

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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Industrial Conscription for Australians?

A Politicians' Pledge and an Act of Parliament

During the recent Referendum campaign Federal Members on the "YES" side, in an attempt to offset the Post-War Industrial Conscription exposure by "NO" advocates, circulated in Canberra a "Pledge" to be signed by all Members who subscribed to its contents.

Prior to the signing of this "Pledge" the Federal Parliament on April 5, 1944, assented to the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act. Recent newspaper reports indicate that the Federal Government intends to put this Act into operation early in the New Year.

THE PLEDGE.

"17th July, 1944. —We, the undersigned members of the Senate and the House of Representatives pledge ourselves that, as long as we are members of the Parliament of the Commonwealth, we shall not sanction any form of industrial conscription after the war. We emphatically repudiate any suggestion that we would allow any Government to regiment, conscript or compel, the labour of any free Australian Citizen."

SIGNATORIES: —Senators—Amour, Armstrong, Arnold, Ashley, Aylett, Brown, Cameron, Clothier, Collings, Courtice, Finlay, Fraser, Grant, Keane, Lamp, Large, McKenna, Nash, Nicholls, O'Flaherty, Sheehan, Tangney. M.H.R.'s—Barnard, Beasley, Breen, Brennan, Bryson, Bourke, Calwell, Chambers, Chifley, Clark, Coles, Conelan, Curtin, Daly, Dedman, Drakeford, Evatt, Falstein, Forde, Fraser, Frost, Fuller, Gaha, Hadley, Haylen, Holloway, James, Johnson, Langtry, Lawson, Lazzarini, Lemmon, Makin, Martens, McLeod, Morgan, Mountjoy, Mulcahy, Pollard, Riordan, Rosevear, Russell, Scullin, Scully, Sheehan, Sheehy, Ward, Watkins, Williams, Wilson.

Here are some extracts from the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act (No. 10 — 1944): —

CLAUSE 8: —"(1) The Director-General may, by writing under his hand, delegate to the Assistant Director-General, to a Deputy Director, to a Registrar or to any other person all or any of his powers and functions under this Act, except this power of delegation, so that the delegate may exercise the powers and functions specified in the instrument of delegation." (Comment: —In the following clauses, when the words "Director-General" appear, say to yourself "or any other person.")

CLAUSE 15: —"Qualification for Benefit: Subject to this Act, every person (not being a person in receipt of, or qualified to receive, a pension) who—(c) satisfies the Director-General that he—(i) is unemployed and that his unemployment is not due to his being a direct participant in a strike, (ii) is capable of undertaking, and is willing to undertake, work which, in the opinion of the Director-General, is suitable to be undertaken by that person, and (iii) has taken reasonable steps to obtain such work,

shall be qualified to receive unemployment benefit."

CLAUSE 28: — Payment of Benefit: "The Director-General may postpone for such period as he thinks fit the date from which unemployment benefit shall be payable to any person, or may cancel the payment of unemployment benefit to any person, as the case requires — (a) if that person voluntarily became unemployed without good and sufficient reason; (b) if that person became unemployed by reason of his misconduct as a worker; (c) if that person has refused or failed, without good and sufficient reason, to accept an offer of employment which the Director-General considers to be suitable."

CLAUSE 45: — "If, in the opinion of the Director-General, any claimant or beneficiary should (a) undergo a course of training in any occupation, (b) submit himself for examination at any medical, psychological or other like institution, (c) receive any medical or other treatment, (d) undergo any course of training for the improvement of his physical or mental capacities; or (e) DO ANY WORK REQUIRED OF HIM, the Director-General may direct that payment of benefit to that person shall be subject to the condition that he shall comply with the requirements of the Director-General in respect of any such matter."

Comment: — The reader might endeavour to work out how unemployment benefit can be obtained. If the claimant is prepared to submit to all other conditions he is disqualified if he refuses WORK, irrespective of its nature and location.

CLAUSE 46: — "The Director-General may require any person whom he believes to be in a position to do so, to furnish to him a confidential report relating to any matter which might affect the payment of benefit to any other person, and a person so required shall not fail to furnish a report accordingly within a reasonable time and shall not furnish a report which is false or misleading in any particular. Penalty — FIFTY POUNDS OR IMPRISONMENT FOR THREE MONTHS."

Comment: — Here you have the "Gestapo touch." How would YOU appreciate being required to inform against YOUR PARENTS, SISTERS, BROTHERS or FRIENDS under threat of PENALTY?

(Copies of the Act may be obtained from Govt. Printer, Canberra, A.C.T. Price 8d.)

If you are opposed to the operation of this Act, don't "leave it to George." The

"Open Letters" reprinted below may suggest to YOU one line of action. They appeared in the Coburg (Vic.) "Courier" of October 11 and 25 respectively: —

OPEN, LETTER

TO MR. W. G. BRYSON, M.H.R.

On July 17th, 1944, you and 72 other members of the Federal Parliament signed a PLEDGE repudiating any suggestion that YOU would allow any Government to REGIMENT, CONSCRIPT, or COMPEL the labour of ANY FREE AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN. We have a copy of this PLEDGE. We also have a copy of the UNEMPLOYMENT AND SICKNESS BENEFITS ACT (1944), which, according to the daily press, the FEDERAL GOVERNMENT intends to put into operation early next year. This act makes provision for REGIMENTATION, CONSCRIPTION, and COMPULSION of AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS (Clauses 15, 28, 45, 46).

You face one of two alternatives, MR. BRYSON:

- (1) OPPOSE THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS ACT, or
- (2) REPUDIATE YOUR PLEDGE.

WHICH IS IT TO BE?

—"SOUND POLICY ASSOCIATION," E. J. Grogan, 62 Mark Street, Coburg.

OPEN LETTER

TO MR. W. G. BRYSON, M.H.R.

Dear Mr. Bryson. —You have not replied to our OPEN LETTER ("Courier," 11/10/44), re UNEMPLOYMENT AND SICKNESS BENEFITS ACT 1944. We understand and appreciate why. YOU DO NOT KNOW HOW TO REPLY BECAUSE YOU ARE IN A "JAM." If you oppose the introduction of this Act, we have no doubt that your party will "liquidate" you, and if you do NOT oppose it, then you will have BROKEN YOUR SIGNED PLEDGE and the ELECTORS MIGHT "LIQUIDATE" YOU. We feel really sorry for you, but you are the REPRESENTATIVE OF BOURKE, and as the elections draw nearer, the electors will want to know where you stand in relation to REGIMENTATION, COMPULSION AND CONSCRIPTION OF AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS.

WHERE DO YOU STAND?

—Yours in sympathy, "SOUND POLICY ASSOCIATION," F. C. Paice, 28 Belgrave Street, East Coburg, N.13.

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

Reviewing the Referendum results of August 19 in these columns, I stressed the fact that Dr. Evatt and his fellow-socialists regarded those results as a "temporary setback." Subsequent events have demonstrated all too clearly that the Socialist power-lusters have decided to ignore and sweep aside the clearly expressed policies of the electors.

The proposal by the Federal Labor Government to take control of the inter-State air services of Australia is one, which challenges the very basis of democratic government in this country.

We have got to decide whether the people's parliamentary representatives are going to carry out the policies of the people, or whether they are going to impose unwanted policies on the people.

