

The "New Times" is a really independent, non-party, non-class, non-sectarian weekly newspaper, advocating political and economic democracy, and opposing Totalitarianism in all its forms.

THE NEW TIMES

Vol.10. No. 26. MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 1944

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 (or our lips are forging,
Silence is crime.
Whittier (1807-1892).

Don't Heed Evatt's Plea for More Powers

Danger in Referendum Proposals!

When the wise Lord Acton wrote that "power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely," he graphically summed up a fact known, particularly by British people, for many centuries.

Although the Hollywood Jews seem to have supplanted our own dramatists in interpreting life to us, there may be some who still remember Shakespeare's play, "Macbeth," in which the great English dramatist gives us a portrayal of evil as manifest in the lust for power, which in turn breeds the desire for still more power. In Dr. Evatt we have a modern Macbeth, seeking power and still more power.

The British peoples have so thoroughly and realistically understood how the lust for power could destroy them that they have always sought to place a strict limit on the power in the hands of any one man or group of men. They devised decentralised, local government for the definite purpose of keeping the control of their own affairs out of the hands of power-lusters.

Dr. Evatt deliberately ignores all the lessons of history. In other words, there is no doubt that Dr. Evatt has been indulging in some of the worst political blackmail yet experienced in this country. Readers of "Macbeth" will recall that Macbeth was a loyal subject of the King until Evil was introduced to him by the witches. It is not certain at what time Dr. Evatt first came in contact with Evil, but we do know that prior to being persuaded to enter the Federal House, he wrote:

"There is no limit to the audacity of elected persons" ("Democracy in Danger Here"), and, "such proposals may, under certain circumstances, be nothing less than attempts to cheat the electors of their right to control the legislature." ("The King and his Dominion Governors.")

But now we come to February 11, 1944, and Dr. Evatt, M.H.R., in his pleadings for greater powers, states:

"I want the House to consider these powers irrespective of the possible abuses and of the political policy that may be carried out by any particular Parliament that happens to be constituted over a period of years."

Australians! Carefully examine the above and then ask yourselves where you are heading. You farmers, who have seen bureaucracy creating chaos on the food-production front; you workers, who can be conscripted and sent anywhere in Australia; you businessmen, who have seen your life's work destroyed by the dead hand of Government departments while monopoly grows and flourishes everywhere; are

you going to ignore the danger that becomes obvious when Dr. Evatt asks your representative to consider life-and-death powers "IRRESPECTIVE OF THE POSSIBLE ABUSE OF THEM"? Are we going to stand for this kind of talk? There can be, there must be, only one answer to this type of talk. Every effort should be made, not to increase the powers which have already been outrageously abused, but to decentralise government and power to such a degree that there is absolutely no chance of power-lusters causing any abuses.

The speech from which the above gem is quoted is one of the subtlest ever delivered by Dr. Evatt. It reeks of hypocrisy. Let us examine some examples. After asserting that the Constitution must be altered in order that "social security" can be introduced, Dr. Evatt said:

"At present, the Constitution gives to the Commonwealth express legal support only for its invalid and old-age and invalid pensions system."

If Dr. Evatt's "social security" is similar to that being "enjoyed" by old age and invalid pensioners then God help us all! He admits that the Commonwealth has complete power to deal with pensions. And yet the Government of which he is a Member has not only done nothing to raise pensions above the present paltry allowance, IT ACTUALLY DECREASED THEM.

While talking about depressions and employers dispensing with the services of employees, increasing the "unemployment problem," not one word does Dr. Evatt mention about the control of all human activity by MONEY. It is not that Dr. Evatt is ignorant of this vital subject of money. Time and time again in the past, Dr. Evatt and, of course, Mr. Curtin, told us about the power of those who control the nation's money supplies. The present Constitution gives Dr. Evatt all the power necessary to implement a more realistic financial policy than the one now being

imposed upon us. Dr. Evatt's real aim is CONTROL. He tells us so:

"... full employment cannot possibly be achieved unless some authority is empowered to exercise a wide power to determine how employment is to be expanded."

No matter how we examine the above, the fact emerges that Dr. Evatt desires that "some authority"—no doubt the present bureaucrats who are drawing big salaries at the taxpayers' expense, and who desire to continue doing so after the war—shall have "wide power" to compel every man and woman to work on any project in any locality the "authority" deems fit. Stripped of all platitudes, Dr. Evatt's proposals are an advocacy of stark tyranny.

But the wily Evatt covers all this up with a very shrewd move. Right from the start of his campaign he has given the impression that he has been conceding certain points in deference to public opinion. Many are convinced that he deliberately left out any mention of a "freedom of speech" clause in his proposals, knowing full well that constitutional authorities would come forward and gain public support for the inclusion of such a clause. This happened, and, acting the role of a good democrat, Evatt informs us with great gusto that the people will have such a clause on freedom of speech. This is the

old conjuror's trick of directing the audience's attention to his sleeve while he produces the rabbit from the hat. The utterly false impression has now been created that, if the people vote "No" at the referendum, they will be voting against "freedom of speech."

As the people must vote for or against ALL the powers sought, they are placed in a false position. This is trickery at its lowest, and Australians must not allow their attention to be distracted away from the barbed hook, camouflaged by the "freedom of speech" bait. And, in the last analysis, what benefit will freedom of speech be if we can be forced to work anywhere, and on the terms dictated by "some authority?"

It would be the "freedom" of the cart-horse neighing as he is directed by the man controlling him. Evatt and Co. must be told, on August 19, that Australians have no intention of becoming like cart-horses.

Loyal Australians! There is no moment to be lost. Time is running out and we face a tremendous test. We can win if each individual assesses his own physical, moral and financial strength and asks himself: "How can I contribute to keep this country free?" He should then contribute until victory on the home front, as well as military victory, is achieved.

—ERIC D. BUTLER.

According to the Melbourne "Herald" of June 20, our socialistic planners have some diabolical ideas, for regimenting the people, if the people are foolish enough to vote "Yes" on the Referendum. Among the schemes put forward by the W.O.I. Dept. is a proposal that yet another Board would decide what purchases citizens would be PERMITTED to make after the war. "If, for example, it were deemed [by the Board] that a wireless set was still efficient, the purchase of a new one might not be allowed." The power-lusting minds capable of such a thought would, of course, apply this control to other commodities—even to babies' napkins! If voters can be given a mental picture of the sadistic plans of the planners seeking those Federal Powers, an overwhelming "No" vote should be assured on August 19.

CONVERTED CAPITAL: In the course of a dreary diatribe on trade disasters awaiting Britain after the war, Lord Halifax said: "Most of our overseas convertible capital was sold before Lease-Lend, so we will have very little income from those sources." Now, it will be remembered that all Allied countries, including America, were supposed to have liquidated their foreign holdings—which prompts the questions, "To whom were these securities surrendered? And who ordered this action?" It was "skeduled" for the same time throughout the world—which in itself is a curious fact, and it certainly lends force to the proposition that there is a central and secret body of men who determine financial policy, which is put into operation through the chain of central banks in every country—Axis countries included.

