

# NOTES AND COMMENTS

## Advent Message

For the past few years ago Pastor [Name] has spoken to his flock on the subject of the Advent season. He has said that it is high time to get out of sleep. He faced the fact that the world contained in a poem almost passed to German youth, that the Christian faith is "a sweet, existing thing—the poison which exists in the East". We have the same nearer home an attitude that is not a lie, at least in the present story of no importance. Dear [Name] to this German: "Dear brethren, if it were actually true here, we used our faith in Jesus Christ in His Redemption. . . . I have a question on which to recline, some would certainly be right in justifying the Christian faith the God from the East". In his surroundings, he felt that it might be if night and death were a need to be victorious, but "the philosophy of Christ cannot be stopped. He does not place us amid the misery of the world so that we should be afraid and listen to it, but that we may learn to listen to the coming Lord; and so that we, today and in our practical father round Him, believe and fighting".

## The Loss of the "Sydney"

**A**BSOLUTE cannot be compared; it is really impossible to say that the loss of a ship's company and a fine ship in a few minutes is less or more pitiful than a similar loss on a battlefield. Nevertheless, the loss of the *Sydney*, not long ago seen in Sydney Harbour, brings home to us the fact of war near us in a more poignant way than news of battles far away. May those who mourn be comforted from on high! We are doubtful whether the official reticence in this case was wise. It is impossible to prevent rumours about such a disaster, and most people had heard the rumour at least a week before the official announcement. It should be possible for officials to learn of rumours and to refute or confirm them promptly. If a rumour has spread as widely as did that of the loss of the *Sydney*, it is certain that it will have reached enemy ears if there is any means of reaching them. Secrecy in such a case tends to defeat its own ends.

his part. If the cause of unionism is of sufficient importance to override our fundamental freedom of action, so also is the cause of the survival of democracy. But compulsory unionism is not being put forward as a necessary war-time deprivation of freedom, but as a policy to be continued into peacetime. We are doubtful whether those who sponsor it have fully considered its implications: among others, it means that there must be a union for every employed person to join, and some unions are already very cautious about admitting new members. We can conceive of serious difficulties within union ranks; how are they to be settled? Perhaps the necessary legislation when brought forward will show that such problems have been thought out. We shall be more than interested to see what form the legislation will take.

## CHURCH NEWS

### Diocese of Goulburn

#### BISHOP'S VISIT TO GUNNING PARISH

**O**N Sunday, November 23, the Bishop visited the parish for Confirmation.

At 11 a.m. the new fence and gates around the beautiful little church at Breadalbane, the gift of Mrs. Gerald Chisholm, were dedicated. Then followed the Sacrament of Confirmation, for the first time administered in the new church, when 17 candidates were presented. There was an exceptionally good attendance. The church itself was looking at its best, and the flowers were really beautiful.

At 3 p.m. in the new church of St. Mark, at Gunning, nine candidates were presented for Confirmation, the first to be held here also. It was hoped to dedicate a new bell, but it

the vicar, he addresses the children at the day and Sunday schools. Notwithstanding his arduous duties, Mr. Pritchard still retains his health and strength, and with cheerfulness and courage he will enter upon his fifth year as Diocesan Commissioner with the full confidence that the many subscribers to his fund will once again welcome a visit from him next year.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Social Injustice

**S**ir—Mr. Howard has courteously replied to my letter on the question of ownership of land, but it is hard to see any clarification in his letter in your issue of November 21. One assumption, which seems not unreasonable, must be made in considering his letter. When he speaks of "a permanent title to the use of the land" presumably he means exclusive use, i.e., the Government would not lease a piece of land simultaneously to two tenants who wanted it for incompatible purposes. That seems an inevitable assumption to start with, but if it is wrong Mr. Howard will no doubt correct me.

In his second paragraph Mr. Howard says that a man "would still have the right to let or sell or bequeath all improvements on the land together with the permanent use of the land to whomsoever he wished" and the devise would pay rent.

In his third paragraph he says: "A citizen has the permanent use of the land on condition that he pays an annual rent to the Government."

In his fourth paragraph he says: "If the land is thus rented according to its value it would be put to the best use for it would not pay to keep it idle."

Does it pay to keep land idle when it is owned? A capital sum has been paid for it, which could otherwise be earning interest, and it is hard to see that an annual rent would be any greater inducement to put the land to good use than the sinking of a capital sum in it, not to mention



**"They act like a charm."**

**"I'm truly blessed!"**

**T**HE survey of world affairs given by the Minister for External Affairs on the last day of the Federal Session was a striking indication of the increasing status of the Commonwealth. The survey mentioned representation in the Dutch East Indies, in Timor,

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