

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.

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).

THE NEW TIMES

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The Labor Politicians and Monetary Reform

What of Mr. Lazzarini's Pamphlet?

By ERIC D. BUTLER

A recent pamphlet by Mr. H. P. Lazzarini, M.H.R., "The 'HOW In Post-War Planning,'" has caused some consternation in orthodox circles, while some money-reformers have let their enthusiasm temporarily obscure bitter experience by suggesting that we only need a few more Lazzarinis in the Federal Government and our worries will be over.

If one believes that money-reform is an end in itself, then one must applaud Hitler and others of similar ilk! Hitler re-formed the money system in Germany because he knew that it was a powerful mechanism through which he might force HIS policy on the German people. If his financial "reform" weakened the financial gangsters at all, it correspondingly strengthened his political gangsters: it did NOT give power (in the form of individual freedom-of-action, individual security and control of policy) to the German people—they were merely pitch forked out of the frying pan into the fire.

I don't want to do Mr. Lazzarini an injustice by comparing him with Hitler, but it is a fact that Mr. Lazzarini (along with Dr. Evatt, Mr. Ward, Mr. Calwell, pro-Labor Mr. Alex Wilson, and many others who have expressed a desire to reform the present monetary system) supported the recent outrageous campaign to take a leaf out of the German book and centralise all political and economic control in this country at Canberra.

I have often said in these columns, and I take pleasure in repeating, that any alteration of the money system which does not give the individual citizen greater control over his own destiny is not progress, but trickery.

At present the controllers of the centralised banking system, which is organised on a world scale, have effectively monopolised the people's credit. The suggestion that it would be an improvement if a centralised political group (the policy of which is not even controlled by the rank-and-file in the group, still less by the electors) were to take control of the peoples' credit from the banks, is one of the most dangerous ideas being put forward in this country today. We do not want power over financial policy shifted from one centralised group to another centralised group; we want power shifted from all monopolies (political, economic and financial) to the people. Major C. H. Douglas put the matter clearly when he said:

"Centralised financial credit control will break up this civilisation, since no man, or body of men, however elected, can represent the detailed desires of any other man, or body of men." (Economic Democracy.) The Financiers and the Socialists are in agreement that they know what is best for everyone. The philosophy of the groups controlling the Australian Labor Party is based on the belief that the individual should only be allowed to obtain money by working for a Government undertaking, and that he should have most of his money spent for him by Government Departments. All the debt-free, interest-free or any other

type of proposed money does not interest me in the slightest unless I can obtain my share of it as a right and can spend it as I desire.

I am well aware that many of the rank-and-file of Australians who vote "Labor" are opposed to the philosophy of the groups controlling the Labor Party—that is, when the issue is put to them clearly enough, as it was during the recent Referendum campaign. The fact, which members of all highly centralised political groups in this country must face, is the manner in which a certain type of power-lusting individual obtains the executive positions in these groups.

Not only are the rank-and-file of all Parties in this country almost powerless to change the policies of their executives, but even Members of Parliament are rigidly controlled.

For many years these columns have contained statements by Labor Members concerning financial reform. I recall, for example, how Mr. Calwell back in 1942 spoke in Federal Parliament about shooting certain economic advisers of the Government, which statement was mentioned by this paper. Since then the same Mr. Calwell has actively or passively supported the unchanged policies enunciated by these same economists! I don't know whether Mr. Calwell believes that he, too, should therefore be shot!

When I read Mr. Lazzarini's views as outlined in his pamphlet, I immediately

looked through Federal "Hansard" to see whether he had opposed the last Budget. But no; along with Mr. Beasley, Mr. Ward, Mr. Curtin, Mr. Langtry, Mr. Calwell and all the others who have from time to time tried to have us believe that they would fight the financiers' debt-and-taxation policy, Mr. Lazzarini passively supported a Budget eulogised by MR. MENZIES as follows:

"The Prime Minister said rather hopefully just now: 'This must be a pretty good Budget.' Well, no one can take exception to the statements of financial theory made by my friend the Treasurer. I find them impeccable. I have gone back over some of the previous Budget Debates. I have found a statement by him on finance, and one by myself, and almost instinctively I found myself getting out of my chair to go round the corridor and embrace him and call him 'Brother.'" (Federal "Hansard," September 13, p. 725.)

I hope Mr. Ward and Mr. Calwell, those archenemies of Mr. Menzies, like the company they are keeping!

The hypocrisy of many Labor members is such that I am amazed that some people still place any reliance on what they say. Of course, as Party government is organised in this country today, it is impossible for the individual Member to change the policy of his Party, even if he so desires. All Parties have a vested interest in obtaining and keeping power. They only offer promises with that end in view. (Continued on page 4).

The keenest debate at the recent convention of the A.N.A. resulted in the carrying of a motion reaffirming the "White Australia Policy." Opposition to this tradition would hardly be expected from members of such a body, yet strange to say there was strong opposition from delegates Burke and Dimelow (the incoming president), which fully reported in the Melbourne Herald of October 26. In recent months there have been many attacks on Australia's right to select her own nationals, and it is fairly certain that the anti-Australian forces behind these attacks were also active in or behind the A.N.A. debate. It is heartening to learn that these forces have had such a setback, but more attacks will surely follow.

Even English Is Dehydrated Now!

By "FOOTLE"

I find it very hard to keep up with the tempo of today, especially in the world of abbreviations. I am becoming hostile to this filleting or dehydrating of our mother tongue: it is making the news more of a quessing competition than ever.

I frequently have to enlist the aid of my friend, Pongo Pyke, who, as some of you may remember, was in the Army for a while, until the Practical Joke Department returned him to Industry.

He tells me that in the Army there are certain abbreviations and that these abbreviations have to be so meticulously employed that if they concerned an address and some misguided scribe were to write the address in full, the missive would be "returned to sender" and disciplinary action would probably be taken. So, naturally I frequently gravitate towards Pongo in the matter of deciphering newspaper reports.

Of course, if one were to read the newspapers consistently no doubt there would come a time when even the brain of a bloke innocent of mnemonics would respond to certain arrangements of capital letters like COD, POW; NIP and TUC, and RIP, TARE and BHANG, though I personally always expect a little difficulty with the more elaborate combinations such as AMIEU, BANCOR, BAWRA, BALONEY and so on. As a matter of fact I much prefer the puzzle-page to be kept quite separate from other printed matter. EXTRAORDINARY AMBIGUITY OF WOL.

But valuable as he is, Pongo slips sometimes, as when for instance I asked him what WOI stood for. He was loftily contemptuous:

"I thought everyone knew that WO One was the RSM."
"There you go again," I expostulated, weakly.

Germany and Russia

According to advice from Supreme Allied Headquarters, on Allied military Government is operating in occupied parts of Germany. A series of laws has been promulgated, including one that abolishes the Nazi law "preventing the establishment of political Parties apart from the National Socialist Party." This has a special significance because of the fact that in Russia (which presumably is one of the acting Allies) political candidates for a Party other than the Communist Party are not tolerated. Will Stalin now be prepared to extend to the Russian people a political freedom that is being restored to the German people by the Allies?

