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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).

# Banks' Barrage At Money - Reform Meeting

## Organised Hooliganism Used in Attempt to Suppress Facts About Financial Fifth Column

From the outset of the meeting in the Melbourne Town Hall, on July 29, organised by the New World Reconstruction Movement, it was evident that a number of those present were in attendance for no other purpose than to create disorder and uproar. The fact that the subject being dealt with by the speakers had reference to Financial Reconstruction, explains the interest evinced in the meeting by the groups of persons mentioned. It is significant that these groups consisted of members of the staffs of certain of the Associated Banks.

Among the individuals positively identified were employees of the Commercial Bank of Australia, the Bank of Australasia, and the National Bank of Australasia.

It is not suggested, of course, that the managements of the banks named would stoop to such tactics, as the detailing of members of their staffs to attend, for the purpose of disorganising, public meetings of citizens who are intent on educating the people on the vital question of the present fraudulent banking and monetary system. Oh dear, no! Bankers do not do those things; their high code of

"morality," the sense of responsibility developed by their position of trust as "custodians of the people's savings," not to mention their all-important function of "advisers" to Governments, would never permit them to deviate from the paths of rectitude, nor to abrogate those principles of honesty and integrity for which they stand. No! A thousand times no!

The presence of the afore-mentioned rowdy minions of the banking system must, therefore, be regarded as evidence of their own irrepressible zeal in the service of

their lords and masters. It could never be said that the banks concerned would pay overtime to members of their staffs engaged on such a "duty." Tea money? Well, perhaps. Oh! but we are forgetting ourselves. The highly moral and unquestionably "sound" banks could never think of conniving at such undignified and unedifying practices. Our apologies!

The proceedings indicated, in no uncertain manner, the ruthless measures which the controllers of the banking system are prepared to have recourse to in order to retain their private monopoly of the public credit. The fact that their pernicious, anti-social system has brought about two devastating world wars and a world-wide depression, with all the attendant human suffering, matters not to these financial fifth columnists.

Both the speakers on the platform were subjected to a continuous volley of interjections from the bank representatives. None of the remarks shouted at the speakers was in the slightest degree intelligent; most were quite inane. Yet the men who behaved in this uncouth and stupid manner pose as being "educated" men.

Mr. Bruce H. Brown, as the first speaker, dealt with the problem of finance. In his customary lucid manner, he outlined the conditions of insecurity, poverty, and financial dictatorship, which have been imposed on the people by the aforesaid financial fifth columnists. He made it very clear that this power controls all Governments through the political party stooges, and concluded by stressing the fact that, as like causes inevitably produce like results, the conditions after the war would be worse than those which prevailed prior to the war—unless sovereignty over all credit and currency were assumed by the people.

Cr. B. A. Longfield offered proposals for the solution of the financial problems referred to by Mr. Brown.

Those present at the meeting were supplied with a Bulletin embodying a summary of the financial problem and the suggested solution; also, with an Information Sheet,

which contained a letter that is being sent by the New World Reconstruction Movement to all election candidates. The letter asks candidates to indicate their attitude to the proposals mentioned in the Bulletin. The N.W.R.M. recommends all its supporters to write a similar letter to candidates, and to vote against those candidates from whom a satisfactory reply is not received.

Only by determined action on the part of the people can victory over the internal enemy be gained. The following quotation, from the English periodical, "Pocket Book Weekly," May 22, 1943 indicates very clearly how anti-British are the financial fifth columnists:—

Paul Einzig, who is foreign editor of the "Financial News," and also of "The Banker," London, has written of the Bank for International Settlements as follows:—"From the very first day of the war private citizens and firms in Britain were ordered to sever all connections with those neutral firms which had been put on the black list because they were controlled by enemy interests. Failure to comply is severely punished. But the Bank of England seems to be an exception. Certain of its directors are allowed, even in 1943, to remain on the Board of a Bank the share capital of which is held by Axis-controlled interests to the extent of 72 per cent. What is more, three Britishers are permitted to serve on the staff of the wretched bank in Basle, and there can be ordered about by Herr Hechler, the German Assistant General Manager. Since the publication of the Bank's Post-War Plan of a co-prosperity area very much on German-Japanese lines, members of the British House of Commons have fired important and vital questions at the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Kingsley Wood. He has not been able to answer any of them to the satisfaction of the members or of the British people. . . . And further, if we look at the composition of the Board, we find that out of 16 Directors, only two are British and two neutral, while the remaining 12 are nationals of Axis or Axis-controlled countries."

## NOTES on the NEWS

Although Mr. Fadden himself strongly favours conscripting the other fellow (you), he attacks Mr. Dedman who, it appears from an article in the "Sun" of July 29, PREVIOUSLY opposed conscription on religious grounds; and did not then believe "that any man or any Government ought to force any individual to take up the art of killing his fellow-men."

Strangely enough, both Menzies and Curtin held similar views—when they were eligible for service. However, this form of mud-slinging, used as election propaganda, should indicate to electors the low mental plane of the men who engage in it, and it does indicate that the political atmosphere of Parliament should be none the worse for their absence from it.

**POWER PERIL:** Although Mussolini has been conveniently withdrawn from the limelight by the master planners, his influence is still with us, judging by the following statement from a local aspirant for political honours: "All legislative power should be handed over to the Commonwealth Government, which should delegate certain responsibilities to State and municipal authorities." That has been the policy of both Mussolini and Hitler, and the consequent evils are plain to see, yet the Melbourne "Sun" of July 27, announcing with screaming headlines the downfall of Mussolini, in the same issue reported the above as the policy of Mr. J. E. Menadue, endorsed U.A.P. candidate for Wannon. Such are the warnings that electors should not ignore.

**NATIONAL NONSENSE:** Of the many election cries intended to befuddle electors, the "National" or "All-Party" Government slogan is probably the most insidious and dangerous. It is simply another name for a coalition Government, the most unsatisfactory of all, because all the Party hacks, in protecting each other from criticism, stifle all critics by fair means or foul. The only effective answer to the squabbling power-lusters who for the past three years have brought Parliament into disrepute is to replace them with bona-fide Independents, thus creating a "NO-PARTY" Government, where men will first ascertain what their constituents require and vote on each measure in the light of that consideration only. That is the only way to obtain national unity; so, beware of advocates of "National" Government.

**UNION UNREST:** Press items from U.S.A. indicate the trend towards trade-union dictatorship when reporting union-boss John L. Lewis as "ordering the miners (his employers) to return to the mines." The men, however, appear to have had enough of these Leader maniacs, and have refused to do so. If the men are wise they will settle their own grievances and make their own decisions, and dispense with such presumptuous servants. That goes for Australia, too.

**HEALTH HUMBAG:** More centralisation of power is threatened by the proposal to establish a special bureaucracy to co-ordinate (centralise) the present scattered system of control over health matters. In dealing with this, one daily paper said that "such a measure had been

frequently urged during the past 15 years." It did not say by whom; but it certainly wasn't urged by the people. Local municipal control of such matters would obviously be preferable to the creation of yet another bureau. Each municipality has, or should have, a qualified health officer capable of dealing with such matters. Such an officer would be responsible to the council, which in turn would be responsible to the ratepayers. Decentralised control is the only satisfactory way of life—so beware of all proposals that aim at centralisation.

