

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. 27. MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, JULY 7, 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 for our
lips are forging,
Silence is crime.
Whittier (1807-1892).

Facts About Those Referendum Proposals

Reasons Why We Should Vote "No"

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

Sir, —When this question of additional powers for the Commonwealth Parliament was put forward in 1942, it was stated by Dr. Evatt and other Government spokesmen that the "powers" were necessary in order to enable Australia to give effect to the Four Freedoms of the Atlantic Charter—i.e., Freedom from Want, Freedom from Fear, Freedom of Expression, and Freedom of Religion.

Since then, however, it has been so clearly shown that these "freedoms" are already available to the inmates of prisons and zoos without involving any Constitutional questions, that it has been deemed advisable to think up another excuse for seeking the powers referred to.

The claim now being advanced is that unless the Commonwealth Constitution is altered as proposed it will not be possible for "Australia" to rehabilitate the members of the Forces or prevent another and more serious depression.

Mr. Forde, as Acting Prime Minister, even went so far as to say that unless the people do agree to the "transfer" of the fourteen powers to the Federal Government it will be impossible after the war to avoid conditions of depression, chaos, and anarchy! If he was merely repeating the advice given (by incompetent "experts," then the experts should be dismissed (they are the same gentlemen who helped to impose acute poverty in the midst of material plenty in 1930 and 1931), or if he was merely uttering his personal opinion, he revealed an inexcusable lack of knowledge as to the CAUSE of depressions, and showed himself quite unworthy to be trusted with power over the welfare of others. If it were really true that additional powers ARE necessary, then all of us would vote "YES" without hesitating, but as it is not true, as I propose to show, it is very important that our

decision as individuals should be arrived at only after consideration of the FACTS, and when I say "facts" I do not mean opinions.

It seems a great pity that Mr. Forde should have used his official position as the Government's chief spokesman to speak in such irresponsible terms, and the Parliamentary Labor Party should lose no time in repudiating what he said, as otherwise in the event of the people voting "NO," the only decent course open to the Federal Government is to resign.

Obviously, if the Government believes that it cannot save us from depressions under existing powers, and is denied further powers, then it must disclaim responsibility and retire. That, I venture to suggest, is not the Government's intention.

A member of the A.I.F. has written to me expressing the view that, because Mr. Menzies is advising the people to vote against the proposals, that in itself may be a good reason for voting "Yes." Others have voiced a similar attitude of mind, based on the fact that, as the great bulk of the ordinary people have never obtained any actual benefit or blessing from the ac-

tivities of the Leader of the Federal Opposition, but only more debt and heavier taxation there is a probability that his opposition to the powers proposals springs from a desire to perpetuate the present conditions of exploitation rather than to protect the people from some real danger. On the face of things, there almost appears to be some logic in that reasoning.

But it seems to me to be far more important to consider the merits of the proposals than to try to reconcile the words and actions of self-seeking individuals.

In his earlier years Mr. Menzies did show some understanding of the real nature of the problem, for when he was a member of the Victorian Government he said that administrative independence was impossible without financial independence; but since then he has done nothing to secure financial independence for our supposedly sovereign Parliaments. (To be fair to Mr. Menzies, it must be pointed out that since Labor assumed office they, too, have given us only more debt and heavier taxes.)

Even though some prominent politicians are advocating a "No" vote, their advocacy is based, not on the ground that the additional powers are unnecessary and very dangerous from the point of view of democratic sovereignty, but on the spurious grounds that they are not sufficiently specific and that private monopoly is better than Government monopoly.

These alleged grounds can only serve to divert attention from the real issue, which is: **Regimentation in industrial slavery OR freedom in economic security. Let the politicians argue and wrangle if they please,**

but let us, responsible citizens of Australia, think calmly, clearly, and understandingly.

As the Bible says, "In all thy getting, get understanding."

Our first question, therefore, should be: "Are the additional powers NECESSARY for the Commonwealth Parliament, or are they not?" It should be remembered that the "powers" referred to already reside theoretically in the State Parliaments, and that consequently it is said to be a question of "transferring" existing powers, not a question of granting more power. This being so, we naturally inquire whether it was the division of these particular powers between the Federal and State Parliaments that led to such unsatisfactory treatment of soldiers after the last war and to the disastrous economic conditions after the year 1929. The FACTS show that it was NOT.

Throughout practically the whole period between the two wars we had a Repatriation Commission, and anyone who cares to study its activities will find that the limitations placed upon it were wholly on account of financial considerations, and that the States had nothing whatever to do with this.

It was within the province and the powers of the Federal Parliament to grant whatever benefits were considered fit, but everything it did was dictated by the "funds available" and the financial costs. In dealing with claims for assistance on account of sickness, departmental medical officers had to beat the soldier down in order to avoid "expenditure." The soldiers could (Continued on page 2.)

The value of statements about agreement being reached on the Powers Bill at the Canberra Convention (1942) will be seen from the comment of Mr. A. J. Hannan, K.C. (S.A. Crown Solicitor), who described the position as "substantially similar to what happened when Hitler summoned President Benes to Berlin and asked him in effect, 'how much territory are you prepared to cede to the German Reich? Remember I have my bombers ready.'" ("Age," 30/6/44.) A further illustration of the atmosphere surrounding the Convention is seen in Mr. Harmon's further accusations that, "all my letters written and posted during the first week of the conference were not delivered to the addressees until after four days after my return to Adelaide—after which my telephone conversations were listened in to."

The Way of Federal Bureaucrats

In U.S.A., too, they suffer at the hands of Federal bureaucrats and snoopers. (But democrats there, as in this country, intend to get rid of most of them after the war. Of course, Australians can do that by voting "No" on August 19.) The following mild sample of what they think of Federal bureaucrats in U.S.A. appeared in the American technical magazine, "Metal Finishing," September 1943. Presumably the references to "W.P.B." mean Wartime Prices Board, not Waste Paper Basket, although the difference may not be more than superficial: —

The "fungibility of silver," mentioned in one of the paragraphs of W.P.B. Order M-199 restricting the uses of foreign, domestic and Treasury silver, gave us a few bad moments last month. Our dictionary defined the word "fungible" as "such that one specimen or part may be used in place of another in the satisfaction of an obligation as money, food, etc." We mentioned the word to our neighbour, who is a member of the legal profession, and he vouchsafed the information that it was a legal term and that he had never heard anyone but a lawyer use it. However, his explanation as to why such terms are employed by the legal practitioners left us unimpressed. We would still like to know why, instead of speaking of the "fungibility of silver," the order didn't just state that foreign, domestic or Treasury silver, when mixed, could not be identified from their physical or chemical characteristics, and let it go at that.