The power-lusters, challenge must be met, as it was met on August 19. Dr. Evatt must be taught a further lesson.

I am appealing to all social creditors throughout Australia to bring to the notice of all those people who are opposed to this latest proposal by the socialist-planners, the fact that the electoral campaign mechanism, if set in motion, will focus such public opinion against individual Members that they will be compelled to force the Government to change its policy.

If they are ever going to make a stand, the business people must fight on this issue. The individuals in the private aviation firms whose years of work is threatened should have the electoral campaign mechanism brought to their notice. They must help to arouse and give direction to public opinion if they are going to survive. They cannot fight the issue on their own.

The following is a letter, which I suggest, will meet with the approval of everyone opposed to the Government's proposal. I have already introduced it into certain quarters, and the idea has been accepted:

"Dear Mr. ... M.H.R., — I note with alarm the proposal of the Federal Government to socialise the inter-State airway services. This proposal is a direct flouting of the public will, as expressed at

the last two referendums. At both these referendums the people were asked to give complete control over civil aviation in Australia to the Federal Government. At both referendums the people overwhelmingly refused the Federal Government the powers requested. I am not prepared to allow the Government to sweep aside in such an arrogant manner the democratic decisions of the electors.

"During the last Federal Elections, the Prime Minister made the definite promise that his Government would not introduce any socialist measures during war time. Mr. Curtin's Government was elected on a policy of winning the war; it has no mandate from the Australian people to destroy legitimate private enterprise, particularly, as in the case of the civilian airway services, where the issue is in no way connected with the war-effort

"I request that you, my personal representative at Canberra, take immediate steps to prevent the Government taking over the inter-State airway services. If the Government desires to take over private enterprise, it should first seek a mandate to do so at the next Federal elections, instead of flouting the will of the people as it is now doing.

"I trust that you are a democratic representative who understands that Members of Parliament have no right to force their policies on the people. The people gave their last decision on policy on August 19. If you fail to abide by that decision until such time as it is altered, I shall vote and work to defeat you at the next Federal elections. I demand no socialisation of private enterprise unless and until a clear mandate for it is obtained from the electors. —Yours faithfully,

* * *

Here is a clear-cut issue on which social creditors can and should act and give correct advice. If Evatt and Co. win this issue, they will become even more arrogant than they are now. How long are we going to tolerate them?

NOTES on the NEWS

Arising from the debate, which ratified U.N.R.B.A., Mr. Spender, M.H.R., urged revision of the Commonwealth power to make international treaties. He pointed out that at present the Government could enter into "international agreements affecting the lives of all Australians and NOT submit the agreements to Parliament." Continuing, he pointed out that treaty powers could be easily abused: the Government "could make a treaty about working conditions or restrictions of agriculture and attract to itself powers which, apart from the treaty, were denied it under the Constitution." This statement is timely indeed, particularly as further dangerous international proposals are lurking around the corner—all of which should be decided by Referendum.

PEACE PLOT: The following criticism appeared in the Melbourne "Age" of November 23 relative to the bankers' plot for a World Government under the guise of a world peace proposal: "If the Security Council decided on military action the members would be bound to provide quotas of the forces maintained by the States." This means that Australia could be compelled to conscript men to be used against even Australia. Another part of the criticism says, "The charter should be more easily amended than was customary in such documents." It is pleasing to note these criticisms, but there is one important addition necessary to any such document, and that is that every country shall have the right to withdraw, without prejudice.

SOCIALISTIC SCHEMES: The "Catholic Worker" for November indicates that it is aware of white-anting by what are described as "the learned economists of Canberra," viz: "Their war-time administration has been characterised by many social errors. They have indirectly attacked the fundamental social unit, the family; they have destroyed the small property owner; but the most glaring blunder is the crude manner in which they have manipulated the figures which regulate the workers' wages." And so the searchlight continues to be played on these socialistic professional humbugs. Soaking the rich was once a popular class-struggle battle cry, but the planners have "gone one better" by soaking both the rich and the poor. However, they have overplayed their hand, and retribution should soon overtake them. You can't fool all the people all the time.

DEAN'S DIATRIBE: Dean Langley, speaking at St. Paul's (Melbourne) on Sunday, November 20, is reported as eulogising the

Brotherhood of St. Laurence's "verandah crusade." The Dean stated, "public opinion should be roused to demand a review of the housing situation. Homes should be shared and no houses left unoccupied." Well, there have been endless reviews of the situation, and one would have to travel a long way to find an unoccupied dwelling, or one not shared to the full—unless it be the Deanery. Certainly, public opinion should be roused to insist that the regulations preventing home-building be repealed, but the Dean (Continued on page 2)

The Alien Problem

Public alarm has been allayed a little by the press report (Melbourne "Sun," 17/11/44), that "a departmental committee has advised the Government to refuse requests for permission to establish a Jewish settlement in the Kimberleys." The objection advanced is that such a scheme would militate against successful absorption of migrants and would tend to create racial minorities. Presumably (?) this objection will be applied to all other forms of large-scale alien influx (including that which has taken place); which is as it should be, if we are to escape the racial problems of other countries. The recent atrocities by Jewish terrorists in Palestine and Cairo illustrate this point; likewise racial ill feeling caused by Italian settlements in Queensland. If such infiltrations are not prevented we may yet see the military might of a national fatherland sending armies out to rescue them from some imaginary grievance—as in the case of Hitler and the Sudetans, etc., in Europe.

Potatoes and Planners

Melbourne, surrounded by potato-producing areas, all within fifty miles or so, is granted a release of Western Australian potatoes. Meanwhile, presumably, our local growers are getting their production ready for shipment to W.A. The big idea is, of course, to save manpower and shipping; but above all to provide full employment for professional Planners!

ISSUES AT THE ALBERTA ELECTIONS

Possibly the best available summary of the issues raised and the arguments pursued in "Today and Tomorrow's" lost editorial article before polling-day. ("Today and Tomorrow," August 3.) Slightly condensed, it reads as follows:—

The result of the Alberta election will be watched by Canadians from coast to coast. However, its importance will extend far beyond Canada—for its outcome will have a profound influence throughout the English-speaking world, perhaps more far-reaching than even the 1935 election when the organised forces of the people broke through the previously impregnable defences of the Money Power to capture the Alberta salient.

The Alberta election marks the opening battle between the Social Credit Movement and the forces mobilised by the Money Power under the banner of State Socialism in its drive for the World Slave State.

The issue at stake in this election is the freedom of the individual. The conflict is between two opposing concepts of life; on the one hand, the democratic concept centred in the freedom of the individual and, on the other hand, the doctrine of the Supreme State and the concentration of power in the hands of the ruling group for the purpose of dominating and regimenting the many.

The Social Credit Movement has been the only organised body to clarify the issues involved in the growing world chaos and confusion, and in the resulting conflict, which is raging on every hand.

It is the Social Credit Movement that has, in the face of a barrage of propaganda designed to pervert the truth and obscure the facts, exposed the deliberate conspiracy, which is afoot to use the war for the purpose of establishing a World Slave State.

