



THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM

CENTENARY PROGRAM
COMMUNIST DISOLUTION ACT.
CONSCRIPTION.
RE ARM JAPS.
BAN FREE SPEECH.

MENZIES

AMBROSE DYSON



PEACE FESTIVAL

Ambrose Dyson



Faithful son of the Australian people

On November 26, 1952, Ambrose Dyson, the great people's artist, died.

His sudden and tragic death was deeply mourned by thousands upon thousands of toiling people throughout Australia.

Ambrose Dyson's warm, rugged cartoons were loved by the people to whom he belonged. Dyson's greatness lay in the fact that he battled as the people battled, he laughed as they laughed, and hated as they hated.

His rich talents attracted the attention of the daily press lords, who offered him lucrative positions to draw for them—against the people.

But Ambrose was too big for their miserable bribes. He joined the staff of the Melbourne Guardian. He drew for the people, joined in their day to day struggles, and in this way his art matured and became a powerful weapon in the cause of truth, freedom and peace.

He was the greatest of the Dysons.

This folio of some of his best cartoons is published as a tribute to a faithful son of the Australian people in whose hearts he will never die.

In Memoriam

Ambrose Dyson

*"The people loved him"—there's his epitaph,
He loved the people. Brother, fill my glass:
Dyson is dead, the great cartoonist... Gone
The eye and cudgel of the working class.*

*How shall we mourn him, who was so alive?
The very shadows breathed beneath his pen
And people rubbed their wondering eyes and said:
Behold his genius. Why, these ghosts are men!*

*Peace to his ashes? No, his fighting soul
Would seek no hiding place among the stars.
He chose this bar of judgement: where the din
Of native voices rings in crowded bars.*

*There will we find him with the mates he loved,
Where seamen, poets and mechanics meet.
Amby is dead? Not while one breath of life
Shall stir the dust in one Australian street.*

DAVID MARTIN.

Ambrose Dyson—Man and Artist of the People

By Frank Hardy



IN the spring of 1952, Ambrose, the greatest of the Dysons, died, and now in this new spring we have prepared a memorial booklet of his work.

When the news of his death spread through the progressive movement, people were smitten with deep sorrow, for Ambrose Dyson was beloved by all who knew him.

He has bequeathed to the people a precious and powerful inheritance of cartoons, drawings and paintings, which will remain valid through the decades.

The drawings reproduced here speak for themselves of Ambrose Dyson, the people's artist—I should like to write of Amby Dyson, the man.

Born Edward Ambrose Dyson at South Melbourne on December 15, 1908, he was the son of Ambrose Dyson, the brilliant Bulletin cartoonist, nephew of the more famous Will Dyson and the writer Edward Dyson,

He was, as it were by birth, steeped in the democratic Australian tradition. He was a fifth generation Australian on his mother's side and his grandfather, "Flash" Dyson, a mining engineer, is said to have fought in the Eureka Stockade uprising in 1854.

Amby himself was very much a typical Australian. He had a contempt for authority and convention, a hatred of the forces of capitalism, the generals, judges, millionaires, and the rest; mateship was to him a religion—he loved human company for its own sake; he had the spirit of the pioneers. But his Australianism was not chauvinistic or nationalistic, and it was more than instinctive; he knew the work of Lawson and Furphy and the other giants of our literature and that of Roberts and Withers and the other giants of our pictorial art.

When Ambrose Dyson, senior, died at the age of thirty-eight, his son Amby was only five years old. Mrs. Dyson was left penniless and suffered the direst poverty as she strove bravely to bring up her son. She took in boarders in tenement houses round Richmond and Collingwood.

Thus Amby's childhood was spent among the workers and the unemployed, the exploited and the abandoned of the Melbourne slums, and paraphrasing Vance Palmer, one can say that these were his people, and he was with them to the end.