TAX TYRANNY: Commenting on Press reports of public alarm at the action of tax officers seizing bank deposits without a court order, Mr. Chifley is reported in the "Sun" of June 16 as saying "that the Government has no intention of reviewing the powers of the taxation authorities." As the Government has not met since the robbery took place, we can only assume that Mr. Chifley is the Government, and, further, that even if Mr. Chifley's employers, the people, want these powers taken from the tax-gatherers, Mr. Chifley will not permit it. Truly this is the Hitler-mind against which we are fighting. Those who value their freedom will lose no time in insisting that their Federal Members remove this dangerous power from the taxation Act, and also the power to enter private homes. Now is the time to write.

AMAZING ANOMALY: The next Federal Budget is expected to provide adjustment of taxes to provide adequate depreciation for industrial plant, maintenance and replacement. That's all to the good, but it seems odd that consideration is to be given to machines in preference to a consideration of war-time depreciation of human beings. Many men and women have, through long hours, suffered depreciation of their physique which it will be impossible to repair or replace, consequently, their working life will be considerably shortened; and yet the Government has taken most of their incomes from them in taxation, thus preventing them from providing financial reserves to meet that situation. It is an unassailable proposition that human depreciation should have first call on taxation remissions.

SHIPPING SHARES: Burns, Philp & Co., according to "Progress" for March 16, made a profit of £194,000 for 1944. This is the twenty-fourth successive dividend of 10%. This shipping company is described as one of the major monopolies, with interests varying from South Sea plantat-

ions to bathing costumes and steel girders. Strangely enough, the second largest shareholder in this show is the Presbyterian Church, with a holding of £23,000. This brings in a gross annual income of £2300, and indicates that at least one Church cannot logically oppose the profit motive—or monopolies!

TIRED TAXERS: Thirty thousand London tax officials have been ordered a four weeks' rest because of the strain of administering pay-as-you-go taxation. No mention is made of the millions of victims who have to pay the taxes, most of whom will never recover from the shock. Our local tax chief says that the position is easier here; he means, of course, easier for the officials—not the victims, most of whom are still unconscious from the extra 25% imposition. By the way, many workers are now taking home less than the basic wage after the amount demanded to meet the extra 25% grab in the specified time limit is taken from their pay envelope. So, the Arbitration Court orders a certain basic wage and the tax gatherers override the award—and the Union bosses cheer them on!

TASMANIA'S TROUBLES: An estimate from the State Fruit Board contained in the Melbourne "Herald" of May 20 is that

(Continued on page 2.)

No Scrutineers for Referendum?

This vital question and a couple of other important points are raised in the following letter from the Hon. Secretary of the non-party Electoral Campaign organisation of 81 Barrack-street, Perth:

To the Editor: Sir,—I would like to bring to your notice a few points that I have not yet noticed in your paper concerning the coming Referendum.

One of our members wrote to his Federal Representative, Mr. Burke, Member for Perth, enquiring what steps had been taken to provide scrutineers for the Referendum vote-counting, and demanding that any scrutineers appointed should not be appointed by the Government, which is an interested party, but by some outside body or bodies in no way connected with the

present Government and as unbiased as possible.

Mr. Burke's reply was to the effect that the Federal Government had no intention of seeing that there were any scrutineers at all!

Now, this looks very suspicious indeed, as any "mistake" that may occur, in counting the votes, might alter very considerably the "will of the people" as a whole.

There is also quite a lot of uneasiness here regarding the Party Political aspect the Referendum is taking. The very fact that Menzies and Fadden are advocating a NO vote is causing some blind partisans to argue that if Menzies and Fadden advocate a No vote it must follow that the correct procedure is to vote Yes!

I would also bring to the recollection of voters that in 1937, when a Referendum was taken to decide if "Power over Aviation and Marketing" should be given to the Federal Government (by an alteration of the Constitution), Mr. Forde and other Labor Members strongly opposed the granting of the Powers proposed, and advocated a NO vote!

Their reasons appeared in "The Case For and Against the Referendum."

Mr. Forde spoke strongly of the way we were being deprived of our Democratic rights, etc., etc. Now Mr. Forde urges the people to vote YES, to give the Federal Government these same two Powers—plus twelve worse ones!! How can he explain this volte face?

I think it would be of advantage if the appropriate extracts could be reprinted from "The Case For and Against the Referendum."

Yours faithfully WM. F. ANDREWS

Maurice Blackburn's Warning

Referring to the Referendum proposals shortly before his recent death, Mr. Maurice Blackburn, well-known Independent Labor M.P., said this:—

"I would not like to see these powers in the hands of men like Mr. Curtin and Dr. Evatt, who could not be trusted to use them in the interests of the Australian people."

The No Conscription Campaign, of which Mr. Blackburn was president, quotes that statement in its Referendum literature, in which the following also appears:—

"The [Referendum] proposals mean industrial conscription backed by military conscription. Assurances to the contrary are worthless. Mr. Curtin, Mr. Forde, Dr. Evatt and other members of the Government broke their pledges on conscription for overseas service, and will break them on this."

Premier Dunstan Hits a Bulls-Eye!

The following report appeared in the Melbourne "Sun" of June 24:

Lack of courage and not lack of power prevented the Commonwealth from playing an effective part in the last depression the Premier (Mr. Dunstan) said yesterday commenting on the speech by the Federal Attorney-General (Dr. Evatt) on the Referendum at Perth.

Finance power had always been in the hands of the Commonwealth and finance was the basic factor in employment.

In the depth of the depression, the Commonwealth Government, instead of assisting the States to provide employment, added to the hardships of those seeking jobs by closing down on public works and substantially reducing salaries, wages and pensions.

If another depression occurred, there would be nothing to prevent the Commonwealth pursuing a similar policy, whether it had wider powers or not.

When unemployment was particularly severe he pleaded with the Federal Loan Council to make funds available for reproductive public works, but the Council turned a deaf ear, Mr. Dunstan said.

AUSTRALIA'S GREAT POST-WAR PERIL

(A letter to the Editor from BRUCE H. BROWN. Continued from last issue.)

Mr. Angus MacInnis is the third member of the visiting Empire Parliamentary Delegation mentioned last week. He is a "Labor" representative for East Vancouver, and is the gentleman who recently attempted in the Canadian Parliament to have it made illegal to criticise certain persons or to disseminate material likely to cause "disharmony on account of race or religion." It was not revealed at whose instigation he did it or why he allowed himself to be used in such a way.

There is no Labor Party, as such, in Canada; but according to the London "Times" the Canadian Congress of Labor has "decided to regard the C.C.F. as its medium for political expression." Mr. MacInnis is a member of that Party, and an examination of its aims reveals very clearly that the difference between the C.C.F. and the Labor Party as we have it is in name only. Like other Labor and Communist bodies it is advocating the Centralisation of Power; and, whilst denouncing monopolies, it seeks to impose super-monopolies, under what is called "State" control. If these things would really be beneficial to the "workers" how strange it is that they are being advocated and backed by the exploiters of the workers—viz., the International Financiers and their servile Press. In this regard we should always bear in mind the remark of the Governor of the Bank of "England." He said: "Nationalisation of banking? I would welcome it." Nationalisation of MANAGEMENT is one thing, but control of POLICY is quite a different thing.

Current advices from England indicate that the London "Times" has been giving much prominence to the activities of the C.C.F. in Canada, and this is not surprising to those who are aware that the controllers of that newspaper include the Governor of the Bank of England.

