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MR. MENZIES ON THE WAR

In his fine, moving speech in the Sydney Town Hall last night Mr. Menzies had not much to tell the public that was news to anyone who had followed the course of the war intelligently; but his brief sur-vey of the past and preparation for the future should dissipate any apathy or false confidence that may have obtained in Australia.

The Prime Minister's warning that the war had assumed a most deadly and grave character is very far from being an over-statement Serious mistakes have been made, chiefly in the failure to recognise the overwhelming importance of keeping pace with the enemy in the of efficiency and production-volume of the instruments of war. Valuable time has been lost in both Britain and America by failure to grasp the vital importance of mass production.

This lesson has been driven home in every field of the war and now it is understood that man power is a secondary consideration compared with the equipment of the fighting men with striking power equal to that possessed by the enemy.

Coming from Britain where the people are united in their determination to win and the Government has the unquestioning support of every section of the community 'Mr. Menzies confesses to one sick feeling-that he must play politics in his own country at such a time.

It is to be hoped that the Prime Minister will have the pleasure of finding himself mistaken. He will probably find unchanged the Oppo-sition's reluctance to accept his long-standing invitation to join in a national government; but that need not concern him greatly. If all sections of Parliament are single-minded on the war the retention of minded on the war the retention of party labels will be unimportant.

Labour legislators and trade union leaders can play an invalu-able part if they, too, disdain to play politics and tell the men in shops and factories that anything short of their best possible performance is not playing the game; that a strike in a munitions factory is the equivalent of desertion on the battlefield. A truly united national effort is vastly more needed than a national government in Canberra.

THE NAVY'S TASK

Some years ago Mr. Winston Churchill described engagements between modern battleships as eggshells fighting with hammers. The tragic loss of the Hood, hit by one shell fired from a great distance, brings Mr. Churchill's simile to mind.

News of the naval operations, shrouded by the mists of the North Atlantic, is awaited eagerly and anxiously. The destruction of Britain's largest battleship is a heavy blow which it would be fool-ish to minimise, but it will not shake confidence in the power of

the British Navy. The tremendous task thrown on the Navy must, however, be recog-nised. In the last world war Britain had allies which helped to police the seas and to escort transports and merchantmen. Today the British Navy is playing virtually a

OPINION

SIR,-Again Western Aus-

tralia's response to the

call of the A.I.F. is ahead of the demand. This gives

us occasion for pride but

not necessarily for satis-

faction. We are told that

every man is wanted, and it is the total enlistment

that counts not the record

of individual States. Can-

not our surplus be absorb-

SIR,—A mysterious bird lost its way, landed in a field away far

from its plane. Crippled his ankle, garbed in soft kind and

ankle, garbed in soit kind and silk sock; feared being shot, poor bird. Had a camera fastened on his back. Why? Wherefore? This nasty (Nazi) bird did not explain. Should one of our nation have landed in this bird's country what would have fol-

country what would have fol-lowed? A wall, a firing squad and voila tout. Be not squeam-

ish. "Do unto them as others do to us," is the sentiment of

Subiaco, A TRUE BRITISHER.

SIR,-My opinion regarding Hess's visit to Scotland is that he was on

a secret mission to Ireland. The route chosen was one freest

from the vigilance of the R.A.F., and his landing in Scotland was due to either failure of oil or some unrevealed cause. It will

be recalled that in his letter to Duke of Hamilton he sug-

gested a meeting on neutral ground to discuss the situation and terms of peace. Ireland is neutral ground—at least nomin-ally—and De Valera is still President of the League of Na-tions.

SIR,-End of the world prophets are wasting breath. Whether our Lord comes in the clouds tomor-row or long after we are in our graves does not matter if only we do our duty. Let us concen-trate on that. Our job is to win the war and develop the physi-cal resources of W.A. The end of the world will come for each of us when we die, whether that happens by cosmic catastrophe or more conventionally. Perth. S. WITCHCLIFFE

OUT OF A BOOK

SAXON

SONG

Tools with the comely names,

Couth and bitter as flames,

and his trade.

Mattock and scythe and spade,

Clean, and bowed in the blade,-

man and his tools make a man

Breadth of the English shires, Hummock and kame and mead,

Tang of the reeking byres,

QUID NUNC.

Hess's Objective

tions.

Bayswater.

Futile Prophecy

AUSTRALIAN

ed at once?

Leederville.

Do Unto Them

Letters should not exceed 50 words

Voluntary Service

SIR,--Why pick any special sec-tions of the community for prior-ity in conscription; take each man whether married or not. There is a very strong law against a man losing his job; if it was not so I would be out of work today for being a member of a voluntary regiment. But service in war time is no more the duty of the unemployed or luxury tradesman than of any luxury tradesman than of any man who enjoys the privileges of our democracy. Any employer who holds voluntary service against an employee, though the training periods may cause in-convenience, acts m a very anti-Briitsh manner.

Scarborough. ALL IN.

Like To Transfer

SIR.-Your correspondent "Ob-server's" suggestion of mess stewards and messmen transferstewards and messmen transfer-ring to the A.I.F. is a very prac-tical one. There are dozens of young fellows like myself who joined up over 12 months ago as one of the above, who did not know exactly what they were coming in as. We now find the work very distasteful and would like to join one of the other fightlike to join one of the other fight-ing services where we could be of more use.

JUST A POT WALLOPER Perth.

America And War

SIR,-J.M.L. (Daily News, May 20) contradicts his own remarks when he states that America is helping Britain to the limit of her capacity. When America is actually participating in the hos-tilities against Germany which tilities against Germany, which it now admits to be justified, and sustains her share of losses in men and money, his remarks m have some relation to fact. Pearce. AIRMAN. may

No Weight Given

SIR,-The Fremantle District Council of the A.L.P. is com-plaining that joints of meat dis-played for sale bear no indica-tion of weight on the price tick-ets. Our Guild took up this question some time ago and in-terviewed the Price Fixing Com-missioner. The Commissioner's reply was that the purchaser should ask the butcher to weigh the meat. Our members did this, but butchers showed great re-SIR_The but butchers showed great re-luctance to put the meat on the scales. The Master Butchers' Association was written to but has not replied. PRESIDENT W.A. WOMEN'S PROGRESSIVE GULD. Perth.

A New Order

SIR,--We hear a good deal shout a "new world order," after the war One hopes that widows without means and wives of invalid pensioners will then be looked upon as humans, as they are cordially ignored under the present order. INVALID'S WIFE. Victoria Park.

Wireless Valves

- SIR.—I have seen no public com-ment on the statement by a speaker at a women's conference that whereas the price of a wire-less valve is only 34d in Ame-rica it is 17/6 in Australia. Sure-ly this calls aloud for explana-tion.



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