Amby's formal education consisted of a few years at the Yarra Park State School in Bridge Road, Richmond, where he was a brilliant but rather spasmodic pupil.

Leaving school in 1922, he found work as an office boy in an architect's office, and, after that, for fourteen years worked at various unskilled trades until his art training began in 1936. He was then nearly twenty-eight years old.

I first met Amby Dyson when I joined the staff of the Army journal "Salt," in 1944, and it became my privilege to penetrate behind that untidy exterior, that bluff and often bawdy manner of speech, that impish, sometimes crude humor which provoked a guffaw rather than a smile, to meet on the closest terms the real Ambrose Dyson—the man and artist of the people.

If the man had a fault, it was that he was so utterly unselfish that he often disregarded completely his own welfare. His last meeting with Mr. Jack Morrison, of the International Bookshop, was typical of one facet of Amby's character.

Shortly before his fatal illness, Amby walked into the International Bookshop, dressed as usual in shabby clothes—a safari jacket, a relic of his army days, old brown trousers and a battered hat. As well, the sole of one of his shoes had broken away from its upper, and flapped as he walked.

Holding up his foot he grinned and said: "Want to buy a good pair of shoes?"

"Here, take that shoe off," Jack replied. "I'll tack the sole back on for you."

"It doesn't matter," Amby replied. "I've got two quid here to buy another pair."

Insisting, Jack took the thoroughly worn out shoe upstairs and tacked the sole on. When he returned to the shop, Amby said: "Thanks, I won't need new shoes now, so I'll spend the money on books instead."

In 1945 Amby joined the Communist Party and from then until his death worked unstintingly for the cause in which he learned to believe so deeply, combining creative art with political activity.

In a message to the Dyson Memorial Committee, Edgar Ross, of the Miners' Federation, contended: "He was Australia's greatest political cartoonist." Certainly, Australia has produced no greater.



After the war he worked exclusively for the working class movement and its press, drawing literally hundreds of cartoons—cartoons that held great power, bitterness and hatred; and, in equal measure, subtlety, humor and love. No struggle or campaign of the working class was complete without Dyson cartoons or posters. While he lay on his death-bed, his cartoons did battle in the Victorian elections. On the very day of his death Communist newspapers came off the press containing his cartoons. In the great referendum campaign, no less than one million copies of his withering comic, "The Calamitous Career of Dictator Bob" were distributed, the most telling single piece of "No" propaganda.

Such was his versatility that he excelled in many media of his art, oils, water color, dry point, wash and black and white. As an illustrator of books and stories he was unsurpassed.

Although he despaired about the development of his oil painting until the day he died, 1944 and 1947 showed big development but his own dissatisfaction and pressure of other work kept him from painting again until less than a year before his death. In those last months he completed his two finest paintings, "Mayday March" and "Peace Festival" (the latter is reproduced here). I was at his Upwey house the day he completed "Peace Festival." He was greatly excited and viewed the painting as the beginning of a new period of development.

But fate deigned otherwise and Ambrose Dyson, the great artist and cartoonist, the friend and teacher of the youth, our loyal and steadfast comrade, died of thrombosis only a few months later.

Ill-fortune dogged him to the end: A few days before he died, he and Phyl, his loyal mate for nearly fifteen years, lost their second baby. But he and his work have triumphed over it all.

Soon after his death, the Amby Dyson Memorial Committee was set up to help perpetuate the memory of him, and to assist Phyl and their little daughter Janie, who bids fare to follow in her father's footsteps as yet another Dyson artist.

Speaking at the funeral, Mr. Ted Hill, the Victorian State Secretary of the Communist Party, put into words the sentiments of all who knew Amby: "Departing from us, his sincerest wish would have been that we carry forward the great tradition of which he was such a staunch champion. To that we devote ourselves and in that spirit bid him farewell."

