

## The Sunday

FEBRUARY 17, 1952

**NEW YORK** 

close ties

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS (from WEEK world correspondents)

WANTS TO GET HERE SOON

L ONDON, Sat.-When the Queen resumes her Australian and New Zealand tour-much earlier than at first seemed possible—her programme must differ in some respects from that arranged for her as Princess.

Towards the end of this year, or very early next year, are possible times for her departure from Britain, provided Australia and New Zealand indicate that those dates are suitable to them.

The young Queen has made it known that she mants to be there before the summer vanishes.

As the Queen and reigning conarch the Constitution will be the constitution will be the constitution will be the constitution will be constituted by the con made it known that she wants to be there before the summer vanishes.

As the Queen and reigning Monarch the Constitution will allow her to participate in ceremonies such as the open-ing of Parliament, which not have been possible er to the Throne.

-From-Trevor Smith

Nevertheless she is un-likely to allow the fact that she is now the Sovereign to eliminate such informality as is consistent with the dignity of her new status. Both the Queen and her husband love informality— the Duke of Edinburgh is very much a man of individuality, and often is refreshingly un-

Many burdens

AUSTRALIA and New Zealand need have little concern about this side of the picture. this side of the picture.

The real problem will be in amending the programme to avoid throwing too much on her young shoulders.

For years now, long before the late King's illness, there has been much anxious discussion about the increasing weight of the dutiles thrown on the Royal family. It is in that light that it is hoped Queen Elizabeth's immediate advisers, with Mr. Mennies and Mr. Holland will ensure that the new Australian and New Zealand programmes will keep to a minimum the opening of exhibitions and meetings, the laying of foundation stones, and

f foundation stones, and arious other celebrations and ets of Royal patronage.

'Give a chance"

THIS has been taken up pointedly by the of Westminster, Dr.

Preaching at the West-minster Abbey service to he late King, he said he King and the Queen fother, in recent years, ad been overworked, and the c had taken advantage of courage and devotion to

added this about

de added wills about a grant we do not demand too ich of her.

"Let us give her a chance o he not only a Queen but its a woman, with a life to mioy and a mother with shildren for whom to care."

It is also recalled—though and an uninton would be consistent with an online or with the second of th is also recalled—though an opinion would be coned almost absurd and 
able to-day—that Queen 
ita, though among the 
successful of English 
salways maintained that 
eighty was a task for 
and that women were 
suited for it.

Gave audience

VET young Queen Elizabeth is al- Westminster makes Elizaady fulfilling her words beth the Second Queen of her Accession speech, she would emulate her of her first acts, even

te the Sixth in giving a

fairs.

The new Queen made only one change—whereas King George the Sixth received the Prime Minister each Tuesday at 5.30 p.m. Queen Elizabeth is making it an hour later because between five and six o'clock she intends to give her time to her children. Labour rift

WITH the King's

harges, to be followed by a rim Budset.
Alongside all' this is the abour Party's internal strife—the Bevanites' bid to take ommand, which they deny.

the brief pending session

Before the King's funeral the Government had scrupu-lously avoided discussing a renewal of plans for a visit

But the belief is growing steadily in the lobbies that the Queen may take up her plans for a tour of Australia in February or March of 1953 at the point at which they were interrupted this year.

Liberal back-benchers are pointing out that both Queen Victoria and George V trav-elled to India to be invested as Empress and Emperor.

Ceremony?

Australia and of the other big Commonwealth countries in a parallel sense to that in which her great-great-grand-mother was Empress of India.

They have not got quite so

THEY maintain that

the Statute of

weeks' time.

by the Queen.

Messages have been flowing into the British Embassy, British consulates, British information services, and the New York offices of British

newspapers.
The United States mourns
the death of the King. All
Americans wish Queen Elizabeth II a long and pros-

When the news first news, to biographies of the roke here, people said, but King, the new Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Royal the King is dead"—not the King of England"—story of the Crown.

"the King of England"-American interest and curiosity have been insati-able.

Modest part

Election plan

-From-

Harold Cox

April of next year—just in time for votes to be counted so that lucky candidates may enter on their term in the Senate from July 1.

But it is quite obvious that Australia could not stage a Senate election while it was receiving and entertaining the Queen.

If there is any likelihood of a Royal visit as suggested, the Government will have to recast plans drastically and hold the Senate election in the late spring or early summer of this year.

Senate tear

have revealed a proper

perspective by rewarding

senators a little more highly than members of the House of Representatives, all too many senators fear that the public generally do not share his refined sense of values. They think that unless something can be done to

WHILE Mr. Justice

Nicholas may

Because I had the honour to report the Royal tour of Canada and saw Queen Eli-zabeth and the Duke partici-pate in scores of formal func-tions and dozens of informal meetings. I have been asked meeting after question. question after question.