"Very well," he amplified, "he's the good old dare-devil son of Old Nick, the so-and-so Regimental Sergeant-Major."

"But it can't be," I objected, "because a Brisbane newspaper mentions that Mr. Colin Clark is a Director of it, whatever it is."

"How the devil can Mr. Colin Clark be a Director of a Regimental Sergeant-Major?" demanded Pongo.

"Don't pinch my stuff," I replied huffily. "Cast your mind back and you will find that I was the bloke who asked that."

Between us we managed to find out that it meant War Organisation of Industry.

THE DARK MYSTERY OF AFULE

But the other day when I was again forced to fall back on Pongo Pyke he made an even worse break.

"What is AFULE?" I asked.
Pongo glared. "You're asking me! What is a fool, indeed! I've a darn good mind to tell you."

"No," I interrupted hastily. "This is spelt 'AFULE'."

"Pronounced AF-YU-LE," declared Pongo loftily. "It is a one-horse siding in the Jordan Valley about opposite Haifa. I remember it well. What about it?"

It has a President, according to my newspaper. Here's the headline: 'PRESIDENT OF AFULE.'"

"G'lord!" gasped Pongo. "Is that right? Well, you never can tell. The last time I saw it there were about six houses, a sack of peas and half a dozen packets of Turkish Delight completely surrounded by flies. And so it has a President now! Who is it?"

"Bloke named T. Kissick."

"That's an English sort of a name."

"It is," I agreed, "when you come to look at it: but not half as English as one of the blokes who was defeated in the election. His name is W. R. Johnson."

Pongo snatched the paper from my hand. "Just as I thought!" he snorted. "You and your railway-siding in Palestine! The report comes from Brisbane! Why don't you read? You don't even have to make guesses. Here, further down, it is printed in full for you: 'Australian Federated Union of Locomotive Enginemens'."

* * * * *

You see what I mean. But after all Pongo is only human. He can't be right every time.

CAPITALISTIC COMFORTS: The entry into Roumania of Russian troops, giving them their first contact with Western culture and amenities, caused the Soviet Press to issue warnings against the seductive glitter of foreign cities (Melbourne "Herald," 20/9/44). Leonard Soboleff, one of the best-known Russian war correspondents, urges Red soldiers "not to be impressed with the cleanliness of Bucharest, or the phantom of pseudo-civilisation." He also scorns the homes of the wealthy, protected by mysterious shutters, behind which, he says, "there is a hidden life hostile to Russia, full of inspired luxury." This chap has a tough job to explain away even the every day amenities, which seem so miraculous to the visiting Reds. It will be very odd if the Russians don't feel an urge to enjoy some of these despised "capitalistic" amenities in their own country after the war.

SNOOPING SCIENCE: Official figures on the growth of Commonwealth Investigation Branch expenditure show an alarming increase. In 1942-43, salaries and general expenses totalled £28,895, whilst for the 1944-45 financial year it is expected to be £34,700. Administration expenses of the Security Service were £108,288 for 1942-43, and this is expected to reach £128,000. In Federal Parliament, Senator Leckie recently asked some pertinent questions in regard to these matters. He denounced the practice of allocating sums of money to entice people to break the law so that the snoopers can make a catch, which seems to be deemed much more important than national security. The time is overdue for this army of snoopers to start demobilising. If the people were given an opportunity of voting on the Budget, they would put a heavy "No" opposite this item. Incidentally, if the Budget expenditures were submitted to the people by way of a Referendum, would it not be an effective means of controlling Parliament?

IMPUDENT IRONY: Just how d'mark-razy sometimes works in "Gawd's Own Country" is seen in the following story. In U.S.A. there is a town commonly known as "Berlin," although the residents claim that the real name is "Burrell's Inn," which through long usage has been slurred together to produce the inappropriate reminder of Hitler's hangout. Well, the town is to be given the new name of "Distoma," the name of a Greek community. However, the name has not been chosen by the locals, but by one Maxwell Anderson, an American playwright. Despite opposition by the locals—the only ones really concerned—the renaming ceremony was fixed for October 24, and was scheduled to be broadcast throughout U.S.A. It's a wonder the event was not listed for Independence Day! That would have been no more ironical than tak-

ing the new name from Greece, where localised democracy was pioneered so many centuries ago! Fancy a playwright committing such a faux pas!

DEATH DEALERS: An indictment of war mongering is found in a book just published in England, entitled "Death Pays a Dividend." It accuses several British and American armament firms of arming Japan, and mentions the exporting of pig-iron from Australia to Japan in 1941. America is given pride of place as the largest exporter of the six most important war-materials. The joint authors state that 85% of the war-materials that went to Japan came from four "democracies": that is, U.S.A., Dutch Empire, British Empire and the French Empire. It seems that the big cartels make fortunes from arming potential aggressors, and then make more fortunes arming others to stop them; and more important still, they increase their world power through both actions. The love of power is the real motivating force.

ASSURANCE ASSETS: Latest figures show the total assets of 19 Australian and New Zealand insurance companies as £372,240,398. This is an increase of £37,863,891 since 1941. Of the total assets, £240,363,928 are invested in Government and municipal loans, an increase of £47,287,034 since 1941. So the war has not treated these institutions unkindly! Another interesting point is that Governments tapped these "reservoirs of the people's savings" by £1,191,997 for taxation and licences for the past year. Incidentally, if all citizens insured themselves and eventually drew (say) £1000 each, and if each only paid (say) £800 in premiums, it would not mean that the citizens had gained £200 per head; because, in addition to the amounts of £800

(Continued on page 2.)

Believe It or Not!

A poorly dressed woman recently sought the sympathy of & stallholder in the Victoria Market, Melbourne. She made some purchases and begged the vendor to leave some coupons in the ration book because she had used all hers for her children. The stallholder took pity on her and did not take the requisite number of coupons to cover the purchases. As a result of this humanitarian action the stallholder was convicted of breaking the rationing regulations. The poorly dressed woman was a low-down official pimp!

(In a democracy, she and those who employed her would receive long terms of imprisonment for aiding and abetting—not to mention the utter contempt of their fellow-citizens.)

"NOT A MATTER FOR A SOLDIER"?

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

Sir, —If we may take notice of the statements of men who are described as "leaders," and whose statements are given wide publicity in the press and by radio, then the people of Australia are a bad lot.

Every time the Government seeks to "float a loan" we get the spectacle of men who are supposed to be our servants shouting at us in abusive terms, almost as though they were masters ordering slaves about.

It is noticeable that this sort of thing is usually associated with loan campaigns, and that, so far as the politicians are concerned, most of them merely give utterance to the jargon prepared by discredited professors who, for some unexplained reason, are still employed as official advisers. Most of these politicians apparently believe that they are doing their "duty" even though, on the basis of their utterances when in Opposition, they speak with their tongues in their cheeks. Those of us who have kept records of the past are able to substantiate this and history leads us more or less to expect it from them.

But why should the Commander-in-chief of our Armed Forces do the same sort of thing? And why should he, too, be brought on the scene with such offensive stuff whenever there is a loan drive in progress?