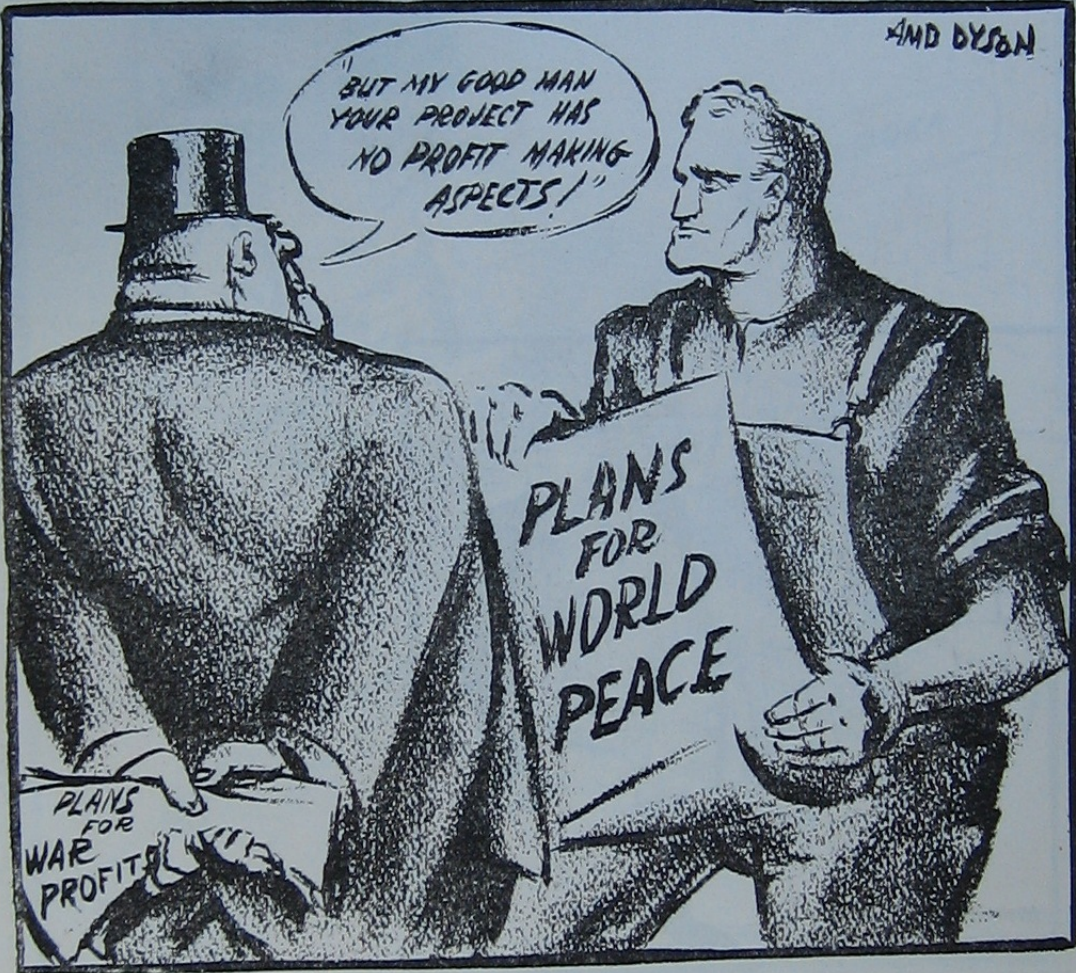


The illustrations on this and the preceding pages are some of the scraper-board decorations drawn by Ambrose Dyson for Frank Hardy's novel, Power Without Glory.



AND DYSON

"BUT MY GOOD MAN
YOUR PROJECT HAS
NO PROFIT MAKING
ASPECTS!"



PLANS
FOR
WAR
PROFITS

PLANS
FOR
WORLD
PEACE



U.S. BIG BUSINESS: Great invention this—you put in a dollar and it says whatever you want it to say.



Modern Version of Cartoon by Will Dyson in 1916.





Germ Warfare.