'Queen of Australia' C ANBERRA, Sat.—The capital expects a dependable hint very soon whether London reports that the Royal visit will be only relatively briefly delayed as a result of the King's death are well well based.

This may come before the brief pending session of Parliament in three recks' time.

Before the King's funeral the Government had scrupulusly avoided discussing a enewal of plans for a visit y the Queen.

But it is being seriously suggested that there should be, as early as possible in each of the British Commonwealth capitals, formalities supplementary to the Coronation.

The modern air travel would make this possible would make this possible with the Senate poll.

The Government has moved solwly on its promise to hold a referendum which will provide Constitutional safeguards against snap nationalisation certains the continuous co

against snap nationalisation ventures by a Socialist ad-

CONFIRMATION of the London rets that the Queen may t Australia early next Lynne problem

It is a curious commentary upon the manner in which the British Commonwealth adapts itself to its ever-proceeding evolution that Liberal Party members who opposed ratification of the Statute of West-minster by the Curtin Government are now the first to suggest that Australia should link its subtly changed status in a formal way with the accession of the new Queen.

GOVERNMENT lobbies have quickened to a sharp and unexpected tension following the death of Mr. Eggins, M.H.R., for Lynne (N.S.W.). The Lynne electorate, just inside the Queensland-New South Wales border, may be-

come the scene of a sharp fight between the two parties to the Federal coalition when the necessary by-election is held next month. Something of the crusading fervour which has tempor-arily wrecked non-Labour re-lations in Victoria seems to have infected Liberal Party headquarters in Sydney.

headquarters in Sydney.

A group within the State executive thinks that the time is ripe to purge New South Wales of the heresy of Country Party doctrine, and that the right way to start is to nominate a candidate and to launch a campaign to capture the Lynne seat—traditional Country Party territory—from the Country Party. year.

Even without having the possible diversion of a Royal visit as an excuse by electors not to vote, senators are beginning to panic over the apparently formidable problem of how to persuade electors to attend the polling booths to tinker with a ballot paper which so many people don't understand.

Constitutional history will be made at the Senate election.

Stocks down

FIELD reports say that as a result of the courageously honest Budget plans which Sir Arthur Fadden launched, Country Party stocks are lower in the country areas than for a long time.

The grapevine reports that Mr. Menzies and other senior members of the parliamentary Liberal Party are exerting quiet pressure to persuade the New South Wales executive to work for the Country Party instead of against it in the coming by-election.

A decision is likely this week against the background of fact that a non-Labour squabble in Lynne could seriously strain the bonds that hold the Federal Government cohesively together in Canberra.

THE RESEARCH BUREAU HOLDS AN AUTOPSY

# film industry?

USTRALIA'S once promising moving picture industry formally expired A this month, when the last big studio at Pagewood, Sydney, began packing its equipment for shipment to England.

There was a time when, despite our limited resources, we were actually showing the Americans how to make pictures.

What went wrong? Can't we make paying pictures here? Do Australian filmgoers boycott local products? Has

our industry been beaten by the tied-house system?

Australians are rated as the most enthusiastic picturegoers in the world.

For every 1000 members of our population we have more than 180 theatre seats available. England is a bad second with 86, and America third with 78.

Yearly we purchase some 200 million tickets to chema shows — an impressive figure for a penulation of any 8.300 and angles and the cauchy for the picture-going public?

There are more than 800 independent theatres in Australia with managers all striving to hire box office hits. Many other cinemas generally tied to one particular brand of imported film are still free to run occasional outside productions. Distribution of our films is not the cause of the film's industry failure.

That leaves us with the question of quality.

Yearly we purchase some 200 million tickets to cinema shows — an impressive figure for a population of only 8,300.000. Film industry should be a natural here

would seem to follow that in a country such as ours a movie making industry would be a natural

Square Garden for General Dwight Eisenhower.

Eighteen thousand people turned up. It was a dizzy, gaudy occasion.

force. There was a delega-tion from New Hampshire, led by a girl in a bathing cos-

A musical comedy actress, Ethel Merman, did a dance, band-leader Fred Waring led a chorus entitled "Where But in America?"

Film stars were there in

quality.

Mr. Ken Hall, of Cinesound, the doyen of Mr. Ken Hall, of Cinesound, the doyen of Australian motion picture producers, told the bureau: "Never in the 22 years I have been in the industry has a good locally-made film falled in Australia. Never once have the local theatres refused to screen it. Box office returns prove that a genuinely first-class local film will outsell a comparable American or English film.

This fact kills the standard criticism that Australians will not support home, made

Australians will not support home-made

A topline American hit (super-colossals such as Gone With the Wind and Going My Way excluded) will gross somewhere between £20,000 and £50,000 in Australia.