Over in Canada itself, we see magnanimous co-operation on the part of multi-millionaires. One of these is the Jewish financier, Sir Victor Sassoon, who openly advocated the breaking up of the British Empire and the inclusion of Britain as one of the American "States"! Why such a man was ever "honoured" by the King is more than I can understand. However, money is apparently more important than morality, and dictatorship appears to make a greater appeal than democracy; and so, as the "Protocols" say, the Socialists, Anarchists, and Communists have become the fighting forces of the PEOPLE'S enemies!

According to the "Vancouver Sun" of 17/11/43, this very same Sir Victor Sassoon, who is openly working against the sovereignty of Great Britain, is wooing the admiration of the "leaders" of the C.C.F., and is getting it. He is taking a great interest in the "development" of the resources of British Columbia, part of which is represented in the Canadian Parliament by Mr. Angus MacInnis. The report referred to says that this "British multi-millionaire is only one of several extremely wealthy persons who are ready to sink unlimited funds in spas throughout the Province . . . Dr. Paskins announced that Sir Victor, who was rated as one of the richest men in the Orient, and one of the world's richest, has made a token gift of £5000 towards a chair of physical medicine at the University of British Columbia." The report goes on thus:

"Mr. Harold E. Winch, leader of the C.C.F. at Victoria, greeted the announcement with satisfaction. 'I'm absolutely sold on the idea,' he said. 'One of my big ambitions has been to see this go ahead . . . There is no question this would mean employment for many thousands, both directly and through such co-related industries as agriculture.'"

Here we see a great organisation, whose professed purpose is to emancipate the workers, actually co-operating with International Finance for the further exploitation of the workers in the sacred name of "employment"! You would have noticed, of course, that Sir Victor is one of the richest men IN THE ORIENT! The long-suffering Indians have been a great help to him with their willingness to be content with a few handfuls of rice for food and a loincloth for clothes. What has been stolen from them is apparently to be used in "developing" a Canadian Province! And doubtless you also noticed that, like another powerful Jew, Bernard Baruch, Sir Victor is anxious to see physical suffering alleviated, and for that purpose has made a gift of MONEY to a University!

When the C.C.F. was organised in 1932, its leader, Mr. Coldwell, spoke thus:

"Shortly after the organisation meeting I met a New Zealander in Regina called WALTER NASH, who showed me the programme of the New Zealand Labour Party, and I was amazed to find that almost point for point, and sometimes even word for word, the policy of this Party was identical with OUR newly-organised Party."

There, now! And how fortunate that Mr. Nash was so conveniently on hand. It could hardly have been other than a coincidence, but the subsequent happenings suggest that Mr. Nash had really been "selected" for important duties on behalf of the internationalists. Could it have been just another coincidence that in that very same year Social Credit propaganda became a serious threat to both the U.F.A. Government in Alberta and the Coates Government in New Zealand? Of course there would be no significance in the later statement attributed to Sir Otto Neimeyer that there was no cause for anxiety so long as Mr. Walter Nash

was supported in the position of Finance Minister in New Zealand!

Apparently the reason for Sir Otto's approval of Mr. Nash is the same as the reason for Mr. Montagu Norman's approval of the C.C.F. There can be little doubt that the C.C.F. is the same kind of "Labor" Party as the London School of Economics, the Bank of "England," and P.E.P.; and, as pointed out by the "Social Creditor" of 19/2/44, that the rise into prominence of the C.C.F. was contemporaneous with the planting on Canada of a batch of officials from the London School of Economics and the Bank of "England."

Vancouver has always been regarded as the stronghold of the C.C.F., and that may explain why it is that the international financiers are taking such a keen and practical interest in the Province of British Columbia. It may also explain why Mr. MacInnis, the Federal representative of Vancouver East, was selected as the medium through which to obtain special protection for some of them in the matter of inquiry and public criticism. All of which adds interest to the statement

A RUSSIAN CONDEMNS COLLECTIVISM

AYN RAND was born in St. Petersburg (now Leningrad), Russia, and graduated from the University there. She took up writing, and in 1931 went to the United States "in order to write as I please." She is the author of the drama, "The Night of January 16," which ran for three years in the thirties. Among her books are, "We the Living," "Anthem," and the recent best seller, "The Fountainhead," which is soon to be made into a movie. In her new book, "The Moral Basis of Individualism," she writes as follows:—

The greatest threat to mankind and civilisation is the spread of the totalitarian philosophy. Its best ally is not the devotion of its followers, but the confusion of its enemies. To fight it, we must understand it.

Totalitarianism is collectivism. Collectivism means subjugation of the individual to a group—whether to a race, class or State does not matter. It holds that man must be chained to collective action and collective thought for the sake of what is called "the common good."

No tyrant ever rose to power except on the claim of representing "the common good." Napoleon "served the common good" of France. Hitler is "serving the common good" of Germany.

Men have been enslaved primarily by spiritual weapons. And the greatest of

SECRET STATISTICS

In the British House of Commons, February 29, 1944:

Captain Ramsay asked the Secretary of State for War how many Jews had been killed at the fronts to date.

Sir F. Grigg: "I regret that these figures are not available."

Captain Ramsay asked the Secretary of State for War how many of the 40,000 Jews serving with His Majesty's Forces are in the guards, artillery, cavalry, infantry, tank corps and mechanised formations; and how many are in the R.A.S.C., R.A.M.C., labour battalions and base details.

Sir F. Grigg: "I regret that it would not be in the public interest to give these further particulars."

Captain Ramsay asked the Secretary of State for War what firms have the contracts at present for feeding and clothing His Majesty's Forces and for supplying boots to them.

Sir F. Grigg: "I regret that it would not be in the public interest to publish such a list, which would be of value to the enemy."

LECTURE ON GERMANY

The Club of Political Thought has arranged with a Mr. Kahmerer, who lived in Germany both before and after the advent of Hitler, to give his impressions in an address at the Assembly Hall, 156 Collins-street, Melbourne, on Thursday, July 6, at 8 p.m. —(Advt.)

DEBATE AT MALVERN

A public debate on the Referendum proposals will be held in the Malvern City Hall on Tuesday evening, July 11. The affirmative will be taken by Mr. Brian Fitzpatrick and Mr. H. E. Thoneman, M.L.A., will put the negative side. Melbourne readers are urged to attend, and bring their friends, as this is expected to be one of the best debates of the campaign. The meeting is sponsored by the Malvern Democratic League.

NO CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

Temperance Hall, Russell St., Melbourne,

Sunday, July 2nd, at 7.45 pm.

Mr. J. Bradshaw will speak on "SINISTER ASPECTS OF THE REFERENDUM PROPOSALS."

Don't miss hearing this searching address.

of the leader of the C.C.F. in British Columbia as recently published in the journal "Today and Tomorrow." According to that publication, the C.C.F. leader, Mr. Harold Winch, said this:

"When the C.C.F. became the Government it would establish Socialism immediately, and the power of the police and military would be used to force those opposed, to obey the law. Those who defied the Government's will would be treated as criminals, and if capitalism says no, then we know the answer—so did Russia." (Quoted from the "Social Creditor" of 15/1/44.)