It is the Social Credit Movement which has exposed the real nature of the State Socialism with all its paraphernalia of "planning," "socialisation," "internationalism" and so forth. Therefore, the Social Credit Movement constitutes the greatest menace, which exists to the plans of the gang of international arch-criminals whose objective is the enslavement of humanity. And that is the reason why such a savage attempt is being made in the Alberta election to get rid of the Social Credit Government.

STALKING HORSES FOR BIG FINANCE

The instrument being used for the purpose is the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation—the political party that is being built up by the International Money Power as the means for carrying out in Canada its plans for World Dictatorship. What better staging horse could it have than a party which is represented to the people as being a "progressive" and a "reform" people's movement, but which is committed to policies identical with those of International Finance?

For example, the over-riding policy of International Finance is Monopoly. The over-riding policy of the C.C.F. is State Socialism—and that simply means State Monopoly.

In its drive towards the World Slave State, International Finance is endeavouring to manipulate the situation to rapidly divest individuals of any remnants of freedom and to concentrate the power of control in State authorities dominated by an international government controlling economic activity and armed forces of overwhelming strength.

That, too, is the objective of the C.C.F.—for their policies of national "planning" and "State ownership" ensure the emergence of the Supreme State in the national sphere, while its policies for international control ensure that ultimate power shall be concentrated in a Super-International Government.

This is stated very plainly in the party's manifesto adopted at the National Convention held in Toronto in 1942.

"Such measures are in themselves the best guarantee, of peace, and their attainment will require international machinery endowed with the necessary powers. The international authority must also be enabled to settle disputes and to enforce its decisions; this requires the abolition of national armaments and their pooling in an international police force."

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

It is significant that immediately following the adoption of the foregoing, the C.C.F. Party was built up rapidly as the alternative to old party rule. It received the most extravagant publicity in the newspapers, over the radio and otherwise. It seemed to suddenly acquire unlimited funds to carry out the most intensive organisation campaign ever staged by any political party in Canada. In fact, the tactics adopted bore a striking resemblance to the early stages of the rapid build-up for the National Socialist Party of Germany.

It is against that background that the part played by the C.C.F. in the Alberta election must be viewed.

A show-down between Social Credit and the C.C.F. was inevitable—for it was certain that the powers behind the C.C.F. Party would insist on the focus of its attack being directed against Alberta, the salient occupied by the Social Credit forces. Preparations for this attack have been proceeding for over a year—but apparently the C.C.F. High Command did not expect the show-down to come so soon or so sud-

denly. Announcement of the Alberta election was met by an hysterical outburst of fury from the Party's spokesmen—and hurried preparations were made to stake the greatest political blitz in Canadian history.

BLITZ AND BALLYHOO

In Alberta the C.C.F. leaders are not only mediocre—they are men of poor calibre. Therefore, publicity agents, organisers and a veritable army of speakers and political "storm troopers" were moved into the Province from Ontario, Saskatchewan, B.C., and anywhere else they could be found. Masses of printed propaganda poured off the presses across Canada for the C.C.F. "blitz" on Alberta. Money was no object—all the money required was forthcoming to pay organisers and speakers, to set up booths at stampedes and fairs, to open offices in all the main centres, to circularise the people, to buy advertising in all the papers and to blast the people with a continuous barrage of radio propaganda—and to do these things on a lavish scale never before witnessed by the temporarily stunned people of Alberta.

Misrepresentation, abuse, extravagant promises, ballyhoo and all the tricks known to degenerate politics and to the underworld were employed in a savage and desperate effort to stampede the people of Alberta.

The people were promised "free" health services, "better education," and all the roads, highways or anything else they wanted. These, the C.C.F. speakers assured them, would be provided out of the "exorbitant profits" of the oil companies, which would be expropriated by a C.C.F. Government.

When the facts broke through this barrage of ballyhoo and the people found out that any such action would double the provincial debt, land them with a huge increase in taxation to meet the interest charges, and give them a highly speculative investment in which, to date, more than 18 million dollars had been sunk than had been recovered by investors, the State Socialists quickly shifted their ground. They next proposed the socialisation of the Calgary Power Company.

Once again people began to ask ques-

tions—only to find that this latest proposal was equally futile—that it would land them with a 20 million dollar debt and an annual interest bill of 600,000 dollars, and an unlimited liability for the upkeep of the power lines and plant, without any expansion of the services or cheaper costs. They contrasted this with the system of rural electrification upon which the Social Credit Government embarked—and it did not seem very inviting.

BEER TO THE RESCUE

Then came the most astounding proposal of all—out of the blue and out of the mouth of the C.C.F. party's national leader. The breweries were to be socialised. At last the solution of all our troubles had been found. Those who were not angry laughed and laughed and laughed.

It is significant that throughout this amazing campaign not one word of criticism was directed against the financial system by the chief spokesman of the C.C.F.

Meantime the newly elected C.C.F. Government in Saskatchewan were making things just about as awkward as possible for their storm-troopers in Alberta. First, the suggestion of the socialisation of electrical power companies was turned down because the responsible Minister did not know "where the money would come from" to take them over. Then, with a flourish of trumpets, the Minister of Education announced that the Government proposed to adopt the Alberta education system! Next the C.C.F. Premier announced most emphatically that his Government certainly would not socialise the breweries.

So the great C.C.F. blitz against Alberta backfired. Its authors overplayed their hand. They under-estimated the Alberta electorate.

People began to ask awkward questions such as—"Where are they getting all their money from?" "Why such a savage attack on the one good Government in Canada which has done more for the people than any Government we've had?" "What's the purpose of all the ballyhoo?" "Why bring in all these outsiders to tell us how to mind our business?"—And so on and so forth.

[The result of the elections was that the Social Crediters won 51 of the 67 seats (they held 35 before) and only 2 of the 47 C.C.F. candidates were elected.—Editor. "New Times."]

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION POLICIES

(Continued from last issue.)

Hereunder we publish an eighth instalment from the Report of the Post-War Policy Committee of the Vancouver Board of Trade. This concludes the analytical section entitled "Defects of the Economic System:—

THE EVIDENCE OF EXPERIENCE

The foregoing examination of our monetary structure has, of necessity, been highly condensed, but its correctness or falsity can be tested by reference to actual experience.

Our analysis reveals that:

- (1) The system places arbitrary limitations on production.
- (2) The money-issuing institutions exercise an overriding power of control in the economic sphere.
- (3) The system generates a chronic and increasing shortage of purchasing power or effective demand.
- (4) The system provides no income for the people whose labour is being progressively displaced by power-driven machinery.

If these findings are correct, then we could expect certain conditions to result from such faults in the system—namely:

—Though resources existed to produce abundantly, the restriction of money supply would result in production being arbitrarily restricted "because there was no money."

—Increasing control of industry, agriculture and all phases of economic activity would be acquired by purely financial institutions. Their power would increase progressively, irrespective of general economic conditions.

—A chronic shortage of purchasing power (effective demand), in the hands of the people would result in their inability to buy the goods coming on the market. Goods would pile up in stores. Orders for more goods would decline. Production would be further restricted. Workers would be laid off. Unemployment would increase. Bitter competition for the restricted home market would develop. Employers, faced with this competition, would strive to cut costs. There would be a pressure to reduce wages. Unemployment and wage reductions would decrease purchasing power still further, rendering the situation worse. Devices would be introduced to get rid of the surplus goods. Debts between firms would increase. Delayed purchase schemes would be brought in. Meantime, to alleviate conditions, governments unable to raise sufficient revenue by taxation to care for the destitute, would be forced to borrow. This would automatically increase taxation. Under pressure of the price war in a contracting market, the prices of primary products would fall to uneconomic levels.