Several local films have all returned well over £50,000 to Australian box offices, Among them are: 40,000 Horsemen, On Our Selection, Smithy, and Sons of Matthew.

An average American A grade main feature will gross in Australia approximately £10,000 to £15,000. £10,000 to £15,000.
Many of our films have easily beaten those figures.
Silence of Dean Maitland was just under £50,000 and The Squatter's Daughter close behind it.

Go well on our own market

AMERICAN B features (shown first programmes) earn about £4000 to £6000 in Aus-

about £4000 to £6000 in Australia.

It would be almost impossible to hame an Australian picture which did worse than that.

On these statistics it can be said that the best Australian films sell better in Australia than the best American, barring, of course, the rare American world-beaters.

I'The most successful film made in Australia was The

The popular appeal of Eisenhower and the demand for him are great; but you cannot run for President at made in Australia was The Overlanders which cost about £80,000 and grossed throughout the world about £250,000.

But this picture was made by English producers and is ex-cluded from the above list which is 100 per cent. Aus-

Why then has our industry collapsed? collapsed? Because of high costs of production these days, overseas sales on top of good local returns are needed to produce real profits. And we cannot establish an overseas market. American critics generally are harsh on even our best films.

> Our faults and our accents

HERE are some typical American cracks:-

Rats of Tobruk: "A sincere but tedious tribute to Aus-trallan infantrymen." "Downright painful." "One of the most harrowing bores in years."

of the most harrowing bores in years."

Eureka Stockade: "A blurred copy of similar westerns from Hollywood." "It's disjointed drama is hampered considerably by a profusion of Down Under accents."

Sons of Matthew: "Strictly according to the formula of low-budget leatherneck films."

Our Australian accent seems to be a regular stumbling block in America. It is claimed that in mild-western areas the locals can't even understand our dialogue. Smithy, which grossed \$50,000 in the U.S., was one of the few Australian pictures the Americans liked. They also supported 40,000 Horsemen.

The English take more

also Supported wow horsemen.
The English take more
kindly to us. They paid over
240,000 to see 40,000 Horsemen and 235,000 to see "Dad
and Dave Come to Town"
(1938). The Overlanders was
quite a riot in England.
But such overseas hits are
too few to encourage local
producers.

All started on a tennis court

AUSTRALIA'S film A industry started in 1900 on a tennis court at Salvation Army girls' ne in Melbourne, A home in Melbourne. A Salvation Army officer draped the wire round the court with painted screens and made a

Distinction

CARTOON VIEW: Trail of the lonesome dove

100-footer entitled The Early
Day Christian Martyrs.

Many shorts were made here between 1900 and 1908.
Then Australia revolutionised the world movie industry by making the first full length feature consisting of live reels.

Titled The Kelly Gang it cost the startling sum of 1400. It grossed 255,000.

Melodrama vied with bushrangers for popularity. The Love Child and What Woman Ken Hall produced the first of the famous bush comic pictures in 1932—On Our Selection—which cost £5000, and grossed £60,000.

Our film industry seemed destined for a splendid future. Then came World War II to spoil everything. Melodrama vied with bish-rangers for popularity. The pictures in 1932—On Our Love Child and What Woman Suffers were typical of the and grossed £80,00. Our film industry seemed the popular tear jerkers of the and grossed £80,00. Our film industry seemed the composition of the and grossed £80,00. Our film industry seemed the and the properties of the and grossed £80,00. Our film industry seemed the and the properties of the and grossed £80,00. Our film industry seemed the and the properties of the and grossed £80,00. Our film industry seemed the and the properties of the and grossed £80,00. Our film industry seemed the and the properties of the and grossed £80,00.

In the days of

Snowy Baker

star of those days.

SNOWY Baker was

the local top film

good to pay for itself, Ealing, the big English company, took over Page-wood Studios in the post-war era, and scored a mag-nificent first try success. nificent first try success with The Overlanders.

From studio to

star of those days.

He dived 80 feet and climbed great cliffs in person to win fame as The Man From Kangaroo and Jackeroo of Coolabons.

The 30's provided a continuous string of sensations in our local industry. In 1933, Charles Chauvel. looking for a Fietcher Christian for his Wake of the Bounty read in a Brisbane paper of a young man who had saved a girl and himself from a wrecked yacht.

Within 18 months, Errol Flynn was earning £1000 a week in Hollywood.

Overseas players were imported wholesale. Helen Twelvetrees starred in Thoroughbred, Charles Farrell in features.

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ANOTHER SHIPMENT JUST ARRIVED, THE FAMOUS "WILKINSON'S" RURAL SCENES DINNER WARE. See small Window Display of this lovely Crockery . . . and by the way, mention of Show Windows reminds us that it will not be long ere the hoardings which have obliterated our Windows for the last 12 months come down to reveal to you

what are believed to be THE FINEST DISPLAY WINDOWS IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE. Watch for Further Announcements.