From the foregoing it will be seen that, to Mr. Angus MacInnis and those who think as he does, it is the GOVERNMENTS WILL that is all important, whereas to those who believe in Democracy it is the PEOPLE'S WILL that should be supreme. Here again we find the "Protocols" well-informed as to developments. The following is from No. 3:

"In the present state of knowledge and the direction we have given to its development, the people, blindly believing things in print, cherishes—thanks to promptings intended to mislead and to its own ignorance—a blind hatred towards all conditions which it considers above itself, for it has no understanding of the meaning of class and condition."

That blind hatred is being carefully and deliberately intensified, and elected "representatives" of many countries are being used for the purpose.

—Yours faithfully, BRUCE H. BROWN, 189 Hotham-street, East Melbourne, C.2. June 25, 1944. (To be continued.)

Notes On The News

(Continued from page 1.)

"3,000,000 bushels of best quality apples will rot on the ground, which orchardists are not even allowed to give away." It's about time Tasmania, the scene of the sabotage, followed the example of Victorian orchardists by ridding their State of this and other parasitical Marketing Boards. If ever war-guilt trials are held in Australia the individuals on these Boards responsible for destroying our food supplies will surely pay the penalty. But why wait until after the war? There is sufficient evidence to justify a trial now.

COAL CONTROL: The Bacchus Marsh coalmine has been waiting for a permit from the Government to construct a new shaft, which, according to Mr. Ripper, the secretary, would boost production from 600 tons of brown coal each week to 5000 tons. From this it would seem that even the desperate need for coal has not been sufficient to stimulate the coal control bureaucrats to grant the necessary permit to obtain more production. Incidentally, Mr. Ripper values the coal deposits at Bacchus Marsh at £2000 millions—which just about covers our national debt.

ARGENTINE & U.S.: Roland Sharp, "Christian Science Monitor" correspondent, after a six months' survey of the South American continent, tells us among other interesting things, that "Argentina, because of her excellent economic position, and the highest standard of living on the continent, is now a potent rival to the United States." Also this: "Argentina easily won Paraguay despite the United States' efforts to help a million Paraguayans to attain a decent standard of living" (?). From this it will be seen that there is every possibility of a rivalry for power between Argentina and the States—which may help to explain some of the Press comments on Argentina. The things left out by the Press are often far more important than those they publish.

DWYER-GRAY'S DOUBTS: Mr. Dwyer-Gray (Tasmanian Treasurer) is reported in the Melbourne "Herald" of June 6 as wondering what the "hidden hand" of the international financiers' gold standard plot has to do with the Labor Party's monetary policy. Commenting on the coming Labor majority in both Federal Houses, he also said that "early in January, 1943, the Federal Treasurer (Mr. Chifley) had written to him undertaking that if at a future date the Federal Labor Government was returned to power, with a majority in both Houses, Labor's financial policy (?) would be implemented." That's worth placing on record, because the testing time is not far away.

POST-WAR POLICE: A New York report featured in the local Press of May 5, dealing with Empire Prime Ministers' Conference, says, "The Prime Ministers now find themselves involved in a course of events leading inevitably to the establishment of a world police force for a considerable time, if not permanently." The report then proceeds to soften the hostility which awaits the Premiers when they arrive home to implement the plot: "It is obvious that Prime Ministers, in accepting armistice occupations, are committing themselves to a new principle of policy which they may have to defend against those in their own countries who believe that there should be no commitments for military service outside their own countries." So, Australians are to be conscripted into the world police force—which may declare war on Australia! That's the Big Idea, with a vengeance. Watch Mr. Curtin for results.

HOARDING HABITS: Lord Kindersley, a member of the National Savings Committee in England, who apparently has nothing better to do than to meddle with people's right to do as they choose with their own money (described as hoarding) makes a strong plea "to keep inflation always around the corner." We all remember the time when prosperity was also just "around the corner." If it happens to be the same corner, which hides these two rascals, "inflation," and "prosperity," they should cause quite a commotion, because they could not possibly agree and be nice to each other; but perhaps "poverty" will also be lurking around the same corner, just to keep the peace!

—O.B.H.

EXTRA COPIES OF THIS ISSUE

This issue of the "New Times" contains a number of special items relating to the forthcoming Referendum, and we anticipate that many of our readers will wish to buy extra copies for distribution. We have therefore made arrangements to meet a very heavy demand. If you can't get your extra copies from your agent, you may purchase them at our office (5th Floor, McEwan House, 343 Little Collins St., Melbourne), or you may post your order, enclosing remittance, to Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne.

PRICES COMMISSION PLEASE NOTE

This week the Army started selling bottled beer to corporals and privates of a certain unit in Melbourne at 1/9 per bottle. (We understand that the proper price is 1/7—and that Sergeants in the unit are supplied at 1/6!) If an investigator noses around the corner of Latrobe and Franklin Sts., especially Male's Garage building, at about 6 p.m. on Monday or Friday next, he should be able to get the low-down, as we did, on this flagrant example of Army profiteering and discrimination.

HOW FEDERAL POWERS WILL BE USED

The following speech by Mr. Archie Cameron (Barker, South Australia), delivered in Federal Parliament on March 21, is vitally important at present because it is a damning indictment of Federal Government control. Mr. Makin's attempted reply to Mr. Cameron's statements was one of the weakest ever heard from a Minister. Mr. Cameron said:

The wolfram fields at Hatches Creek and Wauchope are in the Northern Territory..... Pursuant to arrangements made during the last election campaign I visited this area last January. The facts I collected in regard to the wolfram mines are rather astounding, even for the times in which we are living.

Wolfram is a mineral, which is in great demand for the production of steel, and it is being mined by a number of miners, or "gougers," as they are called, at Hatches Creek and Wauchope. The deposit is not such as can be exploited easily by large companies using big machinery.

Sometime after the outbreak of war with Japan the Commonwealth Government decided, out of the blue, to order off these wolfram fields the men who had been working there. The mines were confiscated, and the places of the men who were ordered to leave were taken over by about 500 Chinese labourers who had been brought to Australia from Nauru Island.

I ask, first, that consideration be given to the manner in which these miners were ordered off their legitimate holdings.

Quite a number of the men had seen service in the last war, and numbers of them offered their services in this war. I am informed that they were told that they could give better service to their country by remaining on the wolfram fields. I do not challenge in any sense the action of the Government in bringing the Chinese from Nauru. I believe that it was under an obligation to do so. But in view of our man-power difficulties at that time and of the urgent need for men to work under the Allied Works Council, suitable occupations could have been found for these Chinese elsewhere than on the wolfram fields.

With the mining fields the Government also took the machinery that the miners were using, and the miners were told that their compensation would consist of 10 per cent. of the returns of the output by the 500 Chinese miners.

The output from the fields fell by about 83 per cent. after the Chinese began working there. When the Government took control, it constructed living barracks, cookhouses, storehouses, and many other facilities, which previously it did not seem to regard as necessary.

I am informed, also, that thousands of pounds were spent in providing and transporting additional machinery for the fields. In spite of all this, and notwithstanding that wolfram has been in such heavy demand, only about one-sixth of the ore is being mined that was formerly being obtained.