According to those who are supposed to know, Sir Thomas Blamey is a first-class soldier, and in that sphere has a record of which any man could be justifiably proud. For his services in the Army he has received many decorations, and apparently enjoys the confidence not only of all political parties, but also of the personnel of the Forces and the general community. That is as it should be if he is worthy of it.

In the Melbourne "Argus" of 1/11/44, there is a report of an address he gave to the Millions Club in Sydney, and in the course of that address he is reported to have expressed himself as follows:—

"The men are very disturbed about the conditions in their homeland. One young man said to me yesterday—'I'm off back to the Unit. I can't stand any more of Sydney.' In all this disruption and disunity the men look with bitter dismay at the selfishness and greed, and yet they are ready to die for the country. But it must have a demoralising effect on the men. There is something seriously wrong with the country, but I am not going to analyse the causes because it is not a matter for a soldier."

This naturally suggests a lot of pertinent questions. For example: Which men are very disturbed about the conditions in their homeland? What conditions in the homeland are upsetting to them? Where is all this disruption to be found? In what directions are we more disunited now than we were before the men went to the war? What is meant by the word "selfishness" and the word "greed"? What is meant by the term "the country" for which the men are ready to die? Has there actually been any evidence of demoralisation among the members of the Forces? If there is something seriously wrong with "the country," what is the use of the men continuing to fight unless the causes of the trouble are known and steps can be taken to remove them?

In the course of my activities I move about quite a lot amongst people, and I must say that I have not come across any conditions, which would justify the rebuke attributed to Sir Thomas Blamey.

Perhaps nowhere in the world are mothers, wives and sweethearts bearing the strain of a pierced heart following the loss of a son, a husband or a fiancée with better grace than is the case with the women of Australia. Nowhere in the world have people been asked to sacrifice a greater portion of their income by way of taxation, and nowhere in the world are confiscatory taxes being borne with greater patience than is the case with the people of Australia. It has been officially admitted that the rationing plans have been accepted in Australia in a commendable spirit, and that the measures in this respect have been eminently successful because of the co-operation of the people. Very little complaint has been voiced by our womenfolk at the additional burdens placed upon them through what is called the rationalisation of transport necessitating their having to go to the shops for provisions and struggle home with heavy weights. Huge sums have been voluntarily contributed by the people of Australia to charitable, hospital and Red Cross appeals—and this has been done on a greater scale than ever, even though the living standards have been actually lower.

Men and women who are objecting to excessive overtime make it clear that their objection is the direct result of the FINANCIAL TYRANNY, which demands not only their time and best effort, but also steals their earnings.

Any "disruption" resulting from this is therefore caused by those responsible for the unwarranted and indefensible taxation; consequently, any man claiming to believe in the principle of justice should direct his criticism against the parties responsible, not against "the country" or the people at large. To do otherwise is to play into the hands of the people's enemies. The Australian people did not ask for the high taxes, and it is a poor mentality, which accepts the idea that our sons cannot receive any military pay unless it is first stolen from their fathers or borrowed from respectable counterfeiters. Taxes are IMPOSED on the people, and the PEOPLE get no benefit from them.

And even if there is some reason to feel dissatisfied about the coal position, this is

no justification whatever for a general denunciation of "the homeland." Is it really true that "Australia" is any more badly served in this respect than is the case in other Allied countries? There is plenty of room for doubt on this point. Very few Australian families are without a direct representative in the armed forces, and if there is something wrong with the output of the workers then there must be something wrong with the conditions under which they are being asked to produce the output.

If we face up to the facts we will find that FINANCE is at the bottom of the trouble. But Sir Thomas is always strangely silent regarding this.

Is the charge of selfishness based on the fact that the picture theatres and race meetings are well patronised? Apart from the questionable propaganda which is so often IMPOSED on the audiences, I think we should be thankful that we can go to the pictures when we wish, even if only to obtain a brief respite from the strain of war conditions. On the few occasions on which I have a night free I welcome the opportunity to go with my wife and daughter. As for the races, I have never been there, but I should judge that the great bulk of those who do patronise them are men and women who have faithfully discharged their civil duties and whose loyalty

is beyond question. It would probably be found that most of them also have a son or a brother away on active service.

Or is it that Sir Thomas thinks there is an undue consumption of liquor or a distressing loosening of moral restraints? Drunkenness is more prevalent in war than in peace, and moral laxity has ever been associated with war and the movement of armies. These, obviously, are EFFECTS, and will inevitably continue to be in evidence if the CAUSE is not discovered and removed. Sir Thomas, however, is too busy soldiering to bother about causes, and the best he can do is to sneak a little time now and then to utter a tirade against the effects!

Who are the "greedy" ones referred to by Sir Thomas? Are there a lot or only a few? If a lot, what form does their greed take and how do they satisfy it in view of the shortage of goods, restrictions of travel, non-production of luxuries, and confiscatory taxation? If only a few, why castigate all?

It is so very easy to talk as Sir Thomas talks, and there are far too many doing it. What we urgently need are men who WILL concern themselves with CAUSES, and who will expose without fear or favour the persons responsible for those causes. Things, which affect our living conditions, do not come about by accident. They are the result of conscious action on the part of some person or persons; and even though Sir Thomas Blamey is intent on dodging his responsibilities as a citizen, it is necessary to point out to the members of the armed forces that unless they do concern themselves with the conditions of society and the causes of such conditions, they will be sold the biggest of all pups after the fighting is finished.

—Yours faithfully, BRUCE H. BROWN,
189 Hotham Street, East Melbourne, C.2.
5th November 1944.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION POLICIES

Valuable Report by Vancouver Board of Trade

(Continued from last issue.)

Hereunder we publish a fifth instalment from the Report of the Post-War Policy Committee of the Vancouver Board of Trade. This continues the analytical section entitled, "Defects of the Economic System":—

POWER PRODUCTION.

On further examination, it will be found that the abundant productive resources are primarily due to the rapid development, which has taken place in the field of power production.

The ability of any nation to produce abundantly depends chiefly upon three factors:

- (1) The natural resources available.
- (2) The resources of energy available.
- (3) The knowledge of how the latter can be applied to the former in converting natural products from a useless form into wanted goods.

Until the advent of the Industrial Revolution, the ability to produce goods and services was limited by the scarcity of the available energy resources. Man was largely dependent upon his own efforts, aided by the energy of domesticated animals and of the wind and waterpower, which he could harness. However, the introduction of the steam engine and, later, oil-driven machinery, combined with the development of generated electric power, opened up to humanity an almost limitless reservoir of energy. The limiting factor was transferred from this field to that of the knowledge for utilising the vast opportunity that had been made available in mankind's age-long struggle against an environment of economic scarcity.

The key to economic abundance having been placed in his hands the inventive genius of Man rapidly carried him forward to a fuller and fuller realisation of the possibilities that lay before him. Step by step, with increasing momentum, vast power-driven machines replaced human toil in the field of production. Improvements in organisation accelerated this progress. The scientist in his laboratory opened up new fields of opportunity and provided information, which increased efficiency. The range of goods for human use expanded with the acquisition of increasing knowledge. Huge power-driven machines enable one man to turn out a volume of goods, which previously would have required the organised efforts of a hundred or more men. And progressively the burden of toil was transferred from men to their new slaves, the machines of their invention driven by the vast reservoir of solar energy of coal and oil, and the waterpower, which previously had remained un-harnessed.