**BANKER BARUCH:** Mr. Bernard Baruch, who was virtually economic dictator in America during the 1920 depression, has been appointed as personal "adviser" to the chief of war mobilisation. He will not be paid—and will therefore be neither responsible nor punishable when things go wrong. As expected, his strong note is the bankers' inflation bogey. He's all for high taxation to drain off the millions of "excess" purchasing-power in the people's possession. We've heard that tune before, in all countries, thus disclosing the international bankers' policy. The bankers are afraid that war finance issues for non-consumer-goods will be used to wipe off debts. That would never do! Hence Baruch.

**BOLONEY-BUGABOO.**—The term "bugaboo," instead of the more familiar Americanism "boloney," has been applied to the statements of the Secretary of the U.S. Navy (Colonel Knox), Admiral Home and others, that "the U.S. Navy is planning on the basis of the war lasting until 1949." The New York "Herald-Tribune" says that Admiral Home has misrepresented the problem of Japan's defeat, and absurdly exaggerated the difficulties in the way of it. It also reports that shipyard workers regard these statements as a "stupendous bugaboo," and suggests that "if the present naval command does not know how to beat Japan in less than seven years, it had better get out of the way and let those who do know take over." That's the line of talk to serve up to the ballyhoo merchants.

**PARTY PROMISES:** Mr. Fadden is described by the Press as being "stripped for action" when describing his election policy. He has promised what Curtin forgot, and doubtless Menzies will present anything overlooked in the Election Bucksheet Handi-

(Continued on page 3)

## The Elections - and Afterwards

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

When historians come to review the present state of affairs in Australia, they will surely consider that some infectious madness deprived us of our senses. Our Federal Parliament has been reduced to a place where Members indulge in cheap sneers at each other, where men like Ward rant and shout. The daily press, in the best Hollywood manner, uses the situation to keep the electors in a state of turmoil. Every "incident" is "built up," and the electors are urged to take sides.

Yes, it's a grand show! But what about the promoters? The men who control the actors and provide the publicity for the Spectators. We haven't far to look for these men. They are the big bankers and their henchmen, the men who have controlled every Government in this country.

A Labor Government did as Niemeyer ordered. Copland was the chief executive of Niemeyer's orders. Copland and his fellow economists directed the Lyons Government and the Menzies Government. Fadden's Government went out of office on certain taxation proposals. Curtin came in and did just what the economists advised Fadden to do. He ruthlessly attacked the middle and lower classes with confiscatory taxation. And the Communists applauded!

Now, while the promoters of the present political chaos in Australia—and chaos it is—continue to befool the electors with fights on "Brisbane Lines" and other "sensational" issues, it doesn't matter whether Curtin, Menzies, or Fadden is in office after the next elections. The growing bureaucratic machine which, in my opinion, the worst Government in the history of Australia has foisted upon us, is going to be continued.

The University Professors, most of them with socialist views, who now direct Dedman and Co., will still be directing after the coming election—UNLESS ELECTORS DECIDE TO TAKE ACTION TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO ALL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT THAT THE MARCH TO DICTATORSHIP IN AUSTRALIA MUST BE HALTED.

Once the electors grasp the fact that they have been fighting themselves long enough, that they must unite and control their M.P.'s on a non-party basis, we will stem the tide.

If the present Labor Party strengthens its position at the elections, I believe that Evatt will immediately increase his attempts to revive his infamous Powers Bill in a more subtle form. I wonder if he obtained any tips from Montagu Norman when he dined with him recently? It will

be remembered that Mr. Norman was the man who said he would welcome nationalisation. His representative in this country for some time, the "brilliant" Mr. Reddaway, said in my presence that he was a socialist. The socialist movements are the bankers' spider-webs—they catch the mug flies. Money reform is now used as one enticement. Dr. Evatt even addressed the Social Credit Movement in New South Wales late last year. I hope there weren't too many flies! If Dr. Evatt would take some action to support his words, I would be less inclined to call him a canting hypocrite.

It is interesting to note that the anti-Communist Sydney "Bulletin," the Melbourne "Herald," Mr. Menzies, Mr. Fadden, and the Communists, have been all agreed upon the following issues: Conscription, the Powers Bill, more Government planning, and heavier taxation on the middle and lower classes.

Well might the ordinary citizen ask: "What can I do?" I will tell him. He must first refuse to become one of the "mob" at the coming election. He has still time to write and ask prospective candidates to state definitely where they stand on fundamental issues. He should then vote for the man whom he considers the most acceptable.

But then he must join the army of democrats to wage the real fight, the fight to get control of Members. That is the important issue.

I appeal to all social creditors throughout Australia to increase their efforts after the elections. Are you doing everything possible? Are you supporting your organisations financially? Do you buy your extra copy of the "New Times" and pass it on? Are you fighting day and night to beat the foulest plot ever attempted against us? Never forget that the enemy fights all the time, election or no election. We can beat him, but only by an inspired effort by everyone. The election will pass. But the real fight must begin in earnest. Let us go to it!

## THE PARTIES AND PUBLIC FINANCE

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

Sir,—There is no necessity to remind readers of the "New Times" that a most important question at the forthcoming Federal Elections is FINANCE. They are well aware of it, and doubtless have already carefully compared what the various "parties" have had to say on the subject. But there are still many estimable citizens who have not yet become conscious on the point, and it may be a help to some if a brief comparison is set out in this letter.

Effective re-construction after the war is not possible within the framework of the present financial system. That is a FACT, not an opinion. Taxation and "loans from the people" simply CANNOT provide the "funds" which will be necessary if even only half the promises are to be carried out. On the alleged ground that it is because of war necessities, taxation is at a higher level than it has ever reached before; "borrowing" has been attempted on a scale hitherto unknown; and so-called "bank credit," in the form of permanent interest-bearing DEBT, is being obtained to an extent that is alarming to the men behind Mr. Menzies. The PEOPLE will not submit to this in "peace" time. And so, UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT NOW, "expenditure" will have to be seriously curtailed after the war. Indeed, the Financiers have already taken care of that by having the Financial Agreement incorporated in the Commonwealth Constitution (Section 105A). Under that Agreement it is only in war time that the Government is "permitted" to get "funds" without first applying to the Loan Council, and when the war stops the old farcical procedure will be resumed. If we permit this insanity, the members of the Fighting Forces will return to such a mountain of debt, interest, and taxation that they will have escaped from the horrors of war only to be thrown into the never-ending horror of financial servitude to the holders of the debt bonds, for whom the gallant fighters and their dependents will have to slave for ever.