I understand that the chairman of the local miners' association has been in correspondence with the Government and with several Ministers on this subject. I have before me a copy of a printed letter on the subject, sufficient copies of which were made available to supply one to every honorable member opposite. I am rather astounded that they have not done anything about it. I shall quote only a few paragraphs. These gentlemen say:

"As Labor men of life standing we further view with alarm any attempt to break down the standard of life so dearly won in Australia, and particularly the jettisoning of the White Australia Policy.

"Having participated in the early fights for decent standards of life, we know that the White Australia Policy was brought into existence to protect those standards, and we expect the Labor Party and industrial leaders to insist on their continuance.

"We know that war conditions are responsible for the importation of the Chinese, but even that is not sufficient justification for the breaking down of the standards of the Australian workers, and we quail to think what our political and industrial enemies would do if in power, after such methods being endorsed by the Labor Party.

"We understand that the Chinese will soon be leaving this field to be replaced by Italian workers. Will they be slaves also?"

The further facts are these: Having made this great change—and there is no doubt that the only purpose was to increase the output of wolfram—and having found that the venture had completely failed, there was a reversal of policy, and the Chinese workers were removed from the field. I am informed—and the correctness of the information is admitted in a ministerial letter—that all the buildings on the field, including the store house and cook house, together with the utensils of the miners, unused galvanised iron and sawn timber, and everything else with the exception of groceries, were committed to the flames, in accordance with some instruction, the authority for which I have not so far learned. The only excuse offered is that, for health reasons, an Army medical man at Alice Springs decided that the best course was to burn the camp down. Yet, according to my information, it was a particularly healthy camp, being free from disease of any kind. By no stretch of imagination can it be considered that iron and timber might be likely to infect people in such a sparsely settled area as Central Australia.

The next act was the disposal of stores and groceries. I have always understood the policy to be, and when in office have always given effect to it, that Government

property when disposed of shall go to the highest bidder.

According to the charges that have been made by these people, it would appear that that policy was not carried out by the Government; on the contrary, the stores were disposed of by private treaty by one dealer in Alice Springs, to the exclusion of all other persons.

Administration of that type ought not to be condoned even in time of war.

The next important development—a rather amazing one—was this:

Under the signature of another Minister, these miners were informed that the wolfram which was so urgently needed eighteen months ago was no longer needed, and that they were to do their best to ensure an output capable of being absorbed in Australian munitions production, with a surplus that should go to the United Kingdom.... According to statements, which these miners made to me, two of the three batteries on the field are utterly un-serviceable.... The spotlight of Parliamentary attention must be focused upon this matter. These people live in one of the more inaccessible parts of Australia. They are not residents of any State.

There is no need for the passage of a Powers Bill or the taking of a Referendum to empower the Commonwealth to deal with any problem that arises in the Northern Territory. The Common-

wealth Government has had, and has exercised, unfettered power in the Northern Territory ever since it came under the control of the Commonwealth. Yet, here we are brought face to face with administration, which I believe to be without parallel in Australia during the present

Mr. Bernard Corser (Wide Bay, Queensland) mentioned a case similar to that mentioned by Mr. Cameron:—

The disturbing matter raised by the honorable member for Barker (Mr. Archie Cameron) parallels a case in my own electorate, and shows that there is a disposition in Australia to curtail the production of raw materials essential for the development of this young country. The Government closed down the molybdenum mine at Wombah, notwithstanding that it had been proved that at the lower levels it contained valuable deposits of the metal, and transferred the miners to other districts. It justified its action by declaring that we could obtain supplies of molybdenum from the United States of America, but that excuse does not hold water, because whatever shipping space is available should be used for the carriage to Australia of things that we need and cannot produce, not things that we have at hand.

My suspicion that the Wombah mine was closed down because of pressure of certain interests overseas is strengthened by the revelations of the honourable member.

[If Mr. Corser will investigate these "certain interests overseas," INCLUDING THE SUPER MONOPOLISTS, THE WALL STREET BANKERS, and reveal his discoveries, he will be serving Australia. Some of his electors might suggest this to him.]

THE WAR SERVICE HOMES COMMISSION

Speaking in the Federal Parliament on March 23, Mr. T. White (Balacava, Victoria), revealed some astonishing facts about the "activities" of the War Service Homes Commission:

"I am most concerned about the lack of housing, particularly for soldiers who are now being discharged from the forces. They have to scramble for accommodation in competition with people in a stronger financial position than themselves. Recently, I asked the Minister for Repatriation (Mr. Frost) to inform me how many homes have been built by the War Service Homes Commission since the outbreak of war; first, for men who fought in the last war, and, secondly, for men discharged from the fighting forces in this war. The amazing reply that I received was that the Commission had built thirteen houses for soldiers of the last war and two houses for the soldiers of this war."

Mr. Lazzarini: "Over what period?"
Mr. White: "Since the outbreak of war in 1939. It amazes me almost as much as it amazes the Minister for Home Security. The Commission explained that because of building restrictions imposed to meet the exigencies of war it could not estimate the number of homes that would be erected for returned soldier applicants in 1944-45. It added that the position regarding building materials and man-power was constantly under review by the Government, but that no indication could be given as to when it was expected to build homes for persons eligible for assistance under the Act, What an ironical position! What will soldiers think when they learn that their dreams of having their own homes after the war will not be fulfilled?"
Mr. Lazzarini: "That is not fair."
Mr. White: "Whatever the reasons may be, the number of houses built by the

Commission since the outbreak of war is negligible."

Mr. Lazzarini: "Materials will be available in the post-war period."

Mr. White: "When I raised this matter in the House last Friday, the Prime Minister (Mr. Curtin) said firmly that bricks could not be made without straw, and that because of building restrictions, the Commission was not able to erect a greater number of homes. I had to accept that answer. But imagine my surprise when I heard last weekend over the radio an announcement by the Minister for Labour and National Service (Mr. Holloway) that a great housing scheme would be commenced immediately. Many people have since written to me seeking additional information upon the subject. It is expected that thousands of homes will be constructed."

Mr. Lazzarini: "Not by the War Service Homes Commission. The houses erected by the Commission are permanent structures. The housing programme to which the honorable member refers envisages the erection of structures that will really be shacks."

Mr. White: "If materials are available for the erection of shacks, why cannot they be made available to the Commission for the construction of permanent dwellings so urgently needed.... "Believing that the department was anxious, to get on with the job, but was more or less moribund because of the lack of materials, I asked what was the strength of the staff and how they had
(Continued on page 4.)

WORKERS' RIGHTS IN GRAVE DANGER!

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—I would like to congratulate Mr. Eric Butler upon his masterly open letter on industrial conscription), which was published in the "New Times" of June 9. Apparently he is able to see the aboriginal hiding in the kindling. I refer, of course, to his handling of the Referendum proposal regarding "employment and unemployment," but it is a regrettable fact that many of his fellow-workers are unable to discern the same aboriginal, and are working hard to secure the fastening of the chains of industrial conscription around their own necks!

I recently had the opportunity of listening to Dr. Lloyd Ross, and his fellow-democrat, Dr. Coombs, and any doubt that I may have had regarding the intentions of these two gentlemen towards those of us who are labelled as workers, have been dispelled by utterances from their own mouths.