Perhaps the author was like Merton Quirk, in the following poem by an unidentified genius, which was brought to our attention by Mr. J. Klein of Universal Slide Fastener:

REFERENCE: B and B 3e-24614

FILE: INV. FORM A62B-M-Q

As Head of the Division of Provision for

Revision

Was a man of prompt decision—Merton

Quirk.

Ph.D. in Calisthenics, P.D.Q. in Pathogenics

He had just the proper background for the

work.

Post-War Bondage

The following cable is from London:

Britain's national debt for the first time, exceeded £20,000,000,000 in May.

In 1938, just before the Munich conference, it was little more than £6,000,000,000.

When the war began in 1939 it had grown to £8,000,000,000.

Even in 1938 one-third of Britain's revenue from all sources was absorbed in meeting national debt interest.

From, the pastoral aroma of Aloma, Oklahoma,

With a pittance as a salary in hand

His acceptance had been whetted, even

aided and abetted

By emolument that netted some five grand.

So, with energy ecstatic, this fanatic left

his attic

And hastened on to Washington, D.C.

Where with verve and vim and vigour he

went hunting for the Nigger

In the humpile of the W.P.B.

After months of patient process, Merton's

spicular proboscis

Had unearthed a reprehensible hiatus

In reply by Blair and Blair to his thirteenth

questionnaire

In connection with their inventory status

They had written—"Your Directive when

effective was defective

In its ultimate objective, and what's more,

Neolithic hieroglyphic is to us much more

specific

Than the drivle you keep dumping at our

door."

This sacrilege discovered, Merton fainted—

but recovered

Sufficiently to write—"We are convinced

That sabotage is camouflaged behind per-

verted persiflage—

Expect me on the 22nd inst."

But first he sent a checker, and then a

checker's checker;

Still nothing was disclosed as being wrong.

So a checker's checker's checker came to

check the checker's checker

And the process was laborious and long.

Then followed a procession of the Follow-

Up profession,

Through the records of the firm of Blair

and Blair.

From breakfast until supper, some new

super-follow-upper

Tore his hair because of Merton's ques-

tionnaire.

The file is closed, completed, though our

Hero, undefeated

Carries on in some Department as before;

But Victory is in sight, not because of—

but in spite of

Merton's mighty efforts in the War,

GOLD STANDARD: The next step toward reimposing the Gold Standard is seen in the gathering together of the so-called "United Nations' Monetary Conference," which is now assembled. The first significant aspect is that Mr. Morgenthau, Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, has kindly accepted the presidency of the conference. (How nice of him!) President Roosevelt sent a very nice message to the conference to create the right atmosphere, and off they went with the plot to enslave the world by limiting progress to the amount of useless yellow metal, which is held and controlled by a handful of financial gangsters. We now wait with bated breath for the Australian delegates to denounce this plot; but meanwhile every reader should maintain the pressure on his or her Federal Member to resist this move to the utmost. Write NOW—tomorrow may be too late.

RUSSIAN RUSES: The "Washington Star" reports that the "Free Germany Committee" in Russia is worrying Britain and U.S. It appears that although Mr. Molotov assured Mr. Hull that the Committee would be abolished, it has been expanded. The Committee consists of a Junker, General Von Seydlitz; communists and former industrialists betrayed by Hitler. The position appears to be that Britain and U.S. want Germany restored to her original condition of small States to make war impossible, whilst Stalin wants a strong Germany with centralised control patterned on the Soviet system. So we find the issue is: Fascism (centralised power) versus Democracy (decentralised power). Which will win?

FIRE FINANCE: Sufferers from the bushfires in the Western District of Victoria are incensed by the fact that, because insurance paid on fire losses is taxable, they are being mulcted of nearly £250,000. As a consequence, a protest meeting was arranged at Lismore. The Deputy Commissioner of Taxation is making a special trip to attend, along with the State Commissioner, so they must expect fire of a different kind to that which started the trouble. The taxation raid on fire insurance is even more vicious than the fire, and it will further illustrate the need for the people to curb the taxation monster before it destroys them. The time for a determined resistance to this taxation juggernaut appears to be rapidly approaching.

QUOTA QUERIES: Evidence submitted at the "Quota Sold" enquiry disclosed that 22,000 pairs of pyjamas from India were held up by mishandling on the part of the

Division of Import Procurement and the Rationing department—and it seems that they will not escape from these departments until the winter is nearly over. Mr. Mason, K.C., described this as a public scandal, whilst a Mr. Bradley struck a realistic note by demanding "all these departments stand aside so that the goods could be got to the public."

PLANNING PERILS: A sign that the British people are realising the dangers of massed planning, is seen in the following London press report: "War brings a spate of dreamers, schemers and theorists (e.g., economists) without any practical experience or expert knowledge, who attempt to run any business in the country." These schemers rail against monopolies and use them as an excuse to destroy small enterprises, and finally intend to set up a super (State) monopoly with themselves at the head. God help us if these morons get away with their plot. These planners even want a monopoly in planning, and they object strongly to individuals having the audacity to plan their own lives or manage their own affairs.

VEGETABLE VANDALISM: Members of the Vegetable Growers' Association, who have been deprived of their permits to grow vegetables, are very embittered at the bungling of our socialistic bureaucrats. They point out that they had spent considerable sums of money, and that their irrigation (Continued on page 4.)

Gold-Standard Plot

The following cable from London appeared in the Sydney "Daily Telegraph":

Under the U.S.-Russian plan, Britain would be tied to gold as part, at least, of the basis of international currency.

This opinion is expressed by the well-known writer on economics, Mr. Paul Einzig.

"Once we have adopted the standard," he adds, "there will be no question of getting rid of it on our own bat."

"Whatever the internal problems we may have to face in England, Australia, and Canada, we cannot adjust our credit requirements without reference to an international committee.

"As far as can be seen, the whole British Empire will have a minority vote on the committee.

"One feels, somehow, that after the final talks have been held we will not take it."

"THE BRIEF FOR THE PROSECUTION"

By C. H. DOUGLAS.

(We are publishing extracts from Major Douglas's forthcoming book in view of the urgency of the situation with which it deals. The chapters are abridged, and the text of the book may differ in detail from the extracts, for which we are indebted to the "Social Creditor," to be published in this and later issues of the "New Times.")

CHAPTER I.

Dr. Arnold Toynbee, the Secretary of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, informs the harassed Briton through the medium of its Journal that "we" are working feverishly but with all "our" might, to undermine the sovereignty of "our" respective nations (which implies undermining the property rights which have been transferred from individuals to the "nation") and thus conferring it on some still more mighty, but studiously unspecified recipient. Almost before Dr. Toynbee has finished speaking, Herr Hitler undermines the sovereignty of most of the nations of Europe, and Mr. Churchill, amidst approving applause from as far away as North America, announces that "we" will fight him on the beaches and in the streets and "we" will never give in.