Faced with these conditions in the home market and an unsaleable surplus threatening to pile up manufacturers would turn to foreign markets, encouraged by harassed Government anxious to alleviate conditions within the country.

But the same problem would face other countries operating under the same system. They would resist the invasion of their home market with goods, which would compete with their own products. They, too, would be striving to get rid of an unsaleable surplus. To protect the home markets and to "blast their way" into foreign markets, countries would resort to such devices as tariffs, export bounties, embargoes and other trade restrictions. A bitter economic war would develop, leading inevitably to armed military conflict.

In short, a general condition of poverty and insecurity, with mass unemployment, stagnant trade, restricted production, increasing debt and taxation, would exist side by side with potential abundance.

It is submitted that this is such an accurate reflection of the economic plight of the world prior to the war that no room for doubt exists in regard to the soundness of our findings in this respect.

We now turn to a brief examination of the political structure.

(To be continued.)

REACTIONARY "LEFTISM"

If a tolerable civilisation is to be saved and fostered, someone has to get it into the minds of the general population of this country at least, that "Leftism," so far from being modern, "scientific," and progressive, is very old, atavistic, and reactionary. It is a tremendous resurgence of the restrictive hieraticism whose one object was to enslave, and keep enslaved, all those not belonging to, or favoured by, the priests and lawyers. England was the first country to break through the hieratic bonds, and the challenge is primarily to her. Curiously enough, the American workman recognises Socialism at once, and repudiates it, possibly because of his mainly Continental origin. With the short Cromwellian interlude, England had been free of it since the expulsion of the Jews (1290 A.D.), and the suppression of the Knights Templars.

—"The Social Creditor," England.

IN THE WORKERS' PARADISE

In Moscow, the Paradise of the Worker, a month's work will buy about 2 lbs. of sugar, or seven months' work will buy a woollen suit of clothes. A mere trifle of four months' work will buy a passable pair of shoes; and a cake of toilet soap, not much in request, may be had for about four days' average toil. And no unemployment—just let the OGPU catch you trying!

—"The Social Creditor," England, Oct. 7.

Notes On The News

(Continued from page 1)

and the Verandah Squatters are not directing public attention to the fundamental question of more houses, they are merely toying with the effects of the situation; they did not move one little finger to assist the campaign for the removal of the regulations which cause the situation.

PERSIAN PETROL: A tricky situation is reported to be in the making because of the Soviet's well-known interest in the Persian Gulf. Recently, the British and the U.S. Governments accepted the Persian Government's decision not to grant new oil concessions anywhere until after the war, but the Russians were angered and hoped that their displeasure would cause the Persians to meet them. However, the Persians say that a concession to Russia would be territorial because of Russia's State ownership. This does not apply where the deal is with an individual or a company. However, if the reports of abundant Russian oil deposits are correct, she should not press this matter, especially as it would leave her open to the charge of "capitalistic imperialism and territorial aggrandisement."

DEPRESSION: In an address to the Constitutional Club (vide Melbourne "Herald," Oct. 23), Mr. M. A. Ashkanasy, K.C., speaking from his experience in the Army, said: "It was a painful fact that an undue proportion of the men who came into the Army, initially and until recently, showed the effects of malnutrition and undernourishment. This was particularly noticeable among those who passed through adolescence during the depression." He pointed out this was no reflection on the soldier, but his criticism was of the community that bred and educated them. Not one word of criticism was voiced against the manipulators of the money system who denied those who bred and educated the human war material, the financial means to properly rear the depression victims. There was no shortage of food, clothing, or the physical means to provide housing and education; in fact, there was an abundance of everything—except MONEY.

CORRUPT CABAL: The Sydney Labor weekly, "Century," for September 1, points out the "corrupt" habits of the Curtin Government and says: "The latest example is the announcement that during the current sittings of the Federal Parliament, visitors will not be allowed at Canberra." The same issue of "Century" suggests that Curtin will soon fall, and that Mr. Rosevear is the only candidate likely to go places. An interesting survey of other Cabinet Ministers is given, their form or performance is analysed, and all are found wanting. "Century's" prediction is that there will soon be a big split and then a coalition government. One thing, however, is certain, that the workers were sold the biggest pup in political history in the case of Curtin, Evatt and Co.

WOOL WONDERS: Considerable space is devoted by the press to the wool industry, and special praise is given to the proposal for wider publicity for this widely known and used commodity. £700,000 of the growers' hard cash is to be used—hence the jubilation by the press. This hand-out is provided by the Wool Board, which is only one of the dead-weight bodies carried by the wool-growers—others being the Wool Producers Federation, Department of Commerce, C.S.I.R., the National Council of Wool Sellers and Brokers, and, indirectly, the Department of Post-War Reconstruction. Now they are to bear another burden in the form of the Wool Consultative Council, and perhaps one of those "Dr." fellows in the person of Dr. Clunies Ross. There was a time when woolgrowers were fairly prosperous and independent, but that was before this bunch of parasites batted on them.

PROPAGANDA PROBLEM: Allegations were recently made in the Tasmanian House of Assembly by Mr. Marriott to the effect that Communistic and atheistic doctrines were being spread in the universities and schools. Mr. Marriott states, "in Australia today a certain class at the University and State and public schools are obsessed with Communistic and atheistic ideas." It is indeed deplorable if these or any other "isms" are being presented as realities. Correct education methods lay down very few propositions as final; beyond these few propositions, any instructor postulating any "ism" should be fired as being unsuitable to be in charge of youthful minds. The correct procedure is to place all known data before students and to encourage them to develop their own views. In short, education should draw out, not to cram in.

SPEECH SCIENCE: Addressing the Royal Empire Society, Professor C. M. Young said that when he was a youth "Londoners speech was as pure as Shelley's English, but had failed to withstand the uprush from the sewer." He then mentioned that Prime Minister Churchill is very proud of his mastery of the language and his ability to make words do what he wants them to do. As an illustration of Churchill's ability with words he said, "he has even extended democracy to cover the Russian government, and added, 'if that feat had not been performed in my presence I would have said it was beyond the powers of Shakespeare himself.' He might also have pointed out that Shakespeare would never have been guilty of so perverting words or desecrating British traditions of blunt truthfulness.

—O.B.H.

WOMEN'S GROUP OF D.S.C.M.

The Women's Group of the Douglas Social Credit Movement of Victoria will hold a meeting in the Movement's premises (Room 8 Floor 1, "The Block," Elizabeth Street, Melbourne), on Friday, December 8, at 2.30 p.m. All interested are invited.—Miss Greig, convener.

YET ANOTHER CACKLE FROM BROWN

(A letter to the Editor from Bruce H. Brown.)
 Sir,—It beats cock-fighting how these so-called "authorities" find something to criticise when the newspapers seek their comments for publication, but are quite incapable of doing what is necessary to put things right or of even dealing with the "problem" on the basis of reality.