It is certain that if these gentlemen are placed in a position of power by virtue of a "Yes" vote at the Referendum, freedom for all time will be taken from most people, especially from the members of the working class.

Dr. Coombs, speaking at the Institute of Industrial Management, in the Assembly Hall, Melbourne, on June 6, said among other things, that if the workers wanted a rising standard of living, they would get it, but "THIS WILL DEPRIVE INDIVIDUALS OF THEIR FREEDOM OF CHOICE."

He also said "we must expect some restrictions on our freedom of action." Does my freedom of action in writing to the "New Times" come under this heading?

The learned doctor also told his amazed audience that the owners of factories would not be allowed to run them as they liked, and that they would probably resent this. The doctor did not say what would happen then, but it may be that a squad of soldiers will be stationed in each factory, to prevent "dangerous thoughts."

Reading the Melbourne "Sun" of June

12. I noticed that the voluble doctor had addressed a meeting at the Planning For Science Conference at the Melbourne University on the previous Saturday, and was reported as saying:

"People could not expect complete freedom after the war.... It would be necessary for some individual to be given the right to say what was best for the community.... There was nothing new about interference with individual freedom, it had been going on for centuries."

And this, mind you, comes from a public "servant," whose salary is paid by you and me!

His cohort, Dr. Lloyd Ross, has also been boxing with the ether. In the Assembly Hall on May 2, Dr. Lloyd Ross said that "there is no such thing as liberty," and that "it is absurd to raise the flag of liberty, when such issues as full employment are at stake." Probably he had the C.C.C. in mind as he was speaking.

It is in Sydney that this super-planner is at his best, for in an outburst quoted in the "Sydney Morning Herald" of May 12, he let himself go. He was reported under the following headlines, as having made the following statements:

"MANPOWER AS STRIKE CURB." "PLAN FOR INDUSTRIAL DISCIPLINE." "Manpower control, rather than the threat of dismissal, should be used after the war to secure industrial discipline.... Industrial discipline in the past has necessitated unemployment, but as far as the worker is concerned freedom in industry could be

DON'T MISS THIS!

A limited quantity of back numbers of the "New Times" is available to our supporters. If you write to us at Box 1226L, G.P.O. Melbourne, and simply ask for a parcel of back numbers, we will forward same free of charge. If you are in Melbourne, you may pick up a parcel at our office (5th floor, McEwan House, 343 Little Collins St.).

Many of these copies contain articles on the Federal Powers question, so they are not only helpful for introducing the paper to prospective new readers, but also for spreading the truth about the Referendum proposals, and that is very urgent.

"EXTERMINATION"

Imredy, who was driven from office as Prime Minister of Hungary in 1938 because of a strong Jewish strain in his ancestry, which the Hungarians detested, has been made a Governor of Hungary by Hitler. This just shows how the wretched Jews are persecuted by the German Higher Command.

—The "Social Creditor," April 8.

INSIDE INFORMATION

The anti-Powers leaflet entitled "Inside Information," is designed to show that each Party clique has in the past fooled and betrayed its followers. It also contains some unanswerable facts on the dangers of Hitlerism inherent in the Referendum proposals. It is a powerful presentation from all viewpoints. Every democrat who values his or her liberty should be in this fight against dictatorship, and wherever YOU are you can be in it if you are armed with plenty of these "Inside Information" leaflets. But don't delay; get busy and obtain YOUR supply from the United Electors of Australia, McEwan House, 343 Little Collins-street, Melbourne. Price: 1/6 per 100, post-free. Will YOU play your part in circulating them—NOW?

ERIC BUTLER IN SYDNEY

Friends and associates of Mr. Eric D. Butler are invited to attend a reception to be given to him at the rooms of the Electoral Campaign, No. 9, 3rd Floor, 296 Pitt St. (opp. Water Board), Sydney, at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, July 5.

BITHNETH ITH BITHNETH

"The way to get on is to handle things, not to produce them. As long as you're handling them, buying and selling, they don't even need to exist. Never hold the baby; that's my motto in life, and it's served me champion."
—Meninsky in "The City of Gold," by Francis Brett Young.

"New Times" Subscription Rates

Our charges for supplying and posting the "New Times" direct to your home or elsewhere every week are as follows: Three months, 5/-; Six months, 10/-; Twelve months, £1, HALF rates for members of the A.I.F., C.M.F., R.A.N., R.A.A.F. Payments must be made in advance and sent direct to New Times Limited, Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne.

won only, when he had lost his fear of dismissal and depression. The worker today is being able, because of his monopolistic position, to tell the boss to go to hell, is really feeling free for the first time in his industrial history. There can be no successful system of full employment if workers believe they can stop work whenever they like."

Well, that is plain enough. Any worker who voted "Yes" after reading that deserves all that is coming to him.

Then again there is our old friend, Dr. Evatt, and his famous statement:

"The taking away in the future of the right of the individual to choose his own vocation and employer, is only one of the freedoms which the Australian people must forego in the interests of the State."

This statement was published in a Tamworth paper, which I have seen, and was published by a Town Clerk who was present at the Conference as an observer. I have tried to purchase a copy of the paper, but it is out of print.

So, from the above it will be seen that there are plenty of reasons why Mr. Eric Butler's forecast of industrial conscription after the war appears to be a certainty—if enough mugs vote "Yes."

That might not be as monotonous as may appear, for there is always the chance of a sea trip. The late Mr. Maurice Blackburn has publicly stated that wherever Australian troops may be sent as conscripts, so also may Australian civilians be sent. So it looks as though the jolly old convict ships of old may be brightened up, and sent in the opposite direction, so that their occupants may revel in the Coombs-Ross version of modern freedom!

—Yours, etc., "BILL BOWYANGS."

[Editor's Note: The open letter by Eric Butler, referred to by this correspondent, is entitled "Industrial Conscription After This War? An Open Letter to Every Australian Democrat." It has been reprinted as a pamphlet, and copies may be obtained, at 1/- per dozen, post free, from the United Electors of Australia, 343 Little Collins St., Melbourne. We suggest that you get a few shillings' worth for distribution—especially for posting to everyone you know in the Forces "up North."]

OUR CONSCRIPTS TO GO ANYWHERE?

All but a very small percentage of those called up for the Militia have long since volunteered for the A.I.F. Therefore, if the Federal Government permits the use of non-volunteers outside Australian territory, it can only be a case of compulsion for compulsion's sake, involving a cold-blooded repudiation of Labor's long-standing pledge, and further revealing a mania for bullying small minorities. From the Hon. Secretary of the No Conscription Campaign, Melbourne, we have received the following letter, indicating that not only is this happening, but that even the geographical limits prescribed by the pledge-busting Militia Act are likely to prove as unstable as the promises of the politicians who defined those extended limits:—

To the Editor: Sir, —I should like to lay before your readers the following facts in connection with the matter of conscription for overseas service:

On March 31 of this year, there appeared in the columns of the Melbourne "Argus" an article by that paper's war correspondent in Dutch New Guinea. The writer, Mr. John Loughlin, stated, in reference to the Allied forces in that area:—

"It can be revealed as an historic fact that among the forces here are Militia troops, to whom goes the distinction of being the first militiamen ever to serve on foreign soil."