That this is no figment of the imagination is to be seen in the FACT that, in the year before the war, the whole of the collections from INCOME tax, LAND tax, UNEMPLOYMENT tax, SALES tax, MOTOR tax, and ESTATE taxes were INSUFFICIENT to meet the present interest charges on the National Debt. It is therefore as certain as the sunshine that taxation when our fighting men return will be very much higher than was the case when they went away. Strange as it may seem, all these taxes could be discontinued if it were not for the INTEREST on the National Debt. It necessarily follows that as most of the taxation goes to the financiers and their institutions, which hold the bonds, the soldiers who survive at the front will have the satisfaction of knowing that they made the country safe for the counterfeiters, the pretenders, and the confidence men. Whether it hurts us to think it or not, the unpalatable truth is that UP TO NOW our Governments have mostly been interest collectors for bondholders, and have been used principally in devising and imposing measures to ensure the perpetuation of the DEBT and INTEREST system which has crucified humanity and kept the "wage-earning class" as a gang of wage slaves. All the money borrowed by Governments has been privately manufactured by the controllers of the banking system, which means that the Government is using the weapon of taxation to force us to pay interest on counterfeit finance.

### "GESTAPO METHODS"

In the British House of Commons, on March 10, Sir H. Williams asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of War Transport what instructions have been given to employees of railway companies and to police officers to search passengers' luggage in order to ascertain whether such luggage contains flowers?

Mr. Noel-Baker: No special instructions have been given. Police officers enforce the law in the normal course of their duty.

Sir H. Williams: Do police officers go on to railway trains in performance of their duties under the law?

Mr. Noel-Baker: If necessary, they do so. Sir H. Williams: Without the sanction of a superintendent, does a police officer go on to a railway train and say, "I want to look at your luggage?"

Mr. Noel-Baker: If he has an authorisation, he can do so.

Sir H. Williams: Who gives it?

Mr. Noel-Baker: It can be given by the competent authority.

Sir H. Williams: Is not the authority of a Minister of the Crown needed?

Mr. Noel-Baker: If my hon. Friend will look at the Defence Regulations, he will see.

Mr. Levy: Is it not impossible without a complete search of the various passengers' luggage to ascertain whether flowers are contained in the luggage or not, and is it not highly improper to use these Gestapo methods to examine peoples' luggage?

Mr. Noel-Baker: If my hon. Friend will make inquiries, he will find that only a small number of passengers' luggage has been examined and that no passenger has refused to open his bag when asked to do so. I think there is a general desire that this Order shall be upheld, and the present arrangements are working extremely well.

Mr. George Griffiths: Why is there this great interest in flowers at the present time? Is it because the hon. Members desire to have wreaths for the burial of the Beveridge Report?

The subject is so important that one would expect all political parties to give it first place on their respective programmes. But they have not done so. On the contrary, they all plan on the false assumption that the old dishonest system must be continued. As far as I can gather from the speeches of the "leaders," and from the published reports of speeches of representative party men, this is what they propose:—

LABOR—Money to continue as a commodity, and to control all other commodities. Incomes to be levelled DOWN by redistribution of the present supply of money instead of being levelled UP by increasing the supply. Standard of living to be lowered by confiscatory taxation. No relief from IRREDEEMABLE DEBT and CRUSHING INTEREST, and no proposals for establishing Parliamentary sovereignty over FINANCE.

U.A.P.—The same, except that high incomes will be kept high and low incomes low. More "loans" to be obtained from the poor by compulsion and less from what is deceptively called "bank credit." Taxation to be increased so that a portion of the increase may be refunded! "Economy" in expenditure but "maximum" use of resources!

C.P.—Same as U.A.P.

COMMUNIST—Same as Labor.

SERVICES AND CITIZENS.—Same as U.A.P. (See special note later.)

MIDDLE CLASS—Same as U.A.P.

Regarding "The Services and Citizens' Party," I was present at the meeting in the Assembly Hall when the Chairman, Brigadier E. F. Lind, C.B.E., D.S.O., V.D., (one of the candidates for Henty advocating "cleaner politics") allowed himself to be a

party to base intrigue. The meeting was "packed" for the purpose of converting the organisation into a subsidiary of the U.A.P., and he cavalierly disposed of the protests and proposals put forward by the ex-soldier founders by the simple process of ruling them "out-of-order." It was a disgraceful display, and to me, at any rate, revealed Brigadier Lind as a man in whom I could not put my trust or recommend anyone else to put theirs. Anyhow, let the printed records speak for themselves. ORIGINAL OBJECTS included the following:

"To put down all 'rackets' which exist at present, and prevent their recurrence in the future. To control finance and prevent a recurrence of 'depressions,' the first step in this to be a reversion to its original status of the Commonwealth Bank, i.e., control by the Federal Government, not by the Bank of England, as at present, and as arranged by Sir Otto Niemeyer."

OBJECTS AS EMASCULATED BY THE ADVOCATES OF "CLEANER" POLITICS:

"No. 19. To develop the Australian financial system in the general interests of the community and with particular attention to its employment towards increasing productivity and combating economic crises."

In a public address in the Caulfield Town Hall on 29th June, the Chairman of the Council of the Party (Mr. W. H. Anderson) in declaring that there must be no interference with the present financial system used these words: "Let us not allow the cranks to monkey with our finance." And so the same old fraud is to go on. You will notice also that candidates have not been nominated by this "party" against any U.A.P. member!

Mr. Editor, from this very brief survey it must be obvious that those responsible for party programmes have themselves forced us to look elsewhere for satisfactory representatives. Knowing the paramount need for financial reform, we must support candidates who openly and straightforwardly announce their intention of working for it, and give evidence of their sincerity and determination in this regard.

—Yours faithfully, BRUCE H. BROWN, 189 Hotham-street, East Melbourne, C.2 1<sup>st</sup> August 1943

## JAPAN REWARDS ITS HEROES

I observe there has been a recent distribution of wooden bowls in Japan. A very limited distribution. Only to one or two eminent generals in fact. The bowls were presented by the Emperor himself.

I know nothing of the origin of this ceremonial gift. In fact, I know very little of the sons of heaven except that they are all so much alike that it's a puzzle they know one another. That, and an amazing sterility of invention, which is their outstanding national property.

Of course, the significance of the gift is plain enough. The wooden bowl is evidently the counterpart of the Victoria Cross or the Purple Heart; the important difference being that all the nations old in the game of giving costless rewards bestow something which can be worn for all to see. For the purpose of display a wooden bowl isn't any better really than a leather medal, or, to give the latter its usual name, a tribute.

It isn't a thing you can use much either, nowadays. Oliver Twist had one; so I believe, did Miss Muffit, but almost the only place you see them to-day is in the tills of those emporia which daily handle large quantities of coin of the realm. It is a most unappealing utensil; no good as a wassail bowl. You couldn't possibly exhort a landlord to fill the flowing thing to more than capacity, in the spirit of the good old-fashioned song.

Admittedly there have been times in my life when, like the night watchman, I could have drunk a quart of ale from a flower-pot with my thumb on the hole, but my fancy runs as a rule in more hygienic channels. And, I feel fairly satisfied that a wooden drinking vessel would not have the approval of the health inspector.

It is permitted to any body to theorise, and my theory is that there is something behind all this. It is my belief that Japanese research into English successes of the past has uncovered that story about Francis Drake and the coming of the Spanish Armada; of how Sir Francis, removing his clay pipe and glowering at the messenger who brought the momentous tidings, demanded to know what the heck and couldn't he see that the world's first seaman was playing bowls.