From time to time, most of the professors who took such an unworthy part in imposing the depression upon the people of Australia have had appropriate notice in these columns, but one of the most guilty of them has almost escaped attention. The guilty man referred to is Professor Richard Charles Mills, O.B.E., of the Sydney University and Chairman of the Commonwealth Grants Commission.

In the Melbourne "Herald" of 25/10/44, this professor is described as Chairman of the Australian Universities, Commission, and is quoted as having condemned the lecture system of teaching as practised in our universities. The remit adds "The problem of finance will preclude any change in the system, at any rate for several years." It is not clear in the report whether this reference to the problem of finance was made by Professor Mills or by the writer on the "Herald" staff, but there is no doubt as to the truth of it, and Professor Mills is one of the men responsible for the fact that finance is still regarded in high places as a "problem."

Early in the period of the depression, when people were beginning to take notice of what is called Social Credit, this professor came out and publicly indulged in ridicule of the analysis written by Major Douglas and of the principles of enunciated by him for securing the liberation of the people from such needless sufferings.

The main purpose of the professor was to try to show that the basis upon which the Social Credit principles are founded was not in fact true, and that therefore as the basis upon which the principles had been formulated was incorrect, then the principles themselves were useless.

A few years later, the Government appointed a Commission to inquire into the banking and financial system of the Commonwealth, and Professor Mills was one of the men selected to be a member of the Commission. When the report was published, the reason for his selection became apparent because pages 171 to 187 were devoted to a similar attempt to dispose of Social Credit as a fallacious doctrine not worthy of further consideration. There seems little doubt that this was one of the main purposes for which the Commission was established, and also indicates the reason for the selection of Professor Mills as one of its members.

Prior to the establishment of the Commission, Mr. Menzies had openly admitted that unless Social Credit could be disposed of, it would probably be the occasion of difficulty in the future.

He was right. Somehow it is not possible to dispose of truth by ignoring it, ridiculing it, misrepresenting it, or even by getting supposedly learned tools to endeavour to divert attention from it. All these have been tried without success, and the principles enunciated by the advocates of Social Credit remain unshakable.

As Mr. Menzies had good reason to fear, this particular doctrine WILL bring difficulty for the men who have been standing in the way of its implementation. Instead of being honoured by posterity their names will be scorned.

It is impertinence for men like Professor Mills to offer comment upon unsatisfactory conditions in the University or in any other educational institution when those conditions are the direct product of inadequate financial provision. He is one of the men who has taken a leading part in maintaining the present fraudulent system of finance which makes it impossible for the members of the community to get the benefit of their resources, their productive capacity, or their natural ability. We are not short of teachers, building materials, school requisites, or any of the physical things required to make our educational institutions what they ought to be. The only thing we are short of is called FUNDS—the easiest thing in the world to PRODUCE, but the most difficult thing in the world to COLLECT.

The section of the report of the Monetary and Banking Commission dealing with Social Credit was apparently written by Professor Mills, and on the very day on which the Commission commenced its public sittings he was responsible for the publication of meaningless cackle in the Melbourne "Herald" about savings and investments.

As a correspondent for the Melbourne "Herald" he told us that, "While savings outstripped investments, there must be unemployment and dullness of trade," but as a member of the Commission he says, "If the rate at which purchasing power is being withheld from the market by saving is not equalled by the rate at which it is being put back into the market by the production of capital goods there will be a decrease of purchasing power. . . . If on the other hand, the production of capital goods exceeds the rate of saving, there will be an increase of purchasing power. But both these conditions are temporary, and offer no justification for the conclusion that the practice of saving in itself "creates a PERMANENT tendency towards a shortage of purchasing power."

What, Mr. Editor, is your opinion of this ponderous stuff? Savings consist of money, which has been distributed to individuals as wages, interest or profit, and as such has

been included in the price of the goods for sale. Obviously, if the money is being saved, it is not being used as purchasing power, and goods to that extent must remain unsold.

This investment business so beloved of these out-of-date professors, is one of the greatest of all fallacies and places the dead before the living. It has been well exposed by the Select Committee, which conducted a monetary inquiry on behalf of the Tasmanian Parliament. The report of that committee contains excellent material, and I quote from it as follows:

"Economists say that the money would be re-invested. If so, you produce more goods—two lots of goods from one lot of money. Consider the diagram below:

A-----E-----B
 C-----F-----D
 -----G-----H

A-B represents the total money distributed during a cycle of production. C-D equals the total prices of goods for sale—assuming that prices are equal to purchasing power distributed. If E-B is saved, the goods, F-D must be left unsold. But we are told that E-B would be re-invested in industry. If so, it will produce G-H goods. In other words, there will be two lots of goods, F-D and G-H, for one lot of money, E-B."

It is therefore fitting to ask how the public can possibly purchase production, which results from the re-investment of savings unless money is made available from some source other than industry? It is no use presenting "confidence" to the producer. He requires MONEY.

You can see from the foregoing that Professor Mills and the Commission were more concerned to dispose of Social Credit than impartially to examine its actual merits. Indeed, had it been the intention to examine the question on its merits, Professor Mills would not have been selected as a member of the Commission, for he had already seriously compromised himself on the subject and had publicly attempted to pour ridicule upon the idea and those who advocated it.

Throughout the section of the Report dealing with this subject stress is laid on the fact that no statistics were available

LET US LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES!

By ERIC D BUTLER (Concluded from last issue.)

In that remarkable book, "Geneva Versus Peace," the author, M. de Saint-Aulaire, a former French Ambassador, mentions a talk he once had with one of the international Jewish bankers. He quotes this Jew as follows:

"In the management of the new world we give proof of our organisation both for revolution and conservation. Our organisation for revolution is evidenced by destructive bolshevism, and for construction by the creation of the League of Nations, which is also our work . . . What is the end? It is already determined by our mission. Israel is a synthetic and homogeneous nation . . . We are a League of Nations which contains the elements of all others."

Bearing in mind what we have already noted about the power of the German-Jewish groups in the last war, let us also read the following by M. de Saint-Aulaire: "The brotherhood of bolshevism and the League of Nations was no novelty for me . . . Those who look for the truth elsewhere than in the official documents know that President Wilson, whose election had been financed by the Great Bank of New York, rendered almost complete obedience to its beck and call. They know the famous telegram, or rather the telegram which was destined to be famous, addressed on May 28, 1919, from New York to Mr. Wilson by Jacob Schiff to dictate to him concessions for Germany on the five following points: regime of reparations, Upper Silesia, Sarre, Dantzig and Fiume. UP TO THE RECEIPT OF THIS TELEGRAM MR. WILSON HAD VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTED CLEMENCEAU'S POINT OF VIEW, BUT HE AT ONCE CHANGED HIS ATTITUDE IN ORDER TO CONFORM TO THE WORD OF COMMAND FROM THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE LEAGUE OF FREE NATIONS, DIRECTED BY JACOB H. SCHIFF AND FIVE OTHER AMERICAN FINANCIERS, an association in the name of which the telegram was sent. His change of direction having determined a majority against France, the treaty of Versailles on these five grave questions was dictated by Jacob H. Schiff and his co-religionists." (My emphasis.)

