do anything," said the Germans who do not like Hitler but felt powerless to act. (Vide, "Into the Darkness," by Lothrop Stoddard.)
† C. H. Douglas, "The Big Idea."
‡ Quoted by Warren Weston in "Father of Lies," p. 169.

ERIC BUTLER'S BOOKS

(Obtainable from New Times Limited, Box 1226 G.P.O., Melbourne.)

"THE ENEMY WITHIN THE EMPIRE." A short history of the Bank of England. Price, 6d. Postage 1/4d. (4/- per dozen, post free.)

"THE MONEY POWER VERSUS DEMOCRACY." The best "hand-book" for Australian democrats. Price, 9d. Postage 1/4d. (6/- per dozen, post free.)

BOOKS TO READ

(Obtainable from the United Electors of Australia, Room 9, 5th Floor, McEwan House, Little Collins-street, Melbourne, C.1.)

"Federal Union Exposed": A book you MUST have. By Barclay-Smith. Price, 1/-.

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

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

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

NEW PAMPHLET

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