Having regard to what happened to the Dons after that game of bowls, it seems easy for the Nips to have got hold of the wheeze that when an enemy armada looms into view, all you've got to do is to give the bowls a burl. I can't explain the confusion in the two kinds of bowls. Perhaps the Intelligence section had something to do with it.

On the other hand, it may not be that at all. It may simply be another demonstration of that Eastern cantankerousness which, as Kipling complained, prevented a meeting of East and West except with lethal instruments.

But if my theory be not correct, I'm afraid I don't get the idea. A bowl wouldn't look so hot on a ceremonial parade. I mean to say, what would you do with it when you drew your sword? (The Japs are still in the sword-drawing stage.) Would you tuck it smartly under your left arm in one motion, or what? It is obvious you couldn't carry it in your hands; someone might bung a couple of yen in it, under a mistaken impression of its pur-

pose. Anyway, it would take a better man than Sam Small to manipulate the beastly thing.

Besides all that, a wooden bowl is not an inspiring thing to contemplate in peaceful interludes; not as good, I should say, as a silver cup or even a Britannia-metal mug with its laudatory inscription to remind us that once we excelled.

All mugs and cups are rather depressing, I think. Not a bit like medals, which have a modest way of getting themselves tucked away in the boot-cleaning box after the baby is tired of them. Mugs and cups keep cropping up. The time comes when they get elbowed off the piano and filled with discarded pipes and cleaners, but every now and then in a sentimental surge, you drop Aunt Maria's photo behind the wood-box and reinstate the once-coveted vessels. And it is as much as you can bear to witness your fall from grace. Sadly you turn the inscription to the wall. I expect these wooden bowls of the Japs will end up with a spray of mimosa or a tomato sprouting in them.

I think the practice which once prevailed, of awarding silver spoons for certain events, was happier. The spoons, after a year or two, emerge from seclusion and find their way into the plate basket. Starting out tentatively as special-occasion coffee spoons, they arrive by a natural declension at a democratic understanding with the E.P.N.S. And soon the inscriptions are worn off. They are indistinguishable at a glance from the ones you got from the steamship company and the hotel.

I offer the spoon suggestion without bitterness to the Nips. I don't expect them to use silver or even Britannia-metal.

In fact, I venture to prophesy a wooden spoon for them. —FOOTLE.

### PREMATURE PEACE?

"The situation to-day is the most dangerous the world has ever been in," declared Sir George Paish, the economist, at Manchester yesterday. "We are on the road to victory, but what is disturbing me is that there may be an outbreak of peace at any time, and the world is not prepared for peace, and has not thought out the problems peace will bring."—The Scotsman, January 30, 1943.

Still, Sir George, we ARE getting on, aren't we? We imprison people without trial and keep them imprisoned; we have established the Ogpu in every Government Ministry to "enforce" decrees made under three thousand Orders in Council which have never been submitted to Parliament ("The New Despotism"); by the same means we enact differential legislation "which does not affect multiple shops (chain stores) or the Co-operative Wholesale Society." We have abolished the right of private property and private contract. There may be more to do to reduce us to the condition of the most backward nations in the world, but we are getting on. —The Social Creditor, February 20, 1943.

## THE GREAT MYTH

(N. F. Webb's review of "Rape of the Masses," by S. Chakotin. Continued from last issue.)

Crowds are abstractions. Aggregation has a definite bio-chemical effect on individuals, so that collectively their behaviour bears little resemblance to their individual behaviour. By and large, the tendency is for individuals to be realists, and not amenable to abstract symbols, such, for instance, as Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity. The exact reverse is true of crowds, who can be more easily led by the appeal of symbols than by the realities for which they are supposed to stand, and who, the more they are denied the reality, clamour for the symbol. This is how Mr. Chakotin, with his interests concentrated exclusively on humanity in the bulk, puts it: "If men are pursuing an aim, the reason is that they are not content with things as they are; they are in search for something more attractive, and if this is unattainable they create a myth. . . . The myth belongs to the collective, it justifies, maintains, inspires the existence of the community, be it a people, a profession, or a secret society." "The important thing," he says elsewhere in his book in regard to the specific aims of Socialism, "is to find for the doctrine the equivalent of a mysticism—a myth and suggested expression, rites, symbols, slogans. . . . The myth for our emotional programme exists, and is entirely in conformity with the democratic doctrine. This is the wonderful myth of human Liberty, of the French Revolution. . . ." (My emphasis.)

Translated into terms of Socialist propaganda it becomes, . . . the constant inoculation of the community in all its members, by means of propagandist practice . . . of the ideas of the true, the good, the beautiful, and of faith in human progress, and in its true instrument the principle of social duty." (My emphasis.) In short, the recommendation to society at large of certain abstract courses, by salaried individuals who themselves have no faith (biological conviction) in their validity or ultimate usefulness. The parallel here with official religion, on its admittedly worse side, is so obvious as to be unavoidable.

In action, this becomes, in the language of Experimental Psychology, "Eubiotics, the improvement of the conditions of existence—a sufficient wage, guaranteed rest, the removal of family or industrial anxieties, in a word, the assurance of all the features of a rational and hygienic existence." And, one might surely add, the quite impossible aim of extracting from the environment of the human organism of every element by and with which it can alone express its conscious existence—that is, life.

This is the state of nihilism, the cult of Nothingness—apathy, "what's the good of anything?" In short, it is Dialectical Materialism brought to its logical conclusion. And so, after all the apparent fire, and passion, and enthusiasm of Mr. Chakotin's book, it ends like a dim scene from a Russian novel of the last century, in the despairing ennui of a provincial drawing-room. The following passages are all taken from the last two or three pages. I felt they needed the trailing finish of the proper names, which I have added, to bring out their full flavour. The emphasis is also mine.

"Human culture is biologically negative, it leads humanity to ultimate ruin," Alexandra Alexandrovna.

"Human culture engenders notions of morality and of social duty. From the biologically healthier point of view of the cave-man, these are injurious ideas," Nicholai Nicholaiovich.

"Altruism is biologically inept, culture creates the altruistic idea; hence culture is biologically negative. Such is the inexorable syllogism of pessimism," Alexandra Alexandrovna. (To be continued.)

### The Big Idea is Death

The following extract from a letter to the "Scotsman" of February 9, by the famous naturalist, Seton Gordon, indicates the reckless interference with natural life which is becoming so prevalent:

"Sir,—In your issue of yesterday is a paragraph which should not be allowed to go unchallenged. It is that the farmers of Argyll have petitioned that 'all hawks' be removed from the list of protected birds because of the harm they do by preying upon small birds which live on insects injurious to sheep.

"To any farmer who is a naturalist the grouping together of 'all hawks' for destruction will be recognised as a piece of utter folly. In the north of Skye we should like to see many kestrels at the present time. Because kestrels have been killed off mice have increased to such an extent that they have been a plague for the last eighteen months. They swarm everywhere, eating the corn stacks. Their destruction is more difficult by far than the destruction of rats. The chief food of the kestrel is mice and rats. Far from being removed from the list of protected birds, the kestrel should be specially protected, and a heavy fine should be exacted from anyone killing that bird or taking its eggs or young. It is one of the farmer's very best friends."