No doubt, Mr. Lloyd George had these German-Jewish financiers in mind when he wrote in his "Memoirs" that he and other statesmen were swept aside by the international financiers at the framing of the Versailles Peace Treaty. M. de Saint-Aulaire continues:

"The League of Nations was conceived at Berlin . . . We learn this fact from Bulow, who relates that in 1917 he wrote to a high official of the Wilhemstrasse, saying to him that 'without a doubt in those days of extreme crisis he no longer

to prove that costs are generated faster than money is distributed. Paragraph 431 reads as follows:—

"Having set out the proposals, we can now proceed to examine the arguments in support of the theory that there is a permanent tendency towards a shortage of purchasing power. No statistics exist which, in our opinion, serve to establish the truth of this theory. We invited the advocates who appeared before us to provide us with such statistics, but they were unable to do so."

It was not explained in the Report that the Social Credit Movement was not officially represented by any of the "advocates" referred to, or that the FACT that sunshine comes from the sun should not be believed unless "shown" by statistics! And having disposed of the "theory," without regard to facts, the Report continued (paragraph 460), "as we have shown that this tendency does not exist, we cannot accent the proposed remedies as a solution." In their foolish attempts to disprove a fact, they paid no regard at all to the fact that the debts owing by the people are five times greater than the total money in existence that repayments of advances or over-drafts are not distributed as purchasing power, that money placed in reserve is not available for buying, and that unless there are a lot of bankruptcies or heavy Government-spending industry could not survive. All this had been clearly set out by C. H. Douglas in his reply to Professor Copland, but for reasons best known to itself the Commission entirely ignored it. The very nature of our frantic struggle for overseas markets is itself proof of the "theory."

The simple truth is that this man Douglas has not only proved what is wrong with the financial system, but has also indicated what should be done about it without depriving anyone of what properly belongs to him.

He has shown how workers can have better living conditions, higher incomes, shorter working hours, as well as freedom from slavery to debts, interest, and taxes. Men like Professor Mills are preventing the workers from getting these blessings. They have done a lot of harm to the community in the past and are still doing harm to us.

Because of the past record of this particular Professor, the time has come to cease inviting his opinion on anything, and to bring pressure to bear on members of Parliament to have him removed from all positions in which he could continue to mislead those who are charged with the duty of administering the affairs of the Commonwealth for the benefit of the PEOPLE.

—Yours faithfully, BRUCE H. BROWN,
 189 Hotham Street, East Melbourne, C.2.
 26th November 1944.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NOTES

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

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON: We wish to advise members and friends that our usual "Christmas Special" luncheon will be served in our rooms on Friday, December 22. They are urged to keep this date in mind and make a determined effort to be present.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY PLAN: In our opinion the greatest threat to the Australian people today is the possibility that this agreement will be ratified before they are aware of their danger. In an endeavour to enlighten the people about their danger we have had printed several thousand combined leaflets and demand-letter forms, and we appeal for assistance to distribute them. Please send for a supply today and get right on to the job. This matter is URGENT. If anyone desires fuller information about this Agreement please enquire from our office.

BOOKS TO READ: We have available and can recommend the following: "SOCIAL CREDIT TEXT BOOK," a new publication setting out the philosophy and technique of Social Credit, by Wm. Stones; price 2/-. "PROGRAMME FOR THE THIRD WORLD WAR," by C. H. Douglas; price 2/-. "HOW TO GET REAL DEMOCRACY," by A. W. Noakes: The Electoral Campaign Policy and procedure explained; price 6d. (All plus 1d. postage.)

—F. BAWDEN, Hon. Secretary.

BRITAIN'S "SOCIAL SECURITY"

The new edition of "Social Security" or Carthorse Conditions for All, embodied in a White Paper (Cmmd. 6550), forms an excellent example of the root of our trouble. It assumes, as axiomatic, that it is the business of "Government" to look after "the people."

On the contrary, it is the business of "the people" to look after "the Government" in order that individuals may find it easy to look after themselves.

sibility, sir, and that final determination rested with me."

"Mr. Jefferis: 'What?'"

"Mr. Baruch: That final determination, as the President said, rested, with me: the determination of whether the Army or Navy should have it rested with me; the determination of whether the railroad administration could have it, or the Allies, or whether General Allenby should have locomotives, or whether they should be used in Russia, or in France."

"Mr. Jefferis: 'and all these different lines, really, ultimately centred in you, so far as power was concerned?'"

"Mr. Baruch: 'Yes, sir, it did I probably had more power than perhaps any other man did in the war . . .'"

It is significant that Mr. Baruch's friend, our own Attorney General, Dr. Evatt, quoted the great Bernard during his campaign for sweeping power for the Canberra planners.

Although Mr. J. Schiff and Mr. Paul Warburg are no longer alive, their ideals still inspire those who continue to control the great Jewish banking houses such as Kuhn, Loeb and Co. Mr. Paul Warburg's son, James, was in the early part of the war closely associated with propaganda in favour of a League of Nations idea, "Federal Union." The book of this name was written by Streit, German-Jewish Geneva correspondent for the Jewish-owned "New York Times" when the League of Nations was a centre of German-Jewish intrigue and helping to pave the way for the present war.

As yet we do not know the inside history of what has been taking place at the various conferences where the planners have been working desperately to bring into being an international organisation which it is proposed should control the financial and other vital policies of all countries and have at its disposal an international armed force to "impose peace." But we do know the origin of this idea of a world government, we do know the groups who used the last war to try and bring the idea to practical fruition, and, if we have a spark of initiative and intelligence left in spite of all the alien propaganda we have been deluged with for so long, we know what action we must take to preserve our way of life. We must repudiate German-Jewish ideas everywhere and take steps to preserve and extend our local sovereignty by making political and economic democracy work. Loyal men and women everywhere are required to come forward to win the battle for peace. The matter is just as urgent as the military conflict still raging. Unless we do take action, then we must expect the Schiffs of International Jewish finance to continue issuing their decrees by telegram as they did at the conclusion of the last war.

THE "NEW TIMES" IS OBTAINABLE AT ALL AUTHORISED NEWSAGENTS

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.)

CHAPTER XI*

Speaking in the Canadian House of Commons on February 2, 1944, Mr. W. F. Kuhl, M.P. (Social Credit, Jasper-Edson), quoted from the Speech from the Throne as follows:

"Such a national minimum (of social security) contemplates useful employment for all who are willing to work." (The curious resemblance to a P.E.P. manifesto is noteworthy.)

Commenting on this paragraph, and others to the same effect, all of which are similar (even in literary style) to official statements of policy appearing simultaneously in every Dominion of the British Empire, as well as in Great Britain itself, Mr. Kuhl said:

"I have yet to hear any individual, either on the Government side or on the opposition benches, indicate what he means by full employment . . . Why do we have an economic system? Judging from most of the speeches I hear both in and out of the House, the complete purpose of an economic system is to keep people at work. . . . I wish to dissent completely from that point of view. . . . I assert that the purpose of an economic system never was, is not, and never will be, that of providing jobs . . . the only sound, sane, sensible, logical and legitimate purpose of an economic system is to provide the maximum amount of goods and services with the minimum of work and trouble . . . it is not 'work' that anyone objects to, much; it is being compelled to work either by Government or nature. . . . When a Government, whether it be this Government or any other, seeks to compel the people of the nation to work, whether it be on public works or work of any other kind, then that Government is imposing a condition of slavery upon the people. The Work State is nothing less than a slave State.