Thus, in the space of less than two centuries humanity stepped from an age of economic scarcity and restriction into an era of abundance, and in the process progressively freed itself from the necessity of complete pre-occupation in the production of its material needs.

This amazing revolution in human history has been the outcome of the persistent efforts, which men have directed towards the twin goal of achieving economic security with freedom. Today mankind stands on the threshold of achieving that goal, for we have at our disposal the means for producing an abundance of goods and services sufficient to ensure economic security for all. And because these can be produced with a progressively diminishing demand on human labour, increasing leisure for all can be secured. Such leisure, combined with economic security, provides the basis for human freedom and cultural development to an extent, which would have been inconceivable in the past.

"POVERTY AMIDST PLENTY."

Unfortunately, the bitter experience of the past half-century provides the unpleasant evidence that the epochal progress, which was made in the field of production, was not paralleled by similar progress in the field of distribution of the potentially available abundance. This was very forcibly brought out by the economic plight of the world during the years, which followed the last war.

With productive systems capable of being expanded to provide a volume of goods and services, which would have ensured complete economic security for their people, the nations of the world found themselves faced with an economic crisis of cataclysmic proportions. Widespread poverty and general insecurity existed side by side with restricted production, unemployed manpower and stagnant trade. Not only was the economic system failing to perform its function of "delivering goods and services as, when and where these were required," but it was breaking down to the point of creating chaotic conditions. Such a state of affairs existing on a universal scale could only have arisen from defects in its organisation, and in order to isolate those defects this paradoxical situation of "poverty amidst potential plenty" must be subjected to a searching analysis.

On the evidence of facts there was no defect in the system of production.

The resources were available for producing an abundance of goods and services. Producers and merchants were eager to provide these goods and services to the public, as was evidenced by the keen competition, which existed, and the strenuous efforts directed towards increasing sales by every available means. The transportation facilities were available for transferring goods and services to the points at which they were wanted. Ample provision was available for placing these goods and services at the disposal of consumers through retail stores, offices, and other established channels.

Yet vast numbers of the people were either poverty-stricken or insecure because they lacked the goods, which could have been supplied in abundance.

At the same time production was being restricted and in some instances even destroyed, while a vast army of destitute unemployed manpower which could have been used in the production of wanted goods constituted a problem in itself. The fantastically absurd nature of the pre-war unemployment problem has been brought out very forcibly in the Report of the Economic Crisis Committee of the Southampton Chamber of Commerce in these words:

"Either an unemployed person is without work because we are already producing sufficient without his services being required, in which case he is poor because there is an abundance of goods and services available.

"Or he is in want because the available wealth is not sufficient to provide for the satisfaction of his needs, in which case it is difficult to explain away why his services are not being utilised to produce more."

The only reason why people were destitute, hungry, poverty-stricken or insecure was because they lacked the money to buy the goods they needed. Had the people possessed the necessary purchasing-power which would have given them title to goods and

Notes On The News

(Continued from page 1)

paid direct to the insurance companies, the citizens would have also paid, in taxes, the amounts of £200, which the Government would have passed on, as interest, to the insurance companies. A vicious circle!

EUREKA ECHO: A much more intelligent approach to soldier rehabilitation than "employment" preferences is shown in the following resolution recently passed by the Ballarat Trades and Labor Council, viz.: "That all discharged servicemen personnel should be paid the basic wage out of the national credit until permanent employment can be found for them." (Melbourne "Herald," 27/10/44). This is the most realistic proposal put forward by any Labor group for many years, and it is worth noting that it comes from Ballarat, which instantly recalls the Eureka Stockade, where real Labor men fought and died in the cause of freedom.

NAVAL NEMESIS: The crushing naval defeat inflicted on Japan has a special significance to Australia. Naval experts agree that Japan is now almost impotent on the high seas. This means that the invasion threat to Australia is past, and if proper measures are taken Japan will probably never again be in a position to threaten Australia or any other nation. Doubtless an appreciation of this return to security will be reflected in an early attempt on the part of the Federal Government to remove some of the totalitarian controls, which the people were compelled to tolerate while the position was acute. Without any let-up in our efforts—in fact, as a means to stimulate them—it is to be hoped that signs of a return to our democratic way of life are quickly made visible.

STATE SPHERES: The September conference of the United Australia Organisation decided to "press its Party Members in the State Parliament to oppose legislation which would have the effect of transferring control of private enterprise to the Government." It also decided to ask State Members "to press for an overhaul of the system of controls by Boards with the objective of abolishing all that were undesirable or unnecessary." These resolutions are at least consistent with the people's decision at the Referendum and to that extent are commendable. This is just a little evidence of returning sanity which may lead to an increasing appreciation of the value of State Parliaments as a bulwark against centralisation. —O.B.H.

"NEVER AGAIN" ASSOCIATION

The "Never Again" Association, of which the secretary is M. Sturdy-Smith, 13 Wanstead-road, Bromley, Kent, has chosen an appropriate moment to institute the publication of a series of booklets explanatory of the association's objectives:—(1) Victory, (2) Peace and Security, (3) The Retention of Complete Sovereignty for the British Isles and the Empire, and (4) Punishment of War Guilt.

Their aims are stated in a slightly amplified form inside the cover of the present booklet. (4) for example, reads:

"Punishment of War Guilt: To obtain information that will permit the identification and punishment of individuals primarily responsible for the emasculation of British military power, and the financing of National Socialist Germany, in the years 1915 to 1940, and under all Governments."

Douglas Reed [well-known author], Eric Kempson and B. M. Palmer [social credit writer] are the authors of the first instalment, and deal with "Sovereignty" in a manner of which we heartily approve. The booklet costs sixpence, and it is hoped to cover the whole field of national and personal sovereignty in later booklets suitable for binding in one volume.

—"The Social Creditor" (England), July

ERIC BUTLER'S BOOKS

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

"THE ENEMY WITHIN THE EMPIRE." A short history of the Bank of England Price 9d. Postage 1d (6/- per dozen, post free.)

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

services, they would have bought the goods for sale in the retail stores. This would have resulted in increased orders flowing to industry. Production would have been stepped up to meet demand. Increased production would have resulted in increased employment. The problems of markets would have disappeared, and the economy would have expanded to meet the requirements of the people in terms of the goods and services they wanted.

Therefore, on a prima facie examination of the facts we are led to the inescapable conclusion that the cause of the economic stress, which existed, was attributable to the operation of the monetary system and specifically to the distribution of insufficient "purchasing-power."

Little room for doubt is left in this respect when we consider that the economic stress, which existed, was aggravated by a growing debt burden, increasing taxation and inequitable prices—all features of the monetary system.

In order to pursue the matter to its source it becomes necessary to examine the operation of the monetary, or economic voting system, which serves the national economy.

(To be continued.)

THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY PLAN

Mr. D. J. Amos, F.A.I.S., has made an analysis of the Draft Articles of the proposed International Monetary Agreement, shortly to come before Federal Parliament, and has kindly supplied us with his notes, which we publish in full hereunder. Article No. 1 (3, 5 and 6), Article No. IV. (sections 5 and 6) and Article No. IX. (the whole) should be noted very carefully:—

Article No. 1. Purposes. (Page 11):

Translated into ordinary English, the purposes of the Agreement are:—

(1) To provide a Clearing House for International Monetary Transactions,

(2) To promote International Trade.

(3) To control the currencies of member nations and to prevent increases of currency not authorised by the Fund.

(4) To eliminate any restrictions on foreign exchange, which may hamper foreign trade—such as "Blocked Accounts," etc.

(5) To abolish "Barter Agreements," "Lend-Lease" and similar inventions that enable nations to exchange goods without the use of money; and to prevent domestic monetary and economic policies, which might affect international price levels.

(6) To provide opportunities for big financiers to invest money in foreign loans when one nation happens to be indebted to another and cannot find the money.

Article No. 2. Membership (Page 11):

Membership consists of three big nations (British Commonwealth and Empire, United States of America, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), two medium-sized nations (France and China), 11 small independent nations, and 21 flyspecks. Of the flyspecks, four are satellites of the B.C. & E., and 17 are satellites of the U.S.A. On the Board of Governors the B.C. & E. has a voting strength of 25.2% and the U.S.A. of 37.7% of the total number of votes. But on the Board of Directors—and this is the important Board—the B.C. & E. has apparently at most 16 votes against 28 votes controlled by the U.S.A. As for Australia's voting power apart from the B.C. & E., it is practically nil.

Article No. 3. Quotas and Subscriptions: As each member has to pay 25% of its subscription to the Fund in gold, or 10% of its net official holdings of gold and U.S. dollars, whichever is the smaller, world currency will again be definitely linked with gold, instead of goods, which is the natural connection. Australia's quota is £62.5 millions, of which about £1 million must be paid in gold and the balance in Australian Notes and Securities.

Article IV. Par Value of Currencies. (Pages 12 and 13):

Section 1. The value of all currency is to be based on the value of gold.

Section 2. Therefore the value of gold is to be artificially fixed (within certain limits so as to allow of a profit being made by the Fund in its dealings in gold).

Sections 3 and 4. The exchange value of the different paper currencies of members is also to be artificially fixed (within certain limits which will allow of a profit being reaped by the Fund in all exchange transactions).

Sections 5 and 6. No increases or decreases in a nation's currency to be made except after consultation with the Fund and, except within narrow limits, shall be subject to the approval of the Fund. (Imagine what answer the Fund would make to a request for money to pay a national dividend, or to start an extensive public works programme to relieve unemployment.)

Section 7. No comments. Section 8. This section quite definitely ties all currencies to gold.

Should a member's currency depreciate in terms of gold, the Fund can demand that enough currency be handed over to the Fund to raise the value of the remainder of the currency to its par with gold, no matter what human suffering may be entailed thereby. Conversely, should a member's currency appreciate in terms of gold, the Fund will return enough of its currency to the member to bring its value down again.

Section 9. No comments.

Article No. V. Transactions with the Fund. (Pages 13 and 14): Sections 1 and 2. No comments. Section 3. Purchases of another member's currency by any member must not exceed 25% of its quota in any one year or twice the amount of its quota altogether.

This section seems to have been devised on purpose to keep the various nations short of money. It limits the amount of foreign currencies Australia can acquire in any one year to £15.6 millions, and the total amount to £125 millions. It is admitted that these amounts will not be adequate to meet our post-war needs—so apparently we must continue our visits to the pawn shop and our taxation to pay interest to the moneylenders.

Section 4. Section 3 may be waived if the purchasing member is prepared to pledge collateral security in the form of gold, silver, or other acceptable assets against the currency it needs. (If the Fund's coat-of-arms is not three brass balls with the motto, "Shent per shent," it should be.)

Section 5. Penalties for breaches of Section 3 may involve expulsion from the Fund.

Section 6. Purchases by a member of another member's currency for gold must be done through the Fund so that the fund may know of it and charge a commission. Gold newly produced from mines in a member's territory is, however, exempted from this section.

Section 7. The object of this section is to prevent any nation from building up a large monetary reserve in gold or in other members' currencies.

Section 8. The charges of the Fund are exorbitant. One half to one percent on

all purchases of paper currency; any charge that the Fund considers reasonable for buying or selling gold; such charges as the Fund deems appropriate on debit balances. Except in certain cases all these charges must be paid in gold.

Article VI. Transfers of Capital. (Pages 14 and 15):

The reason for this article is apparently to prevent transfers of capital from one nation to another for objects of which the Fund does not approve.

Article VII. Scarce Currencies. (Page 15):

If there should arise a world demand for the goods of some particular nation, the calls upon the Fund by other nations for the currency of that particular nation in order to buy its goods might seriously embarrass the Fund. The Fund is therefore given the power to ration the currency of the particular nation in question until the demand eases and production accordingly slackens. (Very nice for any nation to have its production sabotaged in this fashion.)

Article VIII. Obligations of Members. (Pages 15 and 16):

No restrictions are to be imposed on the making of payments and transfers for current international transactions. "Blocked Accounts," "Barter Schemes," "Lend-Lease," and similar inventions, which put the welfare of peoples before the money-sign, are

to be abolished as swiftly as possible. The Fund is to have power to demand that information of all major economic and financial transactions carried on by member nations shall be forwarded to it.

Article IX. Immunities and Privileges. (Page 16):

(1) The Fund is to be placed above all law—national or international. It can institute legal proceedings against others, but legal proceedings cannot be instituted against it, except by its own consent.

(2) Its property and its assets, wherever located and by whomsoever held, are to be immune from search, or any form of seizure by executive or legislative action, and free of all restrictions, regulations, controls and moratoria of any nature.

(3) Its books and records are to be inviolable.

(4) Its official communications are to be treated as the official communications of an independent nation.

(5) All its officials and employees are to be immune from legal process with respect to acts performed by them in their official capacity. They are to be exempted from immigration restrictions, alien registration requirements, and national service obligations. They are to have the same traveling facilities as representatives of nations, and, if they are not local nationals, their salaries are to be exempt from taxation.

(6) The Fund, its assets, property, income, and its operations and transactions are immune from all taxation, and from all customs duties. The Fund is also immune from liability for the collection or payment of any tax or duty.

(7) Member nations shall make the above items effective in terms of their local laws.

(To be concluded next week.)

CURTIN'S CHALLENGE TAKEN AGAIN!

Readers will recall that the Prime Minister challenged those who campaigned for a "No" vote at the Referendum, to put forward alternative proposals, and that Mr. F. C. Paice, as a prominent independent "No" advocate, took up the challenge. His letter to Mr. Curtin in this connection has already been published in these columns. The No Conscription Campaign (of Melbourne) also prominent among independent "No" campaigners, took up the challenge, too, from their own point of view. For the information of our readers we publish their letter to Mr. Curtin hereunder:—

NO CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN.

Temperance Hall, Russell Street,
Melbourne.

20th September 1944.

The Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister,
The Prime Minister's Lodge, Canberra,
A.C.T.

Sir,—According to statements in the Press, the supporters of the "NO" cause in the recent Referendum have been invited by you to offer alternative proposals to those which the Government put forward and which the electors decisively rejected.