Responsibility for all unsigned election comment in these columns is accepted by H. F. Allsop, 343 Little Collins St., Melbourne, C.1

## PROGRAMME FOR THIRD WORLD WAR

By C. H. DOUGLAS, in the "Social Creditor," England. (Continued from last issue.)

**A deceased diplomat, whose superb self-confidence adorned an almost invincible stupidity, explained the ideals of what, for brevity, we may term the Chatham House Gang. Speaking at a dinner in New York just before the war, he remarked, "Peace comes from there being overwhelming power behind Law." The capital letter was, I think, in the original report. The speaker did not explain whose Law, or whose power.**

Apart from the fairly obvious fact that more elaboration would appear to be required on these two matters, I feel that a little debunking of Law with a capital letter is both necessary and desirable at this time. Both the word and the thing are becoming overworked.

In parenthesis, the kind of Law in the abstract to which reference is made in the speech just recalled has many characteristics which distinguish it from natural law. For the moment, it is only necessary to refer to one. It is almost invariably negative—"Thou shalt not"—. It is an interesting indication of the origins of the Law, that nine out of ten of the Commandments of the so-called Mosaic Law are negative, while the sole Commandment of the New Testament is positive.

I think that the important point to recognise is not merely the minus sign of the Law (because there is room for a good deal of elaboration on that point) but that negative direction is almost invariably a sign of immaturity when taken by itself. All children love to order people not to do things. Beginning with "naughty dolly," they work up to a point, usually reaching a maximum at about the age of eighteen, in which almost everything is coded—it is either "done" or "not done." Quite a lot of people never get past that stage, particularly if their life is spent in office work.

**The perfect comment on this kind of Law is that of William Blake, the poet and mystic, who said that, "One Law for the lion and the lamb, is oppression."**

While, in the last analysis, I think this goes to the root of the matter, it would be absurd to suggest that enforceable law has not a quite limited use. The Common Law of England worked on the whole to the general benefit, largely because it always had regard for the fundamental maxim, "De minimis non curat lex"—the law is not concerned with trivial matters. And it is small matters which make up the essential life. The principle has only to be stated for us to see how far we have departed from it, and how fantastic it is to have an organisation which is forever grinding out new laws. But that is something else again.

While this place for law in its proper place, and stripped of the nonsense of majesty and sanctity, may be admitted, it is yet possible to say, I think without any effective reply, that Law becomes more irrational, oppressive, and ultimately intolerable as the number of persons affected by it increases. So far from the ideals of the Chatham House Gang having any basis in inductive experience, only "intellectuals" encouraged by gangsters could fail to see that Home Rule movements are an affirmation of the healthy reaction against the World State. "Equality under the Law" is primarily intended to benefit the lawyers and their friends. So far from peace proceeding from it, there is not a country in Europe which is not seething because of it. Of course, it is open to anyone to say, as in the case of Dr. Temple, that "we need supremely the control of human purpose" and to defer the explanation of what you mean by human purpose and who "we" are.

**For my own part, I am satisfied that this reaction against legislation is easily the most hopeful outcome of the war so far. No people ever became great by passing laws, and the combined tendency to regard law as a substitute for action, while abandoning industry for bureaucracy, is one of the most dangerous symptoms of racial degeneracy.**

I am personally familiar, from a position of comparative detachment, with the working of two Government "spending" Departments. The human material in them is usually good, but deteriorates rapidly. One of these Departments, the first example of nationalised industry, the Post Office, is a proof of the greatness of this country. No country which had not immense powers of endurance could sustain an organisation such as the Post Office, and survive.

In order to reconcile this with a fair, but rapidly deteriorating postal service, it must be realised that a very high proportion of the work of the Post Office is not done by the post office staff. It is done by the commercial organisation of the country. Practically the whole of its material is bought; nearly all of its transportation is contracted for by "outsiders"; and a high proportion of the most troublesome collection and distribution is the work of small sub-post-offices which double the job with that of the village shop. With the exception of telegraph and telephone maintenance, and the mechanical equipment of the large city post-offices, the main function of the Postmaster-General's Department is that of a pure bureaucracy, operating under a set of intricate "Laws" known as Regulations. If a commercial undertaking of comparable size had the "overheads" of the Post Office, and dealt with its problems by the same methods, it would not stay in business for six months.

The ostensible work of this swollen bureaucracy consists in writing "Minutes" in "Files"; and the art of writing minutes consists in never by any chance committing yourself to any responsibility for anything

whatsoever. But, in fact, the main employment of these huge staffs is departmental intrigue mixed to an increasing extent with Oppu-Gestapo practices. They are riddled with Freemasonry; their Class Distinctions, like those of the Communist Bureaucracy in Russia, far exceed, those of so-called capitalist society, any activity requiring practical knowledge being confined to the Lower Orders.

While I am confident that before much time has passed something will have to be done with the Post Office by someone, my object in expressing a mild and limited opinion on its merits is simply that we have a working model, in it, of what a complete bureaucratic state would be like. And the almost incredible fact is that the great mass of the population outside these organisations (in the main hypnotised by the economic security attached to State employment) have no idea of the facts, which are simply that the weight of them, which grows daily, is carried by the diminishing number of people who do any useful work; and that the economic security is simply parasitism.

The Post Office is Socialism in being under the most favourable conditions. It is a monopoly; it relies on a more efficient system to do most of its hard work at low pay; it is grossly overstaffed and has much more than its fair share of Jews in key positions. It is rigid and lacking in initiative; always looking for a reason why something should not be done, rather than why it should be done. It is impossible to hold it responsible for anything, and like internal Russia, its one fear is publicity.

With this picture of Socialism under the most favourable conditions in our minds, we can consider the links between the inauguration of the Socialist State, Russia, and the Fascist State, Italy, the allegedly opposing system.

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## UNITED NATIONS POST-WAR POLICY

In the British House of Commons, on March 10, Mr. Rhys Davies asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government have considered the concrete proposal of responsible United States Government spokesmen that the United Nations should forthwith set up an organisation to study post-war reconstruction problems; and with what result?

Mr. Eden: His Majesty's Government warmly welcomes Mr. Sumner Welles's proposals for discussions with members of the United Nations on economic matters. His Majesty's Government for their part have been in touch for the past six months or so with the Dominions and India on various post-war financial questions of common interest and have also had a number of informal meetings with the Allied Governments in London. These consultations will be continued. In addition to the work undertaken by many of the Government Departments in their individual spheres there are a number of Interdepartmental Committees, under the general guidance of my right hon. Friend the Minister without Portfolio, engaged in studying these problems and preparing the ground for negotiations with the United Nations.

Sir P. Hannon: Will my right hon. Friend take the opportunity from time to time to inform the House of the progress made in these negotiations?

Mr. Eden: Yes, Sir. They are, of course, at present in an informal stage.

Mr. Rhys Davies: Is it intended at some near future date to send an authoritative body from the United Nations to deal with the problem more effectively than can be done, as now suggested, dispersed among several Government Departments?