At the same time, Dr. Toynbee and his staff are provided with comfortable occupations in the pleasant city of Oxford, presumably to go on undermining national sovereignty at the expense of the British taxpayer.

It must be admitted that all this renders the deductive or idealistic method very complex and difficult to understand.

The difficulties do not end with the contradictions between what he is told and taught to think, and what he is ordered and forced by circumstances to do. He feels that, while the idealist knows where he is going, but not for publication, he himself can't quite see where he is bound, yet is on his way. Mr. Eden assures him that although the New Order must be built through war, it will be built notwithstanding. Herr Hitler says he has built it.

So far as can be seen, the New Order has a common characteristic, either as sponsored by Mr. Eden, or as constructed by Herr Hitler. Millions of uncivil servants appear as though by the wave of the Wicked Fairy's wand, and "order," with, on the whole, disappointing results.

General Dittmar somewhat surprisingly suggests that even in Germany, "the selfishness of governmental departments which do not look beyond their own sphere, and disregard the interest of the nation as a whole" (German Radio, January 25, 1944), must be curbed.

Idealists everywhere view with alarm, the language used to describe the backbone of the Classless State, "Returns in triplicate, accompanied by the appropriate vouchers."

Unregenerate yeomen have been heard to say that if half the inspectors who are paid comfortable salaries, with travelling expenses, rendered on the prescribed Form, to hinder farmers from carrying out repairs to buildings, could be taught the elements of bricklaying, they would go far to remedy the shortage of building labour besides permitting that which is available to do a little work.

And then, there is Russia. Since the Dreyfus Case, with which Russia has, perhaps, more in common than would appear at first sight, no subject has provided so widespread an opportunity not merely for dogmatic and mutually exclusive statements on matters of fact, but for arguments which seem to close for a considerable time the enquiry as to whether mankind really is a reasoning animal.

Ever taking the highest figures put forward by those concerned to support the idea that National Socialist Germany is anti-Jewish, the alleged atrocities against continental Jewry do not come within millions of those committed by the Soviet Government in one operation alone—the "collectivisation" of agriculture. But the world rings with the woes of the chosen, while Russia is idolised by multitudes!

Eugene Lyons, a Communist by conviction, a trained observer, one-time United Press correspondent in Moscow, and formerly on the staff of Tass, the official Russian Press Agency, in his book, "Assignment in Utopia," observes:—

"A population as large as Denmark's or Switzerland's was stripped clean of all their belongings—not alone their land and homes and cattle and tools, but often their last clothes, and food, and household utensils—and driven out of their villages. They were herded with bayonets at the railway stations, packed indiscriminately into cattle-cars and freight-cars, and dumped weeks later in the lumber regions of the frozen North, the deserts of Central Asia, wherever labour was needed, there to live or die. Some of this human wreckage was merely flung beyond the limits of their former villages, without shelter or food in these winter months, to start life anew, if they could, on land too barren to be cultivated in the past. . . . Tens of thousands died of exposure and epidemic diseases while being transported, and no one dared guess at

the death rate in the wilderness. . . . I SAW (my emphasis) batches of the victims at provincial railroad points, under G.P.U. (Ogpu) guards, like bewildered animals, staring vacantly into space. Those meek, bedraggled, work-worn creatures were hardly the kulaks of the propaganda poster."

Try reading that extract at a "workers" meeting in any industrial town.

Mr. Max Eastman, the friend of Lenin, who spent years in Russia during its most formative period, remarks: "Instead of being better, Stalinism is worse than Fascism, more ruthless, barbarous, unjust, immoral, anti-democratic, unredeemed by any hope or scruple. . . . it is Socialism, in the sense of being an inevitable though unforeseen political accompaniment of the nationalisation and collectivisation which he had relied upon as part of his plan for erecting a classless society." ("Stalin's Russia," 1940, p. 82.)

While Mr. F. A. Voight obligingly completes the picture by remarking in regard to Germany: "Marxism has led to Fascism and National Socialism because in all essentials, it is Fascism and National Socialism." ("Unto Caesar," 1939, p. 95.)

That is to say, Socialism and Fascism stem from the same root. It is part of the purpose of this book to show that practically all forms of economic, industrial and political totalitarianism can be traced to the same root.

The idea uppermost in the minds of the working-class idolater of the Soviet system is that the rich have been abolished. In 1939, only 22 years after the Bolshevik accession to power, Trotsky (Bronstein), who ought to have known, stated: "The upper 11 or 12 per cent, of the Soviet population now receives approximately 50 per cent, of the national income." (Quoted in "The Managerial Revolution," J. Burnham, 1942, p. 43.)

This differentiation is sharper than in the United States, where the upper ten per cent, receive 35 per cent of the national income.

The situation of the 88 per cent, in Russia is immeasurably worse than the similar residue in England or the United States.

Until recently, it was a commonplace of "Labour" propaganda that war is a device of the "Capitalist." If you are careful to define your terms, and associate the word "capitalist" with the favourite Socialist ideal,

"internationalism," there is probably a good deal of truth in the statement. But Russia, the idol of the proletariat, is considered to have demonstrated the success of Socialism by first provoking, through a non-aggression pact with Germany, and then waging, war on an unprecedented scale.

Even in this, a population of two hundred millions, embodying traditionally brave soldiers, would in all probability have been decisively, and irrevocably defeated by a country, Germany, of eighty millions, unless assisted by Great Britain, a country of forty-five millions, which had withstood Germany single-handed for a year.

My object in traversing a somewhat familiar terrain is not so much to attack or condemn any particular body of opinion, as to bring into relief something which forms a peculiar handicap to our native talent for "dealing with situations as they arise." "Situations" present themselves to our judgment in words spoken or written. It is evident, that, to a considerable extent, words have come to mean, not merely what we want them to mean, but what we want them to mean in regard to a particular subject.

This is confusing, and an effort to resolve the confusion in respect of a few of the commoner words of political controversy seems to be overdue. That this confusion is not accidental, but deliberate, is unfortunately true.

Perhaps as good a key as any to the fundamental policy is provided by the remark of Lord Haldane, who, it will be remembered, claimed that his spiritual home was in Germany. He was asked why he persuaded (!) Sir Ernest Cassel, one of the richest men in the world, to settle large sums on the London School of Economics. He replied, "Our object is to make this institution a place to raise and train the bureaucracy of the future Socialist State." ("Quarterly Review," January, 1929.)

It will be noticed that a special education, differing from that of the existing Schools, was necessary. And an inspection of the teaching staff indicates, that this was to be inculcated primarily by German—or Russian—speaking Jews. It is ludicrous to suppose that Sir Ernest Cassel, a German-speaking Jew, provided large sums in ignorance of their objective.