This organisation took a prominent part in Victoria in opposition to the Referendum, on the grounds that the proposals amounted to industrial conscription. As the majority of the electors obviously took a similar view, we consider that this aspect of the matter should receive the first consideration of the Government.

As a first step in this direction, the 1943 Amendment to the Defence Act, providing for the conscription of Australian citizens for military service in certain areas outside Australia should be immediately repealed. There was never any necessity for the measure, as the Minister for the Army himself has shown, and its retention and enforcement cast grave doubts on the Government's solicitude for liberty and democracy. Its immediate repeal would show clearly that the Government's declarations against unnecessary coercion were genuine.

Secondly, the Constitution should be amended to provide that no person shall be conscripted under any law of the Commonwealth for military, naval, air force, or industrial service. This would provide effectively against any attempt to establish Fascism or any other kind of totalitarianism in Australia. Experience has shown that, as in the case of Hitler, such regimes can be established and maintained only by enforcing all types of conscription, with the military to back the industrial conscription.

It should be obvious that any Government which has to force its subjects to fight, and work for it under threat of penalty, is very much lacking in its duty to its own people, and has not provided them with adequate social conditions for the develop-

ment of a spirit of voluntary service for the community. To remedy these unsatisfactory social conditions, which undoubtedly exist in Australia, we propose as other suggestions to the Government, that:

Thirdly, it should put into operation the reduction of working hours to thirty hours per week, without any reduction of wages.

Fourthly, prices of goods for sale be reduced by the removal of the sales tax.

Fifthly, taxation on wages be drastically and progressively reduced.

Sixthly, ex-servicemen and women be given ample time to rehabilitate themselves, during which time they shall receive appropriate award rates, thus avoiding displacing men who were not able or not permitted to enlist.

Seventhly, the Government instruct their financial and economic advisers to bring forward proposals to achieve these results, or be removed from their positions.

Eighthly, in pursuance of the above proposals, that the Government take steps to introduce such legislation as is requisite to give the Government control over creation of bank credit such as may be necessary to give effect to this programme.

Ninthly, as an earnest of the Government's intention to pursue a course compatible with liberty and democracy, that the Unemployment Benefits Act (No. 10) be repealed, as this Act is not consistent with its title, and contains features of an anti-democratic and anti-working-class nature.

Tenthly, as any country can be a true democracy only if the people control the Government, instead of the Government and its appointees being masters over the people, it is very necessary, for Australia to be transformed into a true democracy, that there should be inserted in the Constitution provisions for the Optional Referendum, the Initiative, and the Recall.

We are forwarding copies of this letter to various members of Parliament, who will thus be made aware of this organisation's objects, and we desire that you personally make known to Caucus the contents of this letter.

—I am, sir, yours faithfully,
K. J. KENAFICK, Secretary.

"THE BRIEF FOR THE PROSECUTION"

By C. H. DOUGLAS. (Continued from last issue.)

(In view of the urgency of the situation with which they deal, chapters from Major Douglas's forthcoming book are being printed in abridged form in the "Social Creditor," whose publisher's Australian representative has given us special permission to reprint them in this country.)

PART II: CHAPTER II. *

At the present time, we use words for political purposes, which either have no meaning, or, if correctly defined, describe something, which does not exist. We do this at our peril. Democracy is such a word.

The etymological "description of democracy is "popular government, rule by the people" (Skeat).

Out of six words comprising this double definition, four require definition in them—"popular," "government," "rule" and "people."

But even so vague and inexact a definition as that of Skeat would probably not be advanced by most people, who would say that democracy, is rule by the majority, or universal suffrage. And, if asked to name the democracies, they might reply, Great Britain, the British Dominions, and the United States. Great Britain is a limited

monarchy, and the United States is a republic. Neither is, even by definition, a democracy.

When a man says he has something of which some kind of a definition or description exists, it is a sound principle, before forming any opinion of the thing, to make sure that he really has it. It is certain, for instance, that the state of affairs in any of the titular democracies cannot be made to agree with even Dr. Skeat. It is almost equally certain that it would be a major catastrophe if it did so correspond. Clearly, there can be two explanations of this. Either "the people" are prevented from "ruling" by the machinations of wicked men, or "rule by the people" is an impossibility.

The second explanation has an important consequence—that democracy, being impossible but attractive as an idea, would form the best

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

Key Point in Fight for Freedom

"The success or failure of the drive to establish servitude depends more upon the course adopted by members of the medical profession than upon anything else. . . . Sir William Beveridge clearly recognised this when he made a State-controlled medical service the pivot of his social insurance scheme. He saw that if the medical profession continued to have the right of free contact with the community, the coercion of individuals necessary to his plan would become impossible." —"The Weekly Review," London.

"Everything turns upon whether the doctor continues to be a free expert, freely employed in a relation of confidence by the private person to whose health he is looking, or whether in writing certificates he is part of a public service, with the primary duty of safeguarding the need of industry for workers, as an army doctor primarily serves the army and not the private soldier."

—"The Tablet," London.

GET THESE BOOKLETS!

New readers in particular are recommended to read the following booklets if they desire to fully grasp and more clearly follow the articles appearing in the "New Times."

"COMMUNISM, WHY NOT?" Gives the low-down on Communism. Price: 2/7d posted.

"THE ANSWER TO SOCIALISM." An excellent realistic analysis of Socialism. Price: 2/7d, posted.

"RED GLOWS THE DAWN." Inside information about the white-anting tactics of local Communists. Price: 7d, posted.

"THE BIG IDEA." A comprehensive survey of the plot to enslave the people. Price: 2/7d, posted.

"FEDERAL UNION EXPOSED." Revelations of the plot to impose the World Police State. Price: 1/1d, posted.

"THE ANSWER TO TAX SLAVERY." A clear exposition of the cause of excessive taxation, and the way out. Price: 1/1d, posted.

"MONEY." A simple and complete analysis of the money swindle. Price: 1/1d, posted.

"THE NEW DESPOTISM." The story of the "Dean Case." Price: 7d, posted.

"STOP THAT THIEF." A most interesting collection of historical and recent facts about finance. Price: 1/7d, posted.

The above booklets are obtainable from the United Electors of Australia, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

possible cloak for the condition indicated by the alternative explanation. This is the criticism strenuously propagandised by the admirers of totalitarian rulers such as Herr Hitler and Mr. Stalin (although Communists amusingly describe Russia as a democracy).

It can be demonstrated that real democracy is possible; but it must be conceded that a visible dictatorship is preferable to an anonymous tyranny or a manipulated electorate.

Mr. Asquith, when concerned to pass the Parliament Act, which abolished the very real safeguard of an effective Second Chamber, said, "The will of the people must and shall prevail." With this in mind, an examination of the working of "majority rule" may be helpful. Almost any concrete case would serve, but we may take motorcar taxation as an example. The facts are fairly simple. The tax in Great Britain is the highest motor tax in the world, it is inequitable and irrational, and it is detrimental to motorcar design and economical production. It is highly popular with everyone who does not pay it. It was imposed under a strict undertaking that it would be devoted to road costs (Car Licences are still called Road Fund Licences), which undertaking was almost immediately abandoned with complete cynicism.