In the Melbourne "Herald" of that evening was an article by Allan Dawes, who, also referring to Allied forces in Dutch New Guinea, stated:—

"Of these a proportion are militiamen, the first to fight for Australia on foreign soil."

These well-turned phrases served to clothe the ugly truth that for the first time in the history of freedom-loving Australia its sons were shipped abroad to fight, irrespective of their wishes, on an alien soil.

There had been a current opinion, and one held especially by the late president of this organisation, Mr. Maurice Blackburn, that the Militia Act would never really be enforced. Yet, enforced it has been, and those who thought that perhaps it was a mere gesture, finally realise that it is a stark reality.

And now it seems that even worse is to follow.

Mr. Blackburn predicted, at a meeting in the Savoy Theatre, on March 3, 1943, that, when the men conscripted under the Militia Act got as far north as the specified boundary, the equator, they would be taken beyond it.

There appears to be a movement on foot to bring that very thing to pass. In the Melbourne "Herald" of June 14 there appeared a Gallup Poll result, under a large heading in block capitals:—

"WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH THE MILITIA?"

This was followed by the statement that "public opinion is inclined to favour using the Militia anywhere in the world, like the A.I.F."

The form of the question put in the "poll" was given as follows: "The Japs have now been pushed back as far as the Militia can be sent. Do you think that the Militia should now be used anywhere in the world—or kept for home defence?"

Figures were given purporting to show

that 47 p.c. said "Anywhere"; 40 p.c. said, "Home defence"; and 13 p.c. were undecided.

It is a noteworthy fact that these "Gallup poll" results appear only in the columns of the "Herald" and "Sun," particularly the former. Is this so-called "poll," a Murdoch subsidiary? Is its object to create public opinion rather than to test it? If this be so, and appearances are in favour of this theory, then Australia is faced by yet another move to deprive her citizens of what little liberty has been left to them.

In the eloquent words of Mr. H. E. Boote, editor of the "Worker," writing when Mr. Curtin first introduced his extended Militia proposal:

"The proposal to conscript men for the South-West Pacific is the thin edge of the wedge. Once admitted, the rest would be easy. Another cry of 'Danger!' another blow at the propaganda hammer, and lo, the wedge is deeper in! Whatever present limit might be fixed for the employment of conscript forces, there would always be other places still further on to

A LETTER FROM A NEW ZEALANDER

Mr. Arthur Bullock, of Wanganui, New Zealand, in the course of a letter to his soldier sons and daughter—"Alice in India, Artie in Egypt, and Jim in the Pacific"—writes:

"Never was the world so full of humbugs. New Zealand has its full share. In addition, nearly every week some one from the States or from Britain is inflicted upon us. Usually we have never heard of him before. He comes with some pretentious title, reported fully with touching sycophancy by the press; tells us that we are a splendid lot of people; that we have made great sacrifices, etc.; but that, as we are so supremely loyal, it is necessary for us to make a great deal more.

"The climax comes when one dear visitor tells us that New Zealand's independence must be curtailed; that it is sheer perversity that makes us think that New Zealand's monetary system, can be based on raw material, skill, industry, scientific knowledge, organising ability, and the morale of our own people; and that it is necessary for the world's safety that our monetary system should be controlled by an international gang, mostly Americans of non-British origin, and that the world's

which the enemy should be followed to protect our country. First it is Timor, mentioned by Mr. Curtin. Then it will be islands in the vicinity. Then the Netherlands East Indies. Then Singapore, Malaya, China. Even the Mediterranean is essential to our welfare and our fate, it would be said, is being decided in Africa and Europe. Once assent to conscription for military service outside our own territories, and assigned limits are worthless." How true are Mr. Boote's predictions! In the recent "Gallup Poll" the propaganda hammer has indeed struck another blow. Mr. Curtin yielded once to that blow when he introduced his Militia Bill.

Citizens of Australia, see to it that he does not yield to it again on this question of extending the Militia area! Write to your Federal Member and to your six Victorian Senators, urging them to resist any attempt at extension: Tell them that you resent the fact that supposedly free Australians have actually been sent as conscripts to fight on foreign soil, and that you want the Militia Act repealed!

I trust, Sir, that freedom-loving Australians will not underrate this threatened danger—of further conscription, and, as Mr. Boote has also said, of "the compulsion so dear to the military mind and so revolting to all who comprehend the profound value of liberty in human affairs and crises."

—Yours faithfully, K. J. KENAFICK, Hon. Secretary, No Conscription Campaign, Temperance Hall, Russell-street, Melbourne, June 23, 1944.

money system should be based on the few thousand tons of gold buried in a hole at Fort Knox; that the amount of money and credit allowed to each country shall be rationed by kind International Financiers. This will ensure Peace on Earth and the Glorious Brotherhood of Man.

"The very gang responsible for every war, depression, slump and the gigantic sabotage of the world's wealth during this last hundred years have the effrontery to ask (again!) for complete control—to make the world safe for Democracy!"

"The fact that many of our people accept this suggestion calmly is enough to make the devil himself squirm with envy.

"However eminent the authority, if he tells you that the way to solve a problem is to make it more complicated, which happens when they tell us to make a national problem into an international one, smite him for a humbug.

"He may believe it—if so, he is all the more dangerous. In any case, he is the tool, conscious or unconscious, of the world's greatest tyrants."

"Have you the roughest outline of the progress of science and industry of the last century? If so, the next moronic pedagogue who tells you that 'the function of the Financial System is to solve the problem of Unemployment,' treat him kindly, but take steps to have him certified.

"If he says that the nation or an organisation of any kind is more important than an individual, give him a fair trial, then condemn him for ten years to listen to the crooners on the radio.

"This New Zealand is truly a lovely land. You are fighting for it. Some believe that is the supreme task. I disagree. We must think for it. Work for it.

"The older generation have brought you into a world notorious for its lies and false suggestion. The mental drug is fearfully powerful. Try to conquer it. Have faith in your own instincts and desires. What is 'correct' and 'good' today may be replaced by something better to-morrow.

"We at home are apt to dwell on the horrors and cruelty of war, forgetting its heroic side. I won't presume to attempt to guide your mind in circumstances completely incomprehensible to me. Our loving thoughts are with you. May you return soon with strength and pluck to smite a humbug wherever you meet him."

—DAD.

about reached the end of my endurance. Cows get supplementary feed nine months of the year, all grown on the farm. They will be lucky if they are hand-fed for three months this year. I had to burn half of my lucerne hay on the field, as I could not handle it. I cannot carry on without the help I have asked for. I will do all I can, and may go under doing so, but I am not going to drag my wife with me. The production result for 1944-45 will be about 6000 or 7000 lb. short.

"I know, Sir Earle, that you know the coast and the conditions under which we are labouring and have voiced your opinion in the House, and in the press, pretty strongly at times. I also know my fellow-dairymen, and of late I have noted a new element creeping in. As a physician, you know that continued physical exhaustion has a psychological effect. That is what is creeping, unconsciously, into the middle-aged and aged people carrying the burden in the dairying industry. 'Oh, what is the use' state of mind, a weariness, something akin to 'war weariness,' and if that rot sets in God help the dairying industry, if some of our young men do not get back on the job."