"I wish to say with respect to private enterprise that I do not consider it the duty or obligation of private enterprise anywhere to provide jobs . . . there is a lot of criticism being made of private enterprise today. The only thing I can see wrong in private enterprise is the abuse of it . . . when the socialists contend that the way to deal with the abuses of the private enterprise system is for the nation to take it over, that is equivalent to saying that we ought to abolish freedom lest it be abused."

Mr. Kuhl then demonstrated that the agency through which the private enterprise system was perverted was the financial system, whose defects would remain unaltered by the abolition of private enterprise, and could be rectified without nationalisation.

While to the minority who have avoided the political economy of the London School of Economics in devoting serious attention to the problems which it obscures, there is nothing in Mr. Kuhl's speech to arouse comment beyond its clarity, it is probable that to the general body of the public such sentiments would appear at the best eccentric, and at the worst subversive. The idea that a leisured class is decadent, and therefore, "a fortiori," a leisured nation is a nation lost, has been so carefully injected into common consciousness, that evidence to the contrary is powerless to inspire reconsideration of the patent fallacy. It is not so much that an inner ring of clear-sighted and immensely powerful men realise that "employment at a fair wage" is the key to the universal serfdom which they are determined to impose on the world, which is dangerous; it is that large numbers, perhaps the majority of the electorate are nearly incapable of conceiving of a better condition in life. There is not a newspaper of large circulation, no matter what its alleged politics, which does not stress "the necessity for full employment" while at the same time either openly or covertly hinting that bare workhouse maintenance, if that, will be allowed to objectors.

The point is one of major importance. It is not work, or even the proceeds of work with which the planners of the Servile State are concerned. It is that everyone shall work UNDER DIRECTION. The conception is identical with that of the Great German General Staff.

As it has been suggested earlier in these pages, there are sound technical reasons for regarding the large monopolistic structure of industry, with its universal wage and salary system, as being economically defective, and it is therefore all the more significant that, with a technique which, as such, must exact admiration, the whole body of controlled propaganda contrives to ignore the elementary dilemma in which the planners are placed: EITHER THE FACTORY-WORLD AND THE MECHANISED FARM ARE EFFECTIVE IN PRODUCING AN IMMEASURABLY HIGHER STANDARD OF LIVING UNDER MORE PLEASURABLE CONDITIONS WITH MUCH LESS LABOUR OR THEY NOT. IF THEY ARE, WHY MORE EMPLOYMENT? IF NOT, WHY PURSUE THE POLICY?

When the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Temple, said, "We need supremely the control of human purpose," he merely voiced, doubtless without realising it, the views of

*The extracts are published with a view to the existing situation, not in the sequence or detail in which they will appear later.

the world dominator everywhere. The only distinction, which can be legitimately drawn in Power Politics, of which the Archbishop's phrase is a synopsis, is the relative degree of progress to the goal of domination, and in this, the Great German General Staff represents the summit of achievement up to the present. To what extent the United States of America is briefed, under the same essential direction, to assume the major role is not so apparent as it was some time ago. There is nothing like the same homogeneity either of race or sentiment as in the case of Germany.

But in any case, the important point is that the object of Power Politics is Power.

It is sheer delusion to suppose that men ultimately mould an organisation. The exact contrary is the case. The effective man is moulded by his pursuits, and the only result of a dichotomy between a kindly, tolerant, individuality, and a Power social and economic system is nervous instability; a fact of which the Germans are both aware and resentful. The well-known remark, "We Germans will never be gentlemen, and you British will always be fools," was, in the sense in which it was intended, a scientific statement of fact.

But it must be conceded that we have been brought to a difficult situation. The wage system could have been quite a good form of organisation if it had not been perverted in two major directions. The first, and for some time the lesser, evil of it was that a man became an employer of labour by accumulating "savings," mis-called capital, with which to finance a new production venture, and the "savings" system was and is an economic fallacy resulting in restricted distribution. But a far more serious evil developed with the removal of

the guild control of wage rates, accompanied by the systematic debasement of the unit of currency by the financiers. This was the inability of the wage-earner to contract out of a starvation wage. It is this inability to contract out, which has enabled the plotters to staff the police forces, reaching their apex in the Russian OGPU and the German Gestapo.

It is by police power that the serfdom of the world, the Socialist State of Sir Ernest Cassel, Sir William Beveridge and the other surprising allies of the submerged tenth, is to be maintained.

Everything will bear a facade of legality. It is interesting to notice the resemblance, amounting almost to identity, between the methods of expropriation employed in Great Britain since 1931, under the direction of P.E.P. and those employed by Hitler. In his revealing book, "The Germans and the Jews," the Jewish writer, F. R. Bienenfeld, remarks:

"The tactics which Germany has adopted towards the Jews are no longer those of the mediaeval pogroms . . . First, it is made clear to the German people that the Jew is the attacker and that the peace-loving German Government is only defending itself. Whereupon, no illegal spoliation takes place, but the law, justice itself, organises robbery . . . The property of the Jew is not confiscated, but under threat of imprisonment he is made to sign an agreement by which he sells it voluntarily for one-hundredth part of its value . . . the fact that the property is sold on the same day to an Aryan at its full value and that the Aryan has to pay two-thirds of its full value to the German State is given a legal justification." (Foreword, p. xi.)

That is an almost exact description in essence of the methods employed in the last twelve years to expropriate the ordinary British property-owner and is almost word for word the proposal of Lord Hinchinbrooke and his so-called "Progressive Conservatives."

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THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY AND SIMILAR PLANS

By GEOFFREY DOBBS, in the "Social Creditor," England. (Continued from last issue.)

The strong resemblance between the American New Dealers and the British Planners was pointed out in the U.S.A. Congress by Congressman McFadden (May 3, 1934), who reported Mr. Sieff, of P.E.P., as having said, "let us go slowly for a while until we can see how our plan works out in America." The New Deal, as a whole, was not a success, but the Tennessee Valley Authority seems to have been selected for publicity as the most successful part of it. In this country, the suggestion of Mr. Ellis Smith in Parliament that we should set up a number of regional "T.V.A.'s" in depressed areas, was, no doubt, a trial shot on behalf of P.E.P., which did not come off very well, but was intended to air the subject.

The reception accorded by the ordinary British citizen to the attempt at regional control of the "special" areas before the war, and to the war-time Regional Commissioners, even during the acute emergency of 1940, has given a sufficient indication that the idea of industrial and social planning by local dictatorships will not readily be accepted here. However, as the late Lord Stamp told the British Association in 1937, the development of social control must be "experimental" at first, and must be carried out with the appropriate educational and psychological adjustments. The Tennessee Valley Authority started straight away with the control of a river system, and of electric power, from which followed town planning, land planning, social and domestic planning by the Authority. In the British Isles, owing, probably, to a greater instinctive opposition from the people, the course of Planning has been slower and more devious, but nevertheless has included the same features, piecemeal, and in a different order, water control coming comparatively late in the day.

With the aid of two German wars and a Bankers' Slump the plans of the Fabian-P.E.P. Group have now made such headway that they are beginning to go beyond the purely legalistic stage, in which the chief weapons are psychological—monetary or bureaucratic restrictions, and control of propaganda and education—and to seize hold of the material sanctions implicit in the control of soil, water and sources of energy.