In this connection, the growing revolt against pseudo-science is significant. It has been observed in many quarters, and notably by Dr. Tudor Jones, F.R.S.E., that modern science is becoming a mass of superstitions. The tendency of modern, and even not-so-modern, Universities to produce Communists has been traced to the insistence of their teaching staffs on the unlimited validity of such theories as that of Darwin, largely discredited in informed quarters, but presented to immature minds as fully established.

THE AMERICAN INVASION OF BRITAIN

Written in London by CHARLES F. V. MURPHY. (Condensed from "Fortune," New York, February 1944.)

The American has been brought up to regard the Britisher as smug, staid, incurably insular, and resolutely indifferent to the concerns of others. But these qualities give the Briton little protection today. His already overcrowded, war-pinned island is being over-run by Americans. Last winter he measured them by thousands; now the "invasion," as he humbly calls it, has run into hundreds of thousands.

Just the physical ordeal of making room becomes nerve-racking after a while. The British have turned over entire ports to the U.S. Navy. They have moved out of villages to provide billets for our troops. Even fields and hedges, lovingly tended for generations, have been opened to the mercies of our tank crews, who must have room for manoeuvres.

"I'm beginning to understand what the American Indian went through," an Englishman recently commented.

The trains, movies, pubs, taxis, hotels—particularly in London—are filling with Americans. In the dining rooms of Claridge's and the Savoy, the shoulder insignia of American officers gleam as brightly as they do in Washington's Carlton—and Englishmen at times are quite as scarce.

The British mourn their own disappearance with a popular song, the first line of which they parody: "An Englishman spoke in Berkeley Square..."

This raises a touchy point affecting the Anglo-American partnership— in heavily taxed and strictly rationed England, American spending raises social issues that affect British pride.

A British Tommy's base pay is roughly 15 dollars a month, against an American private's 60 dollars (counting overseas allowance). After the British Treasury has been satisfied, he is lucky to be able to treat himself and his friends to an occasional round of beer, let alone stand treat for hard-drinking Americans. Thus he is made to feel poor and mean in his own pubs.

Similarly, the R.A.F. squadron leader draws about 175 dollars a month against an American major's 400 dollars. He finds dinner for two at a good hotel an extremely stiff proposition, what with the dinner costing \$5.50 and a bottle of dubious French wine eight dollars.

One can imagine the mischief the difference in pay makes, especially over girls.

A columnist in the London "Daily Mail" recently appealed to Americans to stop paying taxi drivers 10/- for a 2/- ride, barbers 10/- for a 2/- hair cut, bartenders 5/- for a half-crown drink, and bootblacks a half-crown for a 6d shoeshine.

"You've made it hard for me to get a hair-cut, buddy," he wrote. "And the bartender serves you first."

The editor of a powerful London daily

Facts About Those Referendum Proposals

(Continued from Page 1.)

have had a far better deal had the Commission been permitted to incur whatever expenditure was shown to be necessary in giving fair treatment to all cases. But finance was more important than broken heroes!

The R.S.S. & A.I.L.A. knows only too well that its fights for returned men have invariably been against financial limitation, and that many of its very reasonable requests have been refused because the Government could not afford the "expense." If only the "funds" had been available what a different tale could have been told.

In the UNITED KINGDOM, where there was no division of legislative powers, the conditions after the last war were WORSE than the conditions in Australia; and as for the depression in the years following the year 1929, we had the sorry spectacle trust although, theoretically, the British Parliament possessed ALL "powers" the British Government was unable even to pay a dole to the distressed workers of England UNTIL AFTER PERMISSION HAD BEEN OBTAINED FROM THE FINANCIERS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Not only so, but the shameful conditions in the United Kingdom leading up to the re-imposition of the Gold Standard and the great Coal Strike were the direct result of the FINANCIAL POLICY imposed upon Britain by the international bankers. You doubt this? Then carefully note the words of Lloyd George, Prime Minister of England, spoken after the so-called "Peace" Conference of 1919, as follows:—

"The international bankers swept statesmen, politicians, jurists, and journalists all on one side, and issued their orders with the imperiousness of absolute monarchs who knew that there was no appeal from their ruthless decrees."

Not even Mr. Churchill has ever said so much in so few words. It should be memorised and thoroughly understood by every mother and father who has a son in any of the battle areas. The INTERNATIONAL BANKERS dictated the Peace Treaty; they swept the representatives of the PEOPLE aside; they imposed their will by ORDER; they regarded themselves as absolute monarchs and were accepted as such; and they were ruthless. What is more, they are still the same, they are still in control, and it is they who are dictating the conditions for the period after the war. Centralisation of power makes control easier for them.

But to revert to the conditions in England:—

You see that the possession of "powers" wasn't much good to the Mother of Parliaments when some greater power outside Parliament dictated the POLICY to be followed inside Parliament! Hitherto that has been the position in Australia, too, and the "powers" proposals will not alter it.

—Yours faithfully, BRUCE H. BROWN, 189 Hotham Street, East Melbourne, C.2. July 2, 1944. (To be continued.)

HERE'S INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE! "Go Thou and Do Likewise"

As far back as March 14, MISS MARY H. GRAY, of 68 Findon Rd. Woodville, Adelaide, wrote to us as follows:—

"I am concentrating now upon propaganda against the Federal Powers. I have drawn up and am having printed a leaflet for distribution in my own district. Two other Social Crediters in districts adjoining mine are planning to join with me in the propaganda campaign in our three districts, paying our own expenses and doing our own distributing. If we can get other help we hope to extend it and carry the campaign on for six months, if need be, changing our leaflet every three weeks or so, to meet the propaganda of the Government. If only one or two Social Crediters in each district would adopt this individual method, and keep it up with fresh material, covering the same ground it would soon be possible to embrace all areas."

[Some of those mere males who call themselves "actionists" had better look to their laurels.—Editor.]

Battle of Britain, they can't help feeling let down to be told by a young American fighting man with a solid row of ribbons, that he has yet to see the enemy or hear a shot fired in anger.

A story now making the rounds in London concerns an American who went to see the British battle film, "Desert Victory." As he left the theatre he was seen to pin a campaign ribbon to his tunic.

Doubtless all this discussion of ribbons only proves that there is a British and also an American way of doing things. However, the fact remains that in the Englishman's eyes the ribbons our army gives men for crossing the ocean represent "Hollywood values."

Conscientious efforts are being made to teach the British and Americans to understand each other. But good Anglo-American relations are going to depend upon more than such ideas and upon more than having Mr. Churchill continue to meet with Mr. Roosevelt and make dramatic decisions in high strategy.