DWARD AND LAMB OF BRISBAN

## Street beggar fined for simulating loss of

right: Just a blind to get money. Egyptian leaders trying to take the "mob"

it will be the first occasion upon which there has been a Federal Senate poll without a concurrent poll of the House slinging that's been going on there. ARCHERY TITLES: Two young Queenslanders said to n a "sweet thing": Bulls-eyes?

Board of Control won't say if it regards Barnes as

Glasgow folk raided broken barrels of whisky dropped treet: The gutter-swipes! Winston Churchill succeeded in getting large U.S. steel

"Bose-Wose" girl singer left £15,000: So Do budget financial experts regard us as gimme-pigs?

the British Crown has not vanished. death having, in broke here, people said, Mr. Churchill's words, "the King is dead"-not "stilled the clatter-chatter is dead.

"stilled the clatter-chatter of twentieth century life." Parliament is about to resume the bitter right versus left quarrel.

There is the next stage of Labour's clash with Mr. Churchill over his talks with President Truman, an all-in fight over the health service charges, to be followed by a grim Budget.

CANBERRA

tour hopes

Elizabeth is seen as

MOST newspapers, day after day, have devoted almost their give an accurate picture of the Queen and her husband.

The United States has often

The American colonies were lost in

the revolutionary war, but the bond to

Newsreel and television cameras have been brought into my office by crews from the major networks.

One has done one's best to tell a little of the British heritage and tradition, and to give an accurate nicture of the grive an accurate nicture of the

shown it is a good and sin-cere friend of the British family of nations, but never more so than now. Marvel now

-From -

Don Iddon

FOR a day or two there was a slightly jarring note in some dispatches from London and in some editorials here.

The colonies were lost,

but bond has not gone

NEW YORK .- If anyone doubted the closeness of the United Kingdom and the

United States, these last few sad days have dispelled the doubt.

in America?"

I went along to see for myself and got crushed in the crowd, which included girls dressed as cowboys and men dressed as Red Indians.

The general's voice was heard in recordings of his speeches made when he was President of Columbia University. There were references to the "once great" Empire, and phrases such as "King George's reign marked the end of an era of British power." But that was only at the beginning. Now the endur-ing might and strength of the Commonwealth are realised and marvelled over.

To-day, Americans are reading that Queen Elizabeth reigns over 800 million people, is Queen of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Af-rica: the Sovereign of colonies

rica; the Sovereign of colonies and protectorates in Zanzibar and Pemba, of Malta and Hong Kong, the Leeward and the Windward Islands; ruler of a fifth of the great globe. Americans realise that Britain is not just the United Kingdom but that Britain is everywhere—on the Alberta plains and oilfields, in the African jungles, in the green pastures of New Zealand, in the great cities and vast farms of Australia, in a thousand islands, and on all the seven Seas.

**Proud time** 

THIS is a sad time proud one. People here do

proud one. People here do not pretend to understand the mystic qualities of the Throne and the Sovereign.

Professor Max Lerner throws up his hands and says:
"One often wonders how the British manage with little more than a few sticks and stones and a bit of glue and some awagger to keep an Empire together."

Ah, Professor, there is far more than "sticks and stones,"

a bit of glue and some swag-ger." There is love and loy-There is love and loy

I sometimes feel the massive American republic feels a little lost without a sovereign of its own.

ereign of its own.

It has an outstanding general or two, or perhaps some political figures to revere, but they are often mired in strife.

So, usually the Republic is left with film stars and athletes to put on a pedestal, but film stars grow old and lined and athletes grow weak and tired, and the pedestal is kicked away. kicked away.

And Canada

OUR good American cousins are a little cousins are a little nonplussed by the speed with which the Canadians proclaimed Queen Elizabeth as Queen of Canada.

Americans have often said to me "You know, the United States and Canada are one and the same country, really. You can't tell the difference."

You can't tell the difference."

Can't you? I can. The
Canadians can.

The latest news from
Canada is that the country
is not fond of being termed
a Dominion and may decide
to call itself the Kingdom of
Canada.

The New York Times' distinguished Ottawa correspondent, P. J. Philip, writes:
"Canada is a monarchy, not
a republic. She is an independent country, voluntarily
owing allegiance and loyalty
to the Queen of the Realm."
I tell you, the death of
the King and the succession
of the Queen have shown
the world that the Commonwealth and Empire are
stronger than ever.

Sublime to-AGAINST the back

ground of the King's death and the coming to the throne of Queen Elizabeth II, every-thing else seems pretty trivial. Here there has been the mammoth rally in Madison

National Library of Australia