Towards this end we have evidence of great effort: the long-term land taxation programme aiming at the destruction of security in land tenure, and leading up to the more recent Land Planning Acts and proposals; the pre-war restrictive Marketing Boards, and the war-time agricultural controls; the growing grip on food of the Chain Stores and Co-operatives, reaching its climax in Lord Woolton's Ministry of Food; the recent White Paper on water, the Scottish Hydro-electric Scheme, the Electricity Grid, the Nationalisation of Coal, and the Petroleum Pool.

Since an emergency is the invariable excuse for a dictatorship, the creation of an emergency is a necessary preliminary to the establishment of a dictatorship in any form. In Tennessee the normal manipulation of the Debt System seems to have been sufficient to bring about not merely poverty and confusion, but even the destruction of the soil. In our climatically more fortunate country the physical effects have so far been less obviously disastrous; but if we go on the reasonable assumption that a few, at least, of the Planners know what they are doing, it is true enough to say that no effort in the way of dictated chemical-plus-tractor farming, inflicting restrictions, time-wasting forms and regulations, and the deliberate penalising of improvements by taxation, has been spared to bring about a like result.

As an example of deliberately chaotic planning so fantastic as to be barely cred-

ible, the Town and Country Planning Act of 1932 takes a lot of beating.

This Act, which initiated Land Planning by laying down "zones" to be determined by the Planning Committees of the local authorities, according to the use to which the land was to be put, provided no category at all for agricultural use!

This presumably intentional "accident" was clumsily made up for in 1938 by an amendment, which permitted the allocation of land to agriculture as a kind of industry. The position is now so confusing that it has naturally stimulated a "demand" for a more comprehensible and unified plan.

This "demand" has been further nurtured by the Town and Country Planning Bill of 1944, which deals with the rebuild-

TRUST THE NOBLE COUNTERFEITER!

By FOOTLE

Chivalry is not quire dead. True, it has been successfully eliminated from war, but it shows a tendency to linger in unexpected places, ready to protect us from the consequences of our inferior intellect. Noblesse oblige!

I have before me a circular entitled, "Threatened Banking Control," and consisting of a statement by the National Bank of Australasia Ltd. It exhibits every symptom of parental concern for its depositors and doesn't mention its shareholders once—nor yet the widows and orphans.

I gather that the humility of the trading banks has not been properly appreciated. The circular says:

"Under the strain and stress of war the constituents of this and other banks have willingly and properly accepted Government control of banking and all that it implies."

The willingness of the banks may, of course, have been of the "Good Queen Bess" type. The virgin queen had the knack of conceding with a good grace what couldn't be withheld. Had the Government been of a different order we might have said the banks' willingness was of the Margaret Fuller type. You may remember how that lady was reported to have said, "I accept the Universe," and how the Sage of Chelsea muttered into his whiskers, "Gad, she'd better!"

However that may be, the circular informs me in large capitals: "Permanent Government control of the banks simply means permanent political control of the money placed in the banks by the people."

You get the idea, no doubt. In a single sentence "government" becomes "political" and is well on its way to "graft" without any strain on the intellect.

You are expected to realise what a frightful thing it is to be governed by a government. Also that money is only safe with the people who counterfeit it.

So lay that pistol down!
The circular goes on: "Each borrower on overdraft is advised that permanent rigid control of the Banks may mean that never

ing of the conveniently devastated towns of Great Britain, and is alleged to be equally confusing. The outcry about the inadequacy of this has already been considerable, and may be expected to prepare the ground for the comprehensive Land Planning Proposal of the Government with which Dr. Dudley Stamp (Adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture and brother of the late Lord Stamp) seems to be closely associated.

A brief resume of some of the proposals, as given by Dr. Stamp himself to a meeting of the Geographical Society of a London College, may here be useful.

The lecture was, amusingly enough, advertised under the title "Soil Fertility." The only reference to this subject matter, which the lecturer made, was the statement that the intrinsic fertility of soil did not matter, as it could always be "put in"; what mattered was the physical "workability" of the soil.

The lecture was entirely devoted to an account of the Land Classification Scheme of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, illustrated by large printed wall-maps of England and Wales divided up in accordance with the scheme. There are three major and ten minor categories, as follows:—

I. Good Agricultural Land:

- (1) First Class—all factors favourable.
- (2) Good General Purpose.
- (3) First Class but high water table.
- (4) Good heavy land.

II. Medium Agricultural Land:

- (5) Light.
- (6) Medium General Purpose.

III. Poor Land:

- (7) Poor Heavy.
- (8) Poor Mountain.
- (9) Poor Light.
- (10) Useless for Agriculture.

These classes were said to be based upon established geographical principles, and—as Dr. Stamp pointed out in a significant "aside"—there is to be no escape from them.

As illustrations of their proposed practical application: Class 1 land, comprising about 40 per cent. of the surface of the country, is to be reserved for agriculture, and the public, other than agricultural workers, are to be kept completely off it. Class II (6) land, Medium General Purpose, somewhat hilly or rolling, poorish land, provides scope and interesting problems for the Town Planner, and therefore is ideal for housing. Good land is not to be wasted on gardens, but you might be allowed an allotment on it. You may live on grade 6 land, grow roses, if you want to, on grade 7 and picnic on grades 8, 9 or 10—and there is to be no wriggling out of the regulations!

It seems probable that if the distinguished lecturer, who is nothing if not astute, had been addressing an audience more mature and less favourably inclined towards the idea of rule by "geographical principles" than a group of geography students, he would have been more cautious about explaining its results in everyday terms!

It also seems fairly clear that we are not yet ready for this sort of thing, and it is believed that a police system less lenient and amenable to public feeling than the Gestapo will be necessary before the natives of these islands will submit to any such basic interference with their lives. Meanwhile, however, under cover of the war, which leaves little energy to spare outside Government and Planning circles, the Bills pour through Parliament with little opposition, and the trouble to come when their application is attempted accumulates. (To be continued.)

again could a borrower obtain a loan from a bank, unless the Government or its nominee investigated each proposal to borrow and gave its approval.

You can't wonder at the banks getting annoyed. When you've been in the habit of pelting the community with largesse you would naturally resent the "dog-in-the-manger" attitude of a third party.

It isn't as though the Government owns the money, or had anything to do with the making of it, anyhow, and it isn't as if the banks are risking your money or mine either. Surely the money belongs to the people who make it. Imagine how you would feel if you had a nice thriving counterfeiting business and a policeman came along and told you, you mustn't pass your notes to this one and that one. You might just as well go right out of business.

Goodness knows what Governments are coming to. All our freedoms are steadily disappearing.

Soon we shan't even be able to die in the gutter as we could in the good old days. In fact, there are quite a few signs that we may be kept alive in the gutter.

Things are even worse than I thought. Our democratic right to enjoy a monopoly is now being assailed. And there was I thinking this would be the last democratic right to disappear! Shows how much I know.

The author of the pamphlet, blushing un-seen, modestly refers to his work as a "simple statement." It may be, at that. Anyway, here is a selection from my Nuttall's Dictionary definitions of "simple": "Consisting of one thing." "Pure": "artless"; "not complex." "Weak in intellect": "silly." Well, maybe he's right.