Mr. Eden: When that course is thought useful I have no doubt it will be examined. My own view is that bodies can sometimes be set up without proper preparation for their work. I do not think that is very good. . . .

Mr. Stokes: Can we be assured that the Government will not commit the country?

Mr. De la Bere: Can we have an assurance that the whole matter will not be cut and dried before the House has had an opportunity of dealing with it?

## STATE MEDICOS IN GREAT BRITAIN?

**On April 12, "The Times" (London) published a special article by its Medical Correspondent designed to intimidate the medical profession back into the acquiescent apathy which had, until recent months, seemed to promise easy victory for the Plotters. But lately there has been a growing appreciation amongst members of the medical profession of the nature of the situation in which they have become involved.**

For many years that once most self-reliant and independent profession had been "softened" by the frustrations imposed through the Panel system and by the steady propaganda of the centralisers, until everything seemed ready and prepared for the final imposition of a State medical system. It seemed not only inevitable, but natural. Without a struggle doctors would give up their private property rights in their own knowledge; their freedom derived from the receipt of income from many sources instead of from one; their initiative and their responsibility. Nothing more was to be heard from them than a mild and innocuous discussion as to whether an extended panel system or straight-out, State authoritarianism should be "chosen."

But, as the "Times's" Medical Correspondent indignantly observed, "Correspondence in the medical journals and discussion among the members of the general public seems (sic) sometimes to take it for granted that the setting up of a comprehensive health service is still a matter of debate and that negotiations concerning this basic principle are still in progress. What he also observed, but didn't mention, was that the correspondence and discussion had hardened and clarified. Despite a few diversions, in the form of correspondence in the "British Medical Journal" not "closed" because of lack of space, there is more and more to be heard of freedom, and of the fact that it is freedom to serve patients to the best interests of patients and doctors which is threatened by the plotting, mis-called "planning."

So the Medical Correspondent let the doctors have it! Despite what doctors might think, there IS a Government plan, though what the plan is has not been "revealed." On the other hand, the "broad principles" on which it is based "have been enunciated in secrecy for the benefit of the various groups summoned for this purpose." (How too, too Hitlerian!) Furthermore, this plotted service is to be "administered through local government machinery." "Medical bodies may continue to advocate a national corporation to control the health services."

Just in case all this is not enough, the same issue of "The Times" carried a sub-leader to drive home the points made by the Medical Correspondent. And what admissions it contained! "Matters of finance, terms of service, and the details of administration all vitally concern the doctors." Now we know.

At least the medical profession has extracted a clear statement from "The Times" of the philosophy for which it stands. "The reconciliation of administrative self-government with central planning and direction of policy, of individual initiative with collective

responsibility, is a problem not peculiar to the organisation of the health services and of the medical profession." There it is: "Democracy" of administration with dictatorship of policy; the Minister makes a mistake (individual initiative) and the medical profession gets the blame (collective responsibility)—or, as Major Douglas so often has pointed out, "Demon est Deus inversus."—B.W.M., in the "Social Creditor."

## MEN-OF-MUNICH RAMP

**The following was submitted to but not published in "The Patriot" (England):—**

Sir,—Following upon quite a useful list of those who are "most vocal in pursuing and vilifying the memory of Mr. Chamberlain," Mr. Arthur F. Loveday explains their motive as being merely an unlaudable desire to divert attention from a simple error of judgment. Without any greater respect for the characters of most of the people concerned than Mr. Loveday's, I find this theory naive, and, indeed dangerous. The phenomenon, whatever it is, has clearly great historical and social importance, and the first explanation of it which arises in the mind should not necessarily be accepted unless it covers all the facts. To regard the "anti-appeasers" as a lot of rabbits doubling back into their burrows underestimates their significance for ourselves and the future. They are sinister not because they changed their game but because they played, and are playing, a double game. Their objective was war, and not only war but a great war, with the narrowest possible margin of "victory" on either side. To achieve their purpose, it had to be long, destructive and cataclysmic in the opportunity it provided for remoulding the world nearer to their hearts' desire. The acceptability of this desire may be best judged in the light of the means necessary to satisfy it. By those who vilify Mr. Chamberlain and are intelligent enough to know why they prefer one politician to another, Mr. Chamberlain is hated because he endangered the plan, and may have come much nearer than anyone yet knows to wrecking it. A not inconsiderable piece of evidence in favour of this last assertion is, in my opinion, the public bearing of Mr. Chamberlain right up to his last broadcast announcement of his colleagues' preference for another Prime Minister than himself. Those more closely in touch with him than the most watchful outside observer may know better; but I doubt whether many people detected the slightest sign of defeatism in Mr. Chamberlain's bearing until he knew that he had been driven from office—or rather the Prime Ministership.—Yours faithfully, TUDOR JONES, University of Liverpool, April 2, 1943

## Notes On the News

(Continued from page 1.)

cap; but all of these Party windbags will forget the really important issues. So far nothing has been heard of demobilising the bureaucrats or scrapping fascistic regulations and marketing boards. Nothing about freeing the people from the bankers' interest racket. Unless candidates accept these things as the real issues, electors have only the choice of playing one set of Party gangsters against the other until such time as more educative work can be carried on among electors. In short, a delaying action.

**CHRISTIAN CONCEPTS:** East Malvern ministers' council adopted a resolution urging Christian people to support candidates who publicly declared themselves as standing by "Christian principles." Since all candidates (excepting Communists) declare their Christian principles from the house-tops—or platform tops—it seems that Christian electors will have to vote for all other candidates than Communists. Even then, it will be no trouble for Communists to declare for "Christian principles" since it is such a delightfully vague term, and they have from time to time advocated and violated every known principle, so one more will be neither here nor there. Perhaps the candidates could be tested by the clergymen and given a diploma or certificate if they passed the test on Christian principles!

**INDEPENDENTS:** The number of independent candidates offering themselves for election is worrying all party managers—and especially Menzies and the Murdoch Press. The Melbourne "Sun" on July 24 suggested, as did Menzies earlier, that Independents should be "required" (which is sotto for compelled) to indicate which Party hacks should be given second and other preferences. The fact that such an act would utterly destroy their claim as Independents is of no interest to the aforesaid would-be dictators. They also say that the candidate who takes the attitude "vote for me and I don't care what you do with your preferences" is not wanted in Parliament. Perhaps they would prefer that such candidates should say, "Vote for the other fellow and don't bother about me." Further, who would require Independents to do this or that? The propaganda is typical of the diseased, power-lusting mind.

**HUSH-HUSH:** The press of July 7 contains strong criticism of newsmen covering the Solomons being allegedly gagged from quarters far removed from the fighting zones. The following is a sample: "Restrictions in the South Pacific mean that Washington and General MacArthur's headquarters are monopolising the spotlight." And this: "We read that General MacArthur and Lieut. Kreuger are running the show, but we are forbidden to name half a dozen Admirals and Generals who deserve credit for planning the Solomons' offensive." If it is true that the daily papers are merely printing second-hand, doctored information from some remote-control station far away from the battlefield, and if they know it is not the real story—well, they don't have to print it! So far as the public is concerned, a blank space would be preferable to a "cooked" story.