The American, it is time we realised, is a peculiar fellow, with his silk stockings and lipsticks with which to coax the British lovelies, and his pockets full of oranges and candy in a besieged island where the richest peers are denied such luxuries.

The point, therefore, is that the peculiarities of the British add up to perhaps less than half of the total explanation of why Anglo-American relations, like the course of true love, are what they are.

NO CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

Temperance Hall, Russell St., Melbourne,
Sunday, July 9, at 7.45 p.m.

Mr. K. J. Kenafick will speak on—

"THE REFERENDUM PROPOSALS:
FEDERAL POWER OR PEOPLE'S
POWER?"

WHAT'S THE TRUTH ABOUT ALBERTA?

(From a Broadcast on January 24 by the HON. E. C. MANNING, Premier of Alberta.)

Last week I dealt at some length with the Social Credit proposal that a National dividend should be paid to each and every bona fide Canadian citizen to supplement wages, salaries and other sources of earned income. The money or credit necessary to pay such a dividend would be created under the direction of Parliament, and its distribution would supplement the National income, thereby increasing the purchasing power of the Canadian people sufficiently to enable them to buy the entire output of their productive effort. This is a reform measure, which distinguishes Social Credit from all proposals, which are being put forward as a basis for Post-War reconstruction.

As I emphasised in our last two broadcasts, it is the one method by which full economic security with freedom can be assured to all Canadians.

Well, as I expected, my reference to National dividends has again called forth the parrot-like cry that has been emanating from certain political quarters for the past eight years. Here it is—"If dividends for all is a sound and practical idea, why has the Social Credit Government in Alberta not paid the dividends which were promised in 1935? Why hasn't Social Credit been introduced in Alberta where the Government had a clear mandate from the people? What about the 25.00 dollars a month?"

Tonight I am going to answer them bluntly. It is time that the people of Canada knew the truth about this matter. The majority of people in Alberta are aware of the facts, but unfortunately anti-Social Credit propaganda has given the rest of Canada a grossly misleading picture of the Alberta situation. I assure you that I am only too glad of this opportunity to put the record straight in this respect.

I want to take our memory back to 1933 and 1934. You will recall that the depression was then at its height. Unemployment, relief, soup kitchens and widespread destitution were the order of the day. It was under these conditions that the people of Alberta first heard of Social Credit. While bankers, economists and politicians were trying to explain to the people that something they called "an economic blizzard" had struck the country, and that really the ghastly conditions created by the depression must be accepted as an unavoidable evil beyond human control—there arose above all this confused talk the attention-compelling voice of the late William Aberhart, who, at that time was the principal of Calgary's largest collegiate institute, and a man with an outstanding reputation as an educationist.

He told the people in plain and unmistakable language that they were the victims of a vicious, undemocratic and un-Christian monetary system. He denounced the restriction of production, when men, women and children were living in dire need of the goods which could be produced in abundance, and while tens of thousands unemployed and destitute persons were anxious to work and to produce goods. He fearlessly attacked all the accepted axioms of orthodox economics and finance, exposing the fact that the root cause of the trouble was a vicious, monopolistic money system, which was being operated as a super-racket. He tore aside the veil of humbug and mystery surrounding the question of money, and showed that by correcting the evil features of the monetary system it would be possible to produce an abundance of goods and services for the use of the people, and to distribute these to ensure economic security with freedom for all. He pointed out that the key to the whole problem was the distribution of sufficient purchasing power to enable the people to purchase the goods, which they had proved themselves so able to produce in abundance.

Week after week the dynamic voice of William Aberhart spoke to the people of Alberta from public platforms, over the radio, and through the printed page. The logic, the common sense and the power of his challenging message attracted more and more attention. He urged the people to form groups to study this question; he inspired them with a new hope; he gave them a new vision of what democracy should mean.

By the end of 1934 a strong Social Credit movement was organised in Alberta. Under Mr. Aberhart's leadership the Provincial Government of the day was urged to introduce Social Credit reforms. It soon became evident that the Government had no intention of doing anything about it. The other political parties likewise turned down the people's demands. The people organised for political action. Groups got busy and organised their constituencies. Next a provincial platform was adopted and a provincial leader was chosen by the delegates sent by the constituencies to a provincial convention. Social Credit candidates were chosen to contest every provincial constituency—candidates pledged to do a job that none of the existing political parties would carry out.

The result of the Alberta election of 1935 is now a matter of history. Fifty-six Social Credit candidates were elected out of a total of sixty-three seats in the Alberta Legislature.

DONT 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

NO—THE WORLD IS NOT SMALL

By EVE CURIE

(Author of "Madame Curie," "Journey Among Warriors.")

As I returned from a 40,000-mile trip to world battlefields, our Clipper plane landed in Liberia. There I found a copy of the New York "Herald Tribune," only five days old. Someone remarked, "The world has become very small."

Small? Why this absurd cliché? True, a few million soldiers are being shipped to distant battlefields—and, very soon, a long-range bomber based in Europe will be able to carry destruction to any city on earth. But that does not mean that the world is small. The countless masses of "common men" with white, brown, black, or yellow skins do not travel in clippers; nations do not move. An illiterate peasant in India still does not know what a farm in England looks like. He does not even know that America exists. Americans have an amazing deal to learn about the world that surrounds them.

I had talked, on my roving trip, with barefoot men who had never seen snow, with others who had never seen the sea, or a mountain. On one side of the earth, I had heard these two revered words: "Christianity," "democracy." On the other I had glimpsed golden idols in temples I was not allowed to enter.

Nobody wants all the world's habits of living and thinking to merge, to be stirred up in one great batter so that the only difference between a Chinese or an Ethiopian and an American or an Englishman is the colour of their skins.

But we do want to know and understand all these peoples who are so different from ourselves—so different, that is, except in their humanity.

—"Reader's Digest."

SHIRES DECLARE WAR ON BUREAUCRACY

Bureaucracy's growth in Australia is strongly criticised by the President of the Shires' Association of New South Wales (Cr. John Boss) in the annual report of the association. The report says:—

"In recent years Australia has seen a tremendous growth in the number and extent of Government departments, Boards and commissions, only part of which can legitimately be attributed to the needs and exigencies of war.

"Development has been such that government has now become so centralised and top-heavy with its dead weight of countless rules and regulations that speedy and efficient administration is well-nigh impossible and is overwhelmingly costly to the people.

"This trend can lead only to regimentation and the loss of individual and district initiative and enterprise.

"Decentralisation of government, giving more power and freedom to local people, is the natural counter to this, and is the policy which has been affirmed by the association time and time again.

"The Shires' Association, with the Local Government Association, has pressed on the Government the need for amendments of the Local Government Act, eliminating existing weaknesses and anomalies and giving extended powers for housing, child welfare, soil erosion, reforestation and the like.