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NOTES

(From The UNITED DEMOCRATS' Headquarters, 17 Weymouth Street, Adelaide)

"FREEDOM FROM WANT" CAMPAIGN: Despite many difficulties, Mr. M. E. Dodd, Hon. Organiser, attended the Annual Conference of the United Old Age and Invalid Pensioners' Association, held in Sydney on June 8. He addressed the Conference on the "Freedom From Want" Campaign and how it originated in the Prospect branch of the Old Age and Invalid Pensioners' Association, South Australia. The Campaign had grown to such an extent that more than eight organisations had printed their own circulars, but all with the same demand for £3 a week without a means test.

"Labor's Voice," the official organ of the Newcastle Trades Hall Council, had printed the form with the expressed wish that 5000 workers should sign the request, and send it to their representatives at Canberra. Mr. Dodd stressed the need for unity of action to obtain better living conditions, and all delegates at the Conference recognised the urgency of a more adequate retiring allowance.

Mr. C. A. Clarke also urged the Conference to join in the "Freedom From Want" Campaign, and he was supported by delegates from many other branches. It is a very great pleasure to report that the Conference unanimously voted for the United Old Age and Invalid Pensioners' Association to print supplies of the "Freedom From Want" circular, and push this campaign forward with the aid of all branches. These number at least eighty in New South Wales alone. We expect to see a flood of requests pour upon Parliamentary representatives that will move them to action.

It is interesting to note that Mr. C. Chambers, Representative for Adelaide, has said there is no need to send him the circulars, as he will do all he can to better pensioners' conditions, but he has not promised to press for the £3 a week retiring allowance asked for in the circular, so more pressure and backing by electors is needed.

Latest helpers in the campaign are branches of the O.A. and I. Pensioners' Association at Mount Gambier and Port Pirie.

Have you done your bit? Request letters are obtainable from Mr. J. Fitzgerald, 3 Elizabeth-street, Prospect, South Australia, or from this office. Price 1/3 a hundred (plus 3d. postage).

ANNUAL MEETING: We wish to announce that our Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 29. Business will commence at 3 p.m. During the afternoon the president's report and the financial statement will be presented. This will be followed by other items of general business, including a discussion on the policy to be pursued during the forthcoming year. Tea will be served by the ladies, and the evening will be spent in lighter vein.

You do not need to be reminded that the present times are fraught with meaning, and the question whether or not the people of Australia are to be subjected to a tyrannical rule of a bureaucratic nature could be decided by the actions of a body of resolute citizens who know what they want and how to get it. Therefore, as this will be our most important meeting of the year we urge you to keep July 29 free and come along and do your share towards making this meeting a success.

—F. BAWDEN, Hon. Secretary.

War Service Homes Commission

(Continued from page 3.)

been employed during the period 1940-44. The Minister replied that there is a permanent establishment of 165 persons, including a commissioner, 6 deputy commissioners, 6 architects, 2 works inspectors, 123 clerks and 27 typists. He added that 46 were on war service and six had been lent to war departments, leaving a staff of 123 at the present time. What have these six architects been doing during the last four years, if only fifteen homes have been erected during that period? When I put that question to the Minister he obviously found difficulty in answering it, because he went to considerable trouble to give an explanation. . . . We talked about building homes for heroes to live in. The men would need to be heroes to live in those that are obtainable! I believe that decent homes should be erected, but I should greatly like to know what the architectural and general staff of War Service Homes Commission has been doing in the last four years, seeing that fifteen homes have been built in that period. I stress the urgency of the subject."

Mr. Frost: "The Government is treating it as urgent."

[Yes, about as "urgently" as they have been dealing with other confusion! —Ed.]

**THE "NEW TIMES"
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Printed by M. F. Canavan, 25 Cullinton-road, Hartwell, for the New Times Ltd. McEwan House Melbourne.

IS IT ACQUISITION OR CONFISCATION?

On March 24, Mr. McEwen (Indi, Victoria), gave Federal Parliament yet another example of how individuals are victimised by Government Departments and can obtain no redress:

"Honorable members will recall that, in January, 1943, I complained about the action of the Royal Australian Air Force, the Army, and American forces, in taking over, at the shortest notice, a stud farm at Tocumwal for the purpose of constructing an aerodrome. This farm was one of the outstanding sheep, horse and cattle stud properties in Australia. One day representatives of the Services walked on to the farm and told the owner to leave at once. A year passed, but the man did not receive any compensation, with the exception of a monthly payment over a period of six months of the equivalent of 4 per cent, of what some official considered was the value of the property. When I first raised this matter in the House, I emphasised that the proper course for the Government to adopt in the circumstances was immediately to proclaim the acquisition of the farm, so that the owner would be legally entitled to negotiate with the Government to obtain the value of the property. That would have enabled him to start afresh elsewhere. The House agreed that it was indefensible that the owner, a year after he had been compelled to leave the property, had not received compensation."

Mr. Brennan: "I remember the case, and I am interested to know whether the Department took any action."

Mr. McEwen: "The Department took

action all right, but in its own good time. Despite the continued efforts of the owner, his solicitor and myself, a year passed before the Department proclaimed the acquisition of the farm. That delay was indefensible. About six weeks ago, the Department announced that it had acquired the property and the owner is now confronted with the impossible task of establishing the value of the improvements, although they were removed more than twelve months ago. What had been a flourishing stud farm, with a homestead, plantations, irrigation channels, clover and lucerne paddocks, belts of timber, fencing in good repair, and stock yards, is today a waste of gravel and bitumen runways."

Mr. Williams: "Cannot the owner obtain redress from the Compensation Board?"

Mr. McEwen: "This is what will happen: The Board will value the property at, say, £10 an acre. If the owner considers that the value was £12 an acre, he has to establish his case. He has to declare how many miles of fencing and of what quality, how many miles of irrigation channels, how many sheep-yards and cattle-yards, how much lucerne and clover, how many belts of timber and so on existed prior to acquisition. He has no hope of establishing his case because all those things have disappeared. I quote that case in order to show what is going on, and in the hope that it will not be repeated elsewhere.

WHAT'S WRONG ON THE FOOD FRONT?

Mr. Scully has had an increasingly difficult job to try, and check the rising tide of growing resentment about the muddle on the "food front." Different "explanations" have been given from time to time; the latest being to admit that there has been a drop in some production, but to claim that "practical men" know that this has been solely due to drought conditions. The following letter, read in Parliament by Sir Earle Page on March 23, provides further evidence in very definite terms that Mr. Scully appears to have consulted the wrong "practical" men:—

"Before taking the drastic step which I anticipate, i.e., reduce my dairy herd by 50 per cent, I am making this appeal to you, to see if you can do anything for me, in having my son released from the forces, to assist me. I applied through the proper channels some months ago. Approved by manpower authorities, but—well, you know the rest. I have spent 30 years building up a high producing herd (1941-42 production: 324lb per cow) but it seems in-

evitable, if release is not granted, that half the herd must go, and Scully is crying out 'more butter.'

"My 'position is briefly this: Farm of 74 acres rich flats (you know Jones Island), 50 cows. My wife and myself to run it. One daughter at home eighteen years. Used to help me, but broken down under the strain (nerves), and ordered by Dr. Stokes to get off the farm at once. My age is 53, not strong, have a double hernia, and just