**SOVIET STRATEGY:** Following the practice of establishing "democratic" Governments for Belgium, Netherlands, Poland, France, etc., etc., in England, the press of July 24 informs us that Russia has now set up a German "democratic" Government in Russia. It was not stated whether or not Britain or U.S. were consulted in this move, but the press report did say: "Some of the administration's opponents contend that the manifesto [of the new "German" Government] means that Stalin is deserting the unconditional surrender policy to open an independent programme for peace with a Communist Germany." It's all very bewildering, and, of course, the people of Russia or Germany are not consulted. It may even be that the Party gangsters of Germany are setting up a "democratic" Russian Government in Germany!

—O.B.H.

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## GERMANY AND THE HITLERITE STATE

In the House of Lords, on March 10, Lord Vansittart said: With regard to that great force for evil [the German armed forces] I will only say this: The German word for "Army" is "Heer," and the German word for "devastate" is merely the verb of that noun, "verheeren." I think that the German Army has lived down to its traditions!

Furthermore, I am in warm agreement with the right reverend Prelate in not wishing to destroy Germany. I desire only, in company with hundreds of millions of other sensible people, to destroy Germany utterly and forever as a military power; and I further desire, in the company of an equal number of sensible people, to make an end for ever of all German pretentious, intrigues and efforts to gain the economic hegemony of Europe, which is only another road to Germany's intolerable tyrannies. Subject to those trifling reservations, I welcome the survival of Germany with one proviso only; and that is that it shall be a totally different Germany; in other words, it shall bear no relation in shape, soul, or substance, to either the Second or the Third Reich, which have brought these measureless miseries on mankind.

Even that does not exhaust the measure of my concord with the right reverend Prelate. I agree with him that there is a difference between Hitlerite Germany and the very small number of Germans who are not working for Hitlerite Germany, and the still smaller number who are actually working against Hitlerite Germany. Let us by all means, from every practical point of view, distinguish between entity and non-entity. That is exactly what I have been always trying to do. For that purpose, you must put yourself in the position of the

victims. Where, the victims have cried in vain through the centuries, are these good Germans of whom we have heard so much and seen so little? Well, here is the answer. Throughout those generations, the good Germans have corresponded exactly with Euclid's definition of a point: they have position, but no magnitude. Some, indeed, have exceedingly good positions, but I cannot tell you, and none of the victims can tell you, what they have done about it. I have spent a long time looking for them with a microscope, from the practical point of view, and I have invariably found a full-stop. . . .

There are no illusions in Soviet Russia in regard to Germany. In Soviet Russia they do not suffer Germanofools gladly, nor have they any great understanding of that numerous Anglo-American caste, the Unteachables. Therefore I hope His Majesty's Government will be very cautious in replying to this Motion. There is nothing to be afraid of in the truth. Truth is only terrible when one tries to dodge her. And the truth is that there is really no such place as Hitlerite Germany. Hitlerite Germany be hanged! It will be, but your problem will remain. Therefore, I say that if, in deference to any illusory refinements, this Government or any other Government, American or Russian, were to leave to Germany one shred of wherewithal to put the youth of the world for the third time through this hell and shambles, if for the third time blindness were to allow Germany the least chance of claiming again the broken bodies of the young and the broken hearts of the old, why then, before God, I would hope that there would be a general revolt, and I would be the first to join it.

## THE "LAND FOR THE (Chosen) PEOPLE" RACKET

By C. H. DOUGLAS, in the "Social Crediter." (Continued from previous issues.)

**"As in [?] into] Adam [Urdu, Adme, Mankind, Collectivity] all men [individuals] die, so in Christ [Individual Consciousness and responsibility] all Men [Individuals] are made Alive."**

The idea that a corporation, State or otherwise, can be held responsible has been proved to be a mere abstraction. "The Power of the Central Government has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished." It is therefore inexpedient that land should be held other than by individuals who can sue, and be sued. Any Government Department or Public Body requiring the use of land in peace-time to acquire it through a nominated individual whose responsibility will be identical with that of any other land-owner.

Central Government is merely a disguised military organisation, the power of which grows with what it feeds upon. If, as is now freely advertised in quarters which arranged the present war, a third World War is inevitable, we must have a strong Central Government. The Land question with all others need not detain us.

But if we are to escape final destruction, then the firm, drastic, and early elimination of land administration from Whitehall, or through disguised Trusts, Commissions, and other Corporations interlocked with Whitehall, is primary.

\* \* \* \* \*

Stripped of all the abstractions, "rights," moralities, and other complications which make any problem permanently insoluble, I do not believe that the land question is unduly difficult. I should say that the essentials of the Solution are:

(1) Absolute security of tenure for life, including complete abolition of land taxation of every description. The imposition of a land tax shall be "ultra vires."

(2) Abolition of land sales between individuals as of right. Registration of sale to take place five years after payment of purchase price, on petition by purchaser supported by six adjacent neighbours, who are landowners.

(3) County Council Authority to be obliged to purchase at valuation (see 6 below) all land offered for sale, and to advertise for re-sale only to approved purchasers who must obtain support of six adjacent landowners.

(4) No State or Public Body to hold land for which a properly supported application from a private individual is made at the valuation price.

(5) Where a legatee is non-resident on land which he inherits, he shall be given twelve months to take up the occupation of it. If he decides to reside, his title shall be confirmed after five years. If not, his land shall be acquired by the County Authority for re-sale as in (3) above.

(6) All land to be classed as A, Amenity Land. B, Agricultural Land. C, Industrial Land. All land titles shall restrict the land to which title is given, to the class in which it was placed on the grant of first title. No change of Class shall be permitted without the offer of sale as in (3) above.

(7) The initial valuation of land to be that shown in the last conveyance as consideration. Every five years, a landowner shall be entitled to make a claim, properly substantiated by accounts, in which his own activities shall be included as manager, for increased value. On the admission of this claim by a properly constituted County Authority against whose adverse decision appeal to a Committee appointed by the Land Agents Society shall lie, seventy-five per cent, of the cost of this increased value shall be

refunded to the landowner in County Bonds bearing interest at three per cent., and twenty per cent, of the increased valuation shall be added to the transfer value of the land.

(8) No public official shall have any right of entry whatsoever, without a magistrate's Warrant.

"Deus est demon inversus." (All rights reserved.) (Concluded.)

### DIABOLICAL IDEA

"Powarps—America's post-war planners—have a scheme to prevent future wars by the 'agricultural disarmament' of Europe.

"The plan, which will probably be discussed at the forthcoming United Nations food conference, calls for limiting Continental Europe's production of staple foods, such as wheat, sugar, and potatoes.

Germany, France, Belgium, Italy and Spain would grow vegetables, fruits, and dairy produce.

"For grains they would be dependent on the United States, Russia, and the British Commonwealth.

"Planners who support the programme believe that it is economically sound, and would preserve peace in Europe by keeping home food production below the point needed for waging war."

—C. V. R. Thompson, in "The Daily Express" (London), May 12, 1943

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Every democrat should get at least a dozen copies, and circulate them as widely as possible. ORDER NOW.