"There has been a campaign among the municipal and shire councils themselves for the establishment of county councils and for the creation of regional areas.

"It is believed that action along these lines should provide a solid foundation on which to build a structure of greater local government."

MADAGASCAR: SANCTUARY FOR JEWS?

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—Persistent is the advocacy and propaganda of the idea that we in Australia should provide a Sanctuary for the Jews. The idea has been openly and boldly supported by a body of Nonconformist ministers. What is rather surprising to me is that none of this Christian group, which makes such heartrending appeals for Jews, showed even the slightest concern for the thirty million Russians who were murdered or died as a result of the Jewish instigated and led Bolshevik revolution, or for the many suffering Christian communities in all parts of Europe—and such incidents as the English wives of Australian soldiers, banned from coming to Australia by the £100 charge for fares, are not even given a thought.

With these people only Jewish needs are imperative, and although they do not recognise it now, they very soon must admit that Madagascar, where the native culture corresponds so closely with the philosophy of Judaism, will be the new home for the Jew.

The people of Australia would do well to study the extraordinary characteristics of this problem race. Significant are facts to those who look beyond the day. Individually and as a race the Jew presents the same front to the world as throughout the centuries. The Jews customs and laws are not the customs and laws of what they term the "Goyim" races. Judaism and Christianity will not mix.

The chronology of the invasion and expulsion of the Jews from England was published in the "British Times," June 1934. In the year 740 A.D. the Archbishop of York prohibited Christians from associating themselves with the Jews, and twice in a little more than 200 years the Jews were expelled en masse from England, which is largely responsible for the purity of British culture and the high standard of British democratic institutions, traditions and justice.

There is now a threatened decay in our Empire closely associated with Jewish influence in recent years in our politics, economics, and particularly in policy.

REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN

(Report from the United Electors of Australia, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.)

We urge every supporter to concentrate on getting our anti-Powers literature to as many soldiers as possible, and also into industrial organisations, because these sections are being deluged with doped information from various Governmental and other sources. It is also advisable to get back numbers of the "New Times" into these quarters, and we look to YOU to circulate them.

Our financial appeal for £1 from every supporter has now passed the "century" mark. Previously acknowledged, £91/12/-. Amounts since received are:—F. C. Corder, £1; Anonymous, £5; M. E. Eastwood, £1/5/-; Mr. Gladman, £1; L./C. Haynes, £1; E. A. Huelner, £1; Sub-Lt. Howard, 10/-; A. S. Ingham, 10/-; J. Gerrard, 10/-; Sgt. R. Kirby, £1; R. Milne, £2; T. R. Price, £1; J. Reid, £1; W. F. Savage, £1; J. Taylor, £3; W. T. Kuhne, £1. (Grand Total: £113/2/-) Now that we have passed the first "century," the going should be easier. The greater the response the bigger and the better the fight. Have YOU backed the attack? We know YOU don't want to be left out, so send your donation along NOW, and at the same time let us know what literature you require. Please write to or call at the above address.

—O. B. Heatley, Campaign Director.

has insisted that if the Federal Government will not let us institute these necessary and long over-due financial reforms within our own Province on the grounds that we have not the necessary constitutional authority, then they, as the possessors of such authority, should act in this matter, and act without further delay.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we maintain that it is inexcusable that Provincial Government should be prevented from acting

MR. BLACKBURN'S VIEWS

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—I observe in my letter on overseas conscription, printed in your issue of June 30, what might appear to be a contradiction. I stated that Mr. Blackburn believed that the Militia Act would never really be enforced, and then I mentioned a little further on that he considered that when the men conscripted under the Militia Act got as far north as the specified boundary they would be taken beyond it. Actually, the former statement ought to have come second, as it was after the New South Wales State Labour Conference of June, 1943, that Mr. Blackburn considered, basing his opinion on accounts he had been given of the moves at that conference, that the Act would not be enforced; he, however, still held the opinion that if it ever were enforced, contrary to his expectation, then in that case the Militia would be used as he had indicated in his speech of March 3, 1943.

—Yours, etc., K. J. KENAFICK.

All matter in this issue dealing with the forthcoming Referendum, and not bearing the name and address of the writer, is written to express the editorial view of the "New Times," and legal responsibility for its publication is accepted by H. F. Allsop, McEwan House, Melbourne.

on behalf of its own people in this all important matter while, at the same time, the Senior Government of Canada persistently refuses to do anything to bring about these necessary financial reforms on which the future of our country may well depend.

Many Australians have been shocked by some of the methods recently employed by officers of the Taxation Department in connection with the assessment and collection of income tax. These people, who see in the perpetuation of such powers and methods, a threat to their own future, have been given cause to wonder just how far the powers of this particular department extend.

These powers have been in the possession of the Taxation Department for a number of years but, since they were intended to discourage, prevent and punish the evasion of income tax, it is obvious that their existence should be more noticeable and menacing under a heavy taxation burden, with its greater incentive to evasion, than it would be under a relatively lighter burden.

The following information, gathered from the Income Tax Assessment Act, indicating the extent of the powers of the Commissioner and his staff, speaks for itself. The emphasis, in all cases, is our own, and wherever condensation is not called for in the interests of space, the actual wording of the Act is given. Section 16, part 3 reads:—"An officer shall not be required to produce in court any return, assessment, or notice of assessment, or to divulge or communicate to any court, any matter or thing coming under his notice in the performance of his duties as an officer, except when it is necessary to do so for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act or of any previous law of the Commonwealth relating to Income Tax."

Part 4 of this section gives the Commissioner, "or any person thereto authorised by him," power to communicate information to the Commissioner of Pensions or the Repatriation Commission, the National Insurance Commission, the Commissioner of Maternity Allowances, the Director-General of Health and the Commonwealth Prisons Commissioner. Section 242:

"A witness on behalf of the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner in any taxation prosecution shall not be compelled to disclose the fact that he received any information or the nature thereof or the name of the person who gave such information, and an officer appearing as a witness shall not be compelled to produce any reports made or received by him confidentially in his official capacity or containing confidential information."

Section 12, Part 1, gives the Commissioner power to delegate "by writing under his hand," to a Deputy Commissioner OR OTHER PERSON all or any of his powers or functions "under the Act, except his power of delegation."

Section 264:

"1. The Commissioner, may by notice in writing require any person, whether a taxpayer or not, including any officer employed in or in connection with any department of a Government or by any public authority—

(a) to furnish him with such information as he may require; and

(b) to attend and give evidence before him or before any officer authorised by him in that behalf concerning his or any other person's income or assessment, and may require him to produce all books, documents and other papers whatever in his custody or under his control relating thereto.