Yet this is an outstanding instance of majority rule. The explanation is that fewer people have motorcars than are without them. An election on whether motor car taxation should be abolished and the same sum added to the taxation of beer would not be in doubt for five minutes, to the United States or Canada, where a large majority own cars. British car taxation would not be tolerated.

Or take the price of wine. A bottle of good red or white wine in France or Italy ten years ago cost about 2d. The same, or a worse, because adulterated, wine in England cost probably 3/6, since wine drinkers in England are in a minority, and can be safely penalised.

The successful attack on landowning has the same explanation. Just as taxation on wine is made respectable by "temperance" crusades, and motor taxation, until well established, was justified by a mythical deterioration of the roads by motor traffic, so land taxation, the real basis of which is minority ownership, is made virtuous by "Land Songs" and other incendiary propaganda. The instances could be multiplied indefinitely.

So-called democracy, therefore, is a ballot-box device for despoiling minorities, not, it should be carefully noted, for the benefit of majorities, but for the benefit of third parties. Motor taxes do not distribute motorcars, wine taxes do not distribute wine, and expropriated estates do not go to the landless. (To be continued.)

(From a Broadcast by JAMES GUTHRIE, B.Sc., over 7HO, Hobart.)

There comes a time when a community is persuaded that it is necessary to take action on a large scale to develop such things as tramways or waterworks, and men have got to be drawn aside to do the job and be paid by the community while doing it.

If there is a small number of us in the bush and we decide to build a small reservoir with our own labour, some will be deputed to do the job while the rest will hunt rabbits, grow food and cut timber to keep those working on the reservoir supplied with food and fuel. When the reservoir is finished we have a water supply flowing to our doors, we have built ourselves a labour-saving and life-giving asset, and we are so much the richer for it. Life has been made easier and more pleasant thereby. The job is done and forgotten about, and a few months' labour is submerged in the procession of the years.

But when a City Council builds a reservoir, something quite different happens. The Council officially collects volunteers to do the job. While the job is being done the community feeds and clothes them and educates their children; but in a modern community it is not convenient to dole out food, and clothes, so money is given to the men building the reservoir. Now, it is the policy of so-called public bodies to raise loans to build capital works like reservoirs. Most of these loans are raised directly or indirectly from the banking system. So that nowadays the food and clothes supplied by the community to the workers on the reservoir is done through a third party.

Notice: the community supplies the labour and the materials, and the banking system supplies the paper, or permits, or money. But when the job is finished the banking system, in effect, claims the reservoir as its own, when all it has contributed is paper and ink and the services of a clerk.

Nobody is suggesting that the banking system is not performing a very essential function in the community, or that it is not entitled to payment for its services; our objection will be explained as we go along.

The Hobart Town Hall was built over 80 years ago and it is not "paid for" yet. It will take nearly 100 years to "pay for it," when the price paid will be three times the amount paid to the men who built the Town Hall. These men are long since dead; the men who carried out the financial arrangements are dead, but the debt is very much alive. That debt is holding up the progress of Hobart.

That is one of our objections to the bookkeeping arrangements of the banking system permitted by the present Government. And we must assume that the Premier of Tasmania and the Lord Mayor and the Aldermen of Hobart approve of this system since they have offered no complaints. And, what's more to the point, they have put up no fight against it.

Let us examine a little more closely why the co-operative effort of our community bears such poor results.

When a job has to be done, men have to be provided with food, clothes, etc., while doing the job. Whether the job is done by private enterprise or the State Government or the Municipal Council, the men doing the job are given money in lieu of food and clothes. This money comes from the banking system in the following manner:

The Banks finance the wage bills of the various employers; the wives of the wage earners spend the money almost immediately in the shops; the shops put the money back in the banks again and it is paid out again next week. The same money circulating round.

The Hobart municipal tramways collect over £500 a day in cash; this is deposited with the Commonwealth Bank each day. When a bank has cash passing through its hands like this it can erect a large structure of loans of credit operated by cheques.

As over 90 per cent, of the business transactions of the country is done by cheque, a bank can make loans of about ten times the amount of cash passing through the till. This is possible because those who receive the loans call, on the average, for only ten per cent, of the loan value in cash. This ten-to-one ratio is banking practice based on the habits of the people.

The Commonwealth Bank can create large loans based on the cash handed in by the Municipal Tramways alone. But we find that recently the Hobart City Council had to advertise for a loan of £24,000. £10,000 (nearly) of this loan was being borrowed to pay off an old loan; part of the rest was required for new equipment for the tramways.

Now you can see how our co-operative efforts are being destroyed, and how the Aldermen are really whipping boys for the banking system—or we might call them collectors for the banking system.

We see, too, that since the banks pay nothing for our cash, but charge us for the loans based on it, they have come in between us and the goods and services we are attempting to buy, and have thus upset the whole of our price system.

As far as the price of goods is concerned, the vital question is this: The price of a motorcar may be called cheap at £200, but for those who have not the £200 it is very much too dear. Nothing else is of very real importance beside this one point, and this is the one point, which the international publicity agents will never discuss.

The fact is, and this is beyond dispute, that the banking system will never issue

sufficient money to the people to liquidate the debts created by the banking system.

The rapidly decreasing number of people who can liquidate their debts can only do so at the expense of the rest of the population, and the ever-increasing private, municipal, and Commonwealth debt is evidence of this very obvious fact.

This is one reason why the peoples of the world have been unable to enjoy the fruits of science, invention and modern production methods.

Every industry without exception expects to get back from the public more than it pays out in salaries and wages; it must do that to remain solvent. Yet the fact is that all industries cannot possibly do this. This fact alone accounts for the building up of cartels and monopolies.

Apart from the worldwide human tragedy caused by the smash-up of our co-operative society by the financial monopolies, we still have to face the reconstruction of the post-war period. Are we going to finance reconstruction through the same old swindle? Are we going to build new houses for the people on the same old terms, which have made a tragedy of so many lives? Or are we going to see that the banking system enables us to pay 20/- in the pound for our debts?

The people who purchase the new houses should pay the cost of building the houses, plus a small fee—and no more. We want no more of payment on the never-never system.

The cities of Europe will have to build roads and houses, and farms will have to be rehabilitated. Hundreds of thousands of millions of pounds will be required for the job. The money to do the job does not exist, either in people's pockets or in mines

Labor Politicians and Monetary Reform

(Continued from page 1.)

Having obtained office, they then proceed to impose their own policies on the people.

The Labor Party controllers know that Social Crediters are making rapid progress with their educational work, and I suspect any talk about money-reform as being merely designed to obtain votes. Some Labor Members, particularly Mr. Ward, even had the audacity to imply that they had to win the Referendum in order to reform the banking system. Mr. Curtin said in no uncertain terms that debt and taxation must go, BUT THAT WAS BEFORE HE WAS PRIME MINISTER.

Now, Mr. Lazzarini comes forward at a time when the Labor Government is losing prestige rapidly.

Mr. Lazzarini says what other Labor Members have said before him. He is no doubt sincere, but his sincerity would have impressed me much more if he had put forward the views outlined in his pamphlet during the Budget Debate, and had voted against a policy which Mr. Menzies praised so strongly.