## WHAT IS ART?

The following extracts are from Leo Tolstoy's classic, "What Is Art?" (Wiener's translation):—

Take any newspaper of our time, and you will find in it a department of the theatre and of music; in almost any number you will find the description of this or that exhibition or of a separate picture, and in each you will find reviews of newly-published books of artistic contents, of verses, stories and novels. There is a detailed description, immediately after it has happened, of how such and such an actor or actress played this role or that in such and such a drama, comedy or opera, and of what talent he or she displayed, and of what the contents of the new drama, comedy or opera are, and of their failures and good points. With similar details and care the newspaper describes how such and such an artist sang or played on the piano or violin such and such a piece of music, and in what the good and bad points of this piece and of his playing consist. In every large city there is always, if not several, at least one exhibition of new paintings, the good and bad qualities of which are analysed by critics and connoisseurs with the greatest profundity. Nearly every day there appear new novels and verses, separately and in periodicals, and the newspapers regard it as their duty to give detailed accounts to their readers about these productions of art.

In every large city they build enormous structures for museums, academies, conservatories, dramatic schools, for performances and concerts. Hundreds of thousands of workmen—carpenters, masons, painters, joiners, paper-hangers, tailors, wig-makers, jewellers, bronzers, compositors—pass their whole lives at hard work for the satisfaction of the demands of art, so that there is hardly any other human activity, except the military, which absorbs so many forces as this.

But it is not only these enormous labours that are wasted on this activity—human lives are wasted outright; hundreds of thousands of men devote all their lives from their earliest youth, in order to learn how to twirl their feet rapidly (dancers); others (the musicians) to learn how to run rapidly over the keys or over the strings; others again (painters) to learn how to paint with colours everything they see; and others—to know how to twist every phrase in every way imaginable, and to find a rhyme for every word. And such people, who frequently are very good, clever men, capable of any useful work, grow wild in these exclusive, stupefying occupations, and become dulled to all serious phenomena of life, and one-sided and completely self-satisfied specialists, who know only how to twirl their legs, their tongues or their fingers.

\* \* \* \* \*

Men came to understand that the meaning of food is nutrition of the body, only when they stopped regarding enjoyment as the aim of this activity. The same is true of art.

\* \* \* \* \*

Art is a human activity which consists in this, that one man consciously, by means of certain external signs, communicates to others the sensations experienced by him, so that other men are infected by these sensations and pass through them.

\* \* \* \* \*

To say that a production of art is good, but not comprehensible, is the same as to say of a certain food that it is very good, but that men cannot eat it.

\* \* \* \* \*

"The critics explain." What do they explain?

An artist, if he is a real artist, has in his production conveyed to men the feeling which he has lived through; what is there here to explain?

\* \* \* \* \*

Sit in the dark for four days in succession, in the company of not quite normal men, subjecting your brain to the most powerful influence, by means of the auditory nerves, of sounds most calculated to irritate the brain, and you will certainly arrive at an abnormal state and will go into ecstasies over insipidities. [Of Wagner's operas.]

One hour will do for men who have no clear conception of what art ought to be, and who have formed an opinion in advance that what they will see is beautiful, and that indifference and dissatisfaction with this production will serve as a proof of their lack of culture and of their backwardness.

\* \* \* \* \*

Thus has art always and everywhere been esteemed according to its contents, and so it ought to be esteemed, because such a relation of art results from the properties of human nature, and these properties do not change.

Christian, true Christian art could not establish itself for a long time, and has not yet established itself, because the Christian religious consciousness was not one of those small steps by which humanity moves forward, but an enormous upheaval, which if it has not yet changed, must

finally change the whole life-conception of men and the whole inner structure of their lives.

\* \* \* \* \*

Look attentively at the causes of the ignorance of the popular masses, and you will see that the chief cause is by no means the scarcity of schools and libraries, as we are accustomed to think, but those superstitions both ecclesiastic and patriotic, with which they are saturated, and which are incessantly produced by all the means of art.

## "Unofficial Super-Cabinet" in U.S.A.

The "Daily Express" of March 8 reported:

"Five Assistant Presidents" have been meeting secretly at the White House as an unofficial super-Cabinet to advise Roosevelt on the high politics of war making. The big five are:

Bernard Baruch, Director of War Industries in the last great war.

Admiral William Leahy, Military Adviser to the President, and former U.S. Ambassador to Vichy.

Mr. Harry Hopkins, the closest personal aide to Roosevelt.

Mr. James F. Byrnes, Director of Economic Stabilisation.

Judge Samuel Rosenman, the behind-the-scenes friend and adviser to the President, who calls him "Sammy the Rose."

"The super-Cabinet has no official authority, but tremendous power because of having the President's confidence.

Its existence was revealed when other officials were called in.

The problem now said to be engaging its attention is as to man-power. Shall the United States conscript men and women for war industry?

The five are reported to be divided, either three to two, or four to one, for conscription.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NOTES

(From THE UNITED DEMOCRATS of 17 Wymouth-street, Adelaide.)

ANNUAL MEETING: The attendance, while not quite as good as for the previous year, was very fair considering the inclement weather. The President, Mr. Dodd, briefly summarised the year's activities. Progress in the spreading of our ideas and action technique was very encouraging, though Mr. Dodd drew attention to the need for more and more workers.

The treasurer, Mr. Day, presented the most favourable balance-sheet yet, which was adopted with acclamation. Our creditors' account is the lowest on record. Sales of literature were a little higher than last year. The excellent work of the ladies in the kitchen proved very helpful in aiding the funds.

The secretary read a wire from the Editor of the "New Times," sending greetings to members. This was very much appreciated, especially as we realise how the editors of both our papers are over-worked. Mr. Barclay-Smith wrote us a letter which was full of optimism and encouragement. The members present were very much impressed, and it was resolved that a letter of appreciation be sent, asking the Editor of the "New Era" to publish the letter for the benefit of absent members and friends. Regarding policy for the ensuing year, the following motion, submitted by Mr. Baker, was adopted: "That we again ally ourselves with the policy of the Liverpool Secretariat, and act in accordance, as far as practicable."

Election of Officers: Mr. Dodd was again nominated as president, but stated that he preferred not to stand, as he felt that after three years in office a change might be desirable. However, he agreed to the nomination with others, and the election was decided by ballot. This resulted in the election of Mr. C. H. Allen. On assuming office, Mr. Allen said he felt rather diffident about accepting what he felt to be a very important office. Mr. Dodd and Mr. Harvey are vice-presidents. Mr. Day was elected treasurer, unopposed. Mr. Lee was re-elected secretary, with two assistant secretaries.

The evening social was very successful, the number of friends being greater than for a long time. Mr. and Mrs. Hutchinson favoured us with music (piano and violin), and led in community singing. Three short talks on writings of C. H. Douglas were given—The Big Idea was discussed by Mr. C. D. Brock, "The Tragedy of Human Effort," by Mr. C. H. Allen; and "The Approach to Reality" by Mr. Lee. Supper was served by the ladies.

—M. R. W. Lee, Hon. Secretary.

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