"2. The Commissioner may require, the information or evidence to be given on oath and either verbally or in writing, and for that purpose he or the officer so authorised by him may administer an oath."

Section 223:

"1. Any person who fails to duly furnish any return or information or comply with any requirement of the Commissioner as and when required by this Act, or the regulations, shall be guilty of an offence. Penalty: Not less than two pounds or more than one hundred pounds."

Section 224:

"Any person who refuses, or neglects to duly attend and give evidence when required by the Commissioner or any officer duly authorised by him, or to truly and fully answer any questions put to him, by, or to produce any book or paper required of him by the Commissioner or any such officer, shall, unless just cause or excuse for the refusal or neglect is shown by him, be guilty of an offence. Penalty: Not less than two pounds or more than one hundred pounds."

Section 225:

"1. Upon the conviction of any person for an offence against either of the last two preceding sections, the court may order him within a time specified in the order, to do the act which he has failed or refused or neglected to do, and any person who does not duly comply with such order shall be guilty of an offence. Penalty: Not less than ten pounds or more than five hundred pounds."

Section 263:

"The Commissioner, or any officer authorised by him in that behalf, shall at all times have full and free access to all buildings, places, books, documents and other papers, for any of the purposes of this Act, and for that purpose may make extracts from or copies of any such books, documents or papers."

Section 232:

"Any person who obstructs or hinders any officer acting in the discharge of his duty under this Act, or the regulations, shall be guilty of an offence. Penalty: Not less than one pound or more than fifty pounds."

Section 211 prevents any owner or charterer, of a ship or aircraft, from giving

to any person an authority to travel unless and until a certificate has been received from the Commissioner of Taxation, or his Deputy, indicating that such person has met the requirements of the Commissioner. Section 212 makes it obligatory on the part of an owner or charterer, or representative of an owner or charterer, of every ship or aircraft, to lodge all certificates, at the office of the Deputy Commissioner on the next working day after the departure, together with the name and last known address, other than the crew, who travelled on the ship or aircraft.

Section 218:

"1. The Commissioner may, at any time and from time to time, by notice in writing (a copy of which shall be forwarded to the taxpayer to his last place of address known to the Commissioner) require—

(a) any person by whom money is due to a taxpayer—

(b) any person who holds or may subsequently hold money for or on account of a taxpayer—

(c) any person who holds or may subsequently hold money on account of some other person for payment to a taxpayer; or

(d) any person having authority for some other person to pay money to a taxpayer—

"to pay to the Commissioner, either forthwith upon the money becoming due or being held, or at or within a time specified in the notice (not being a time specified money becomes due or is held)—

(i) so much of the money as is sufficient to pay the amount due by the taxpayer in respect of any tax and of any fines and costs imposed upon him under this Act, or the whole of the money when it is equal to or less than that amount; or (ii) such amount as is specified in the notice out of each of any payments which the person so notified becomes liable from time to time to make to the taxpayer, until the amount due by the taxpayer in respect of any tax and of any fines and costs imposed upon him under this Act is satisfied, and may at any time, or from time to time, amend or revoke any such notice, or extend the time for making any payment in pursuance of the notice.

"2. Any person who fails to comply with any notice under this section shall be guilty of an offence. Penalty: Fifty pounds."

Section 216 makes provision, where, whether intentionally or not, a taxpayer escapes full taxation in his lifetime, for the Commissioner to have the same powers against the trustees of the estate as he would have against the taxpayer, were he still living. If the Commissioner should then experience difficulty in collecting the tax assessed, he can under Section 220 part 5, issue an order authorising any member of the police force of the Commonwealth or of a State, OR ANY OTHER PERSON NAMED THEREIN, to levy the amount of tax assessed, with costs, by distress and sale of any property of the deceased.

Under Section 229 any person, who in any declaration made under, or authorised or prescribed by the Act or the regulations, knowingly and wilfully declares to any matter or thing which is false or untrue, shall be deemed to be guilty of willful or corrupt perjury, and shall upon conviction be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding four years.

Section 247 gives the Court power to commit any offender to gaol pending the payment of any penalty adjudged, and a scale in Section 248 limits the period of incarceration according to the amount of the penalty. —H. Roberts.

REFERENDUM DEBATE

The Past and Present Unaccepted War Disability Association has arranged a debate on the Referendum proposals, to be held at Room 92, Railways Institute, Railways Buildings, Flinders-street, Melbourne, on Thursday, July 20, at 8 p.m. The arguments for a "Yes" vote will be presented by Mr. C. Adkins, and the case for a "No" vote will be in the hands of Mr. F. C. Paice.

DO YOU LIVE IN KEW?

Democrats living in the Melbourne suburb of Kew are invited to get in touch with Mr. H. Roberts, 140 Derby Street, Kew, with a view to assisting the local "Vote No" campaign. Special leaflets are available for distribution, and donations will be received from those who can help financially. Those who may be able to help in any way whatsoever are asked to treat the matter as URGENT, because in only six weeks' time the Referendum will be held.

WANTED TO BUY

"Poverty, Old and New," by Prof. F. Soddy. And "The Wrecking of a Scientific Age," by Prof. F. Soddy. (New or second-hand.)—X.Y.Z., c/o the "New Times."

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NOTES

(From the UNITED DEMOCRATS' headquarters, 17 Waymouth Street, Adelaide.)

"VOTE NO" LEAGUE formed in Adelaide. This was the result of the largely attended Town Hall meeting recently advertised in these notes. Probably the main revelation at the meeting was in connection with the suggestion that there would be chaos after the war because the National Security regulations would cease six months after the Armistice. Mr. G. C. Ligertwood, K.C., pointed, out that the Act would cease to operate six months after the proclamation was signed that the Allies were no longer at war. How long the period between the Armistice and the signing of the proclamation would be no one could say. After the last war it was six years. It was likely to be longer after this war, as the whole situation is so much more complex.

All the main speakers contented themselves merely with arguments why people should vote "NO." None of them offered any constructive proposals, which would ease the minds of those people who do not wish to see regimentation continued after the war, but who feel that there may be another depression if we simply return to the pre-war status quo. Mr. M. E. Dodd, in seconding the motion that the League be formed, said that he had some constructive suggestions, but that as the hour was so late he would not put them to the meeting. However, he hoped to be on the committee, when he would have a chance to put them forward. In our opinion, the acclamation, which followed, indicates that this is what the people want. We feel that there is every danger of the Referendum being carried unless the people are offered some constructive alternative.