It will also be interesting to note how Mr. Lazzarini votes at Canberra on the International Monetary Plan!

The main thought for all Social Crediters to keep firmly fixed in their minds at present, is the possibility of "the enemy" perverting the work we have done. It is my considered opinion, and the opinion of others who have closely studied the matter, that "Labor" Parties everywhere are the greatest menaces to Social Credit, mainly because they trick so many sincere people with their propaganda on reform. The lesson of New Zealand is plain enough for all to see. The following comment from the English "Social Crediter" of November 13, 1943, is pertinent: "Of all the countries which have, in the last fifteen years, made Social Credit ideas a serious political issue, New Zealand had the greatest opportunity to carry them to brilliant success. Instead, New Zealanders alone consciously identified themselves with the Labor Party. To say that the result has been pathetic is true, but not comprehensive. It is not merely that a large body of enthusiastic and capable Social Crediters has failed completely to achieve any result. But it is, in addition, a demonstration almost frightening in its completeness that these so-called Labor Parties are everywhere the tools of the clever and unscrupulous group who, according to Walter Rathenau, rule everything, and appoint their successors."

The New Zealand Labor Party put money-reform in the forefront of its programme, thus capitalising the splendid work done by the Social Crediters. But, having gained office, the Labor Party revealed all too clearly that money-reform was merely the "cover" for its real policy of Socialism. A great amount of noise was created by arguments on banking administration—policy being studiously ignored—thus keeping the Social Crediters quiet while the socialistic legislation was introduced.

The Money-Reform Socialists need careful watching in this country. They are increasing in numbers and are a Godsend to those who can pervert all our splendid work unless Social Crediters tolerate no compromise with the principles of real political and economic democracy. Social Crediters must push on with their work, endeavouring to encourage all sections of the community to unite on a non-party

or in the tills of the banks. The credit to finance construction is created out of nothing each day by the banking system. That created credit can be used for any purpose whatever. It can be used to build houses, it can be used to reduce prices, and it can be used to reduce rates and taxes.

Two essentials of a good money system are, that money should be available to do the jobs the people want done, as it has been made available to fight this war, and it should be issued scientifically so that there is neither too much nor too little for the needs of the community.

International Banking propaganda has put it around that the money lent by the bankers to customers is money deposited by customers. This is not true. The loans made by banks are credit created out of nothing, and the money required to carry on industry depends entirely on the money made available by the banking system.

If the banking fraternity refuses to issue sufficient money to liquidate the debts of the community they do so deliberately, and the Commonwealth Bank Board is part of this conspiracy. I cannot see us building up on solid ground as long as we are dependent on Canberra for financial help. We shall have to collect a body of men in each State who are determined to secure freedom of action in money matters, and, if need be, co-operate with other States who are bent on the same results.

The Government of Alberta, in Canada, has the greatest majority of any Government in the British Empire, but every Bill it has passed by a huge majority for Deducting debt and taxation and easing the strain on farmers and house-owners has been declared null and void by the Federal Government and the Federal Courts. That is what Central Governments are for. However, Alberta set up its own exchange houses so that the people could have some access to their own credit. The result is that the interest bill has been cut in half, debts have been reduced, taxation has been reduced, and at the same time social services have been extended in a remarkable manner. Alberta is one of the most prosperous States on the American continent.

SAVINGS BANK AS TAX AGENT

Latest State institution to be roped in by the Federal Taxation Commissioner as a tax-gathering agent is the State Savings Bank of Victoria.

Accounts of depositors in this bank, be they ever so humble, are no more secure from the prying eyes of Mr. Chifley's cash-chasers than are those of clients of the big trading banks whose balances run into hundreds of thousands.

Evidence of this fact was ascertained recently by a Melbourne merchant whose pre-war business was not sufficiently large to return him more than a little over a living wage. The war has given him a lift. But he has not forgotten the lessons of thrift he learned when times were hard.

One of these was that it was wise to provide against the day when the Commissioner of Taxation would make his annual demand upon poor and rich alike.

So each week the merchant deposited in the Savings Bank something towards the total he expected to have to pay.

His last assessment, received recently, set him back £500 odd. However, he was prepared. There was cash in the bank to meet the demand.

So to the bank he went to give the necessary notice of his intention to withdraw the amount required. To his surprise he was informed that it would be necessary for him to see the manager. Latter came to the point without delay.

"Mr. So-and-so," he said, "it will be necessary for you to tell me the purpose for which you require the money."

"Why should I have to tell you that?" asked the merchant. "I've been a client of your bank for years, and I've never been asked such a thing before."

"Sorry, but I'm afraid I must have that information," replied the manager. "Those are my instructions now. You would, of course, be telling us in confidence."

"Well, if I have to tell you, I will. It's for this."

And the merchant plunged his hand in his pocket and produced his tax demand.

Manager perused it.
"Ah, yes, he commented; "quite satisfactory. The money you require will be available in due course."

But the incident didn't end there. When the merchant went to make his withdrawal he was presented not with cash but a cheque. And the cheque was made out to the Commissioner of Taxation for the amount shown in the assessment.

Evidently the only counter to this departmental espionage is the slit in the double-bed mattress or the jam-tin buried under the corner of the house.

—"Smith's Weekly," Oct. 28.

"REFUGEES"

Before the Allied occupation of Paris the "Social Crediter" (England) published this item:—

"Large fortunes are being made by Jews in Paris by selling German exit visas to Portugal, to other Jews. The fee is about £10,000. It is not stated where the Jews go to from Portugal, but a look round some of our big towns would enable anyone to make a good guess."

"PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT"

At the next session of the "People's Parliament" in Melbourne, which will be held at the Assembly Hall (reception room, 2nd floor), on Thursday, November 16, at 8 p.m., the measure to be introduced will be a Repatriation Bill, which will involve the granting of interest-free loans to service personnel by a reconstructed Commonwealth People's Bank. Mr. F. A. Parker will introduce the Bill, assisted by Mr. F. Elliott, and the Opposition will be led by Mr. C. W. Sandford and Mr. C. S. Cavanagh. All members of the audience are regarded as being members of the "Parliament," and can take part in the discussion.

SURREY HILLS MEETING

A house meeting will be held on Wednesday evening, November 15, at the home of Mrs. H. D. Searle, 20 Durham-road, Surrey Hills (Melbourne). Speaker: Eric D. Butler. Subject: "The Menace of the Socialist Money Reformers." Readers of the "New Times" are invited to attend.

BOOKLETS BY C. H. DOUGLAS

Now on sale: "Programme for the Third World War." Price: 2/-, plus 1d postage.

Also available: "The Land for the (Chosen) People Racket." Price: 2/-, plus 1d postage.

And: "The Big Idea" (Second Edition). Price: 2/6, plus 1d postage.

Obtainable from: The Democratic Federation of Youth, 3rd Floor, 296a Pitt Street, Sydney.

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WORDS OF WISDOM

"If a nation values anything more than freedom, it will lose its freedom; and the irony of it is that if it is comfort or money that it values more, it will lose that, too."

—Somerset Maugham.