"FREEDOM FROM WANT" CAMPAIGN: Mr. J. Fitzgerald, president of the Prospect branch of the Pensioners' Association, and originator of this campaign, reports that the five pensioners' organisations in this State have now reached agreement in connection with the objective of the campaign to secure a better deal for pensioners. Previously several bodies did not agree that the objective as set out in the request letter forms issued by the Prospect branch (viz., £3 per week without reference to the Means Test) was in the best interests of all concerned. This is especially heartening, as it comes on top of the recent information from Sydney that the Grand Council of the United Old Age and Invalid Pensioners' Association in New South Wales, comprising 80 branches, had decided to push actively for the same objective.

However, the objective of the Victorian bodies is still 32/6, with numerous concessions tagged on. We think it better to ask for an amount, which will enable people to retire in reasonable comfort, and be independent of charitable concessions. Besides being in the nature of charity, concessions are not fair to pensioners as a whole, inasmuch as they are of no use to some sections of pensioners, e.g., if pensioners were granted free tram travel, this would not be fair to country people, who rarely use the trams.

We suggest that any pensioners in Victoria who agree with our ideas should acquaint their executive officers of the fact and endeavour to get them to fall into line with South Australia and New South Wales. Remember, they are your representatives, and should act according to the wishes of the members of the association. BOOKS TO READ: "The Big Idea," by C. H. Douglas, Price 2/6. "The Enemy Within the Empire" (A Short History of the Bank of England), by Eric D. Butler, Price 9d. "Stop That Thief—Finance, the Great Dictator," by Stanley F. Allen, F.C.A. (Aust.), Price 1/6. (All plus 1d postage.)

—F. BAWDEN, Hon. Secretary.

NOT TO BE READ TILL 1948

(If Permitted).

You always thought that tyrants looked like Tarzan
And bawled a brainless warning as they went;
You swore you'd spot one long before he trapped you,
Pick out his purpose by his plain intent.

But you didn't spot the patient little planners,
The earnest blokes who hailed you as a friend
(Though they let you do the fighting and the sweating).
They were the ones that got you in the end,

True, you tumbled to the reason for their urgings
When you saw them sitting pretty up on top;
But by then they had the powers they'd demanded—
You'd started them, and now they wouldn't stop.

Yes, speech is free—but if you speak, you're manpowered,
And your tax pays pimps who read your private mail,
And you daren't say too much about the Leaders
Lest you find their new Gestapo on your tail.

And now, though even thinking's scarcely legal,
There's a thought on which you sometimes sadly dwell:
Oh, the time you wasted looking out for lions
When jackals could enslave you just as well!
—W.P.I.

Notes On The News

(Continued from page 1.)

overhead provided for good crops, irrespective of seasonal conditions. They estimated that their loss amounted to about £6000—due to the inability of Government departments to handle supplies at processing depots, and that this in turn brought about the wasting of 1000 tons of cabbages and large quantities of carrots and other vegetables, and resulted in a chronic shortage of these commodities. Heil Socialism!

DOLE DEBATE: During the British Commons debate on employment, Mr. Bevin and Mr. Churchill said that when they were cheering the British "Tommys" on their way to the invasion, the "Tommys" asked them, "Are we coming back to the dole?" A question which, after all these years, hurt Churchill and Bevin very much, so much, indeed, that they answered, "No, No." They asked the Commons to support their answer, and so the Commons then started in to consider "work"—just "work," not security of income irrespective of "work," which is apparently reserved for those in receipt of unearned income from interest. Of course, bondholders' incomes are not called doles! More than the honeyed words of Churchill, Bevin, and Co. will be required by the "Tommys."

SOVIET SCHOOL: James Aldridge, a special "Herald" correspondent in Russia, tells of a visit to the "Kalinin School": "Students are fed and clothed by the State, the boys wear black uniforms and all had shaven heads. The boys must salute all officers everywhere; if they overtake an officer permission must be obtained to pass him." Well, that at least disposes of the phantom of the "classless" State.

CASH CONFERENCE Early in May, representatives of various Government departments (including officers of the Treasury) commenced a discussion on schemes to finance housing projects, now and after the war. So far nothing further has been heard of it. It is rather strange to call a conference on finance, which should be a secondary matter. One would have thought that provided the physical needs (men, and materials) were available, the Federal Government would have simply instructed the Treasury to see that the money—mere numerals and tokens—was automatically made available to the States.

COSMETIC COMICS: The Supply and Development Department has called tenders for £16,000 worth of brilliantine hair cream, peroxide and dusting powder "for the exclusive use of New Guinea natives." The managing director of a cosmetic firm, commenting on this, said: "Many of these lines have been prohibited for about two years, and at present the ban extends even to military requirements." Well, well; maybe the "Deny and Preventment Department" has not heard about this ban, so we can hardly criticise the extravagant tastes of the natives.

SEPARATE STATES: One of the most favoured methods of dealing with Germany after the war in order to prevent another Hitler arising, is the reconstruction of Germany into separate States—because only a centralised Government can cause a big war. This at least discloses recognition of the dangers inherent in centralised power. Yet the Australian people are being asked to approve a repetition of Germany's folly by granting more power to the Federal Government. Surely Britishers, with their traditions of freedom, will not be so foolish as to vote "Yes."

POPULATION PROBLEM: Britain's population problem immediately after the war is likely to be so acute that the Government intends to take steps to retain people in the country; indeed, legislation is expected within the next few weeks to this end. This development upsets the plans of the population prophets, who seem to think that Britain is merely a stud farm for our special benefit. However, these all-wise seers will probably divert their energy to agitation for Chinese, Indian, Jewish or any other unsuitable immigrants. Quantity is all that matters to these population parrots; quality is merely an "also-ran," whilst the all-important question of "compatibility" never enters their crusty craniums. —O.B.H.

REFERENDUM MEETINGS IN THE SUBURBS

Malvern: A debate will take place at the Malvern Town Hall on July 11 on the Referendum proposals. Speakers: Mr. Thonemann, M.L.A., and Mr. Brian Fitzpatrick.

Box Hill: On July 17, at the Town Hall, a debate will take place on the Referendum proposals between Mr. Grogan and Mr. Coull.

Ringwood: Mr. Gray, M.L.A., and Mr. Hollins, M.L.A., will debate the Federal Powers question at the Town Hall on July 31.

As questions are an important part of such debates, supporters should make a point of attending these meetings to keep the questions flowing.

Federal Powers Debate

"Should the Increased Federal Powers be Granted?" This question will be debated at the Assembly, Hall, 156 Collins-street, Melbourne, on Thursday next, July 13, at 8 p.m. When we went to press, the affirmative speaker had yet to be arranged. The negative speaker will be Mr. F. A. Parker, B.A., Dip.Ed. The debate is sponsored by the Club of Political Thought

Printed by M. P. Canavan, 25 Cullinton-road, Hartwell, for the New Times Ltd., McEwan House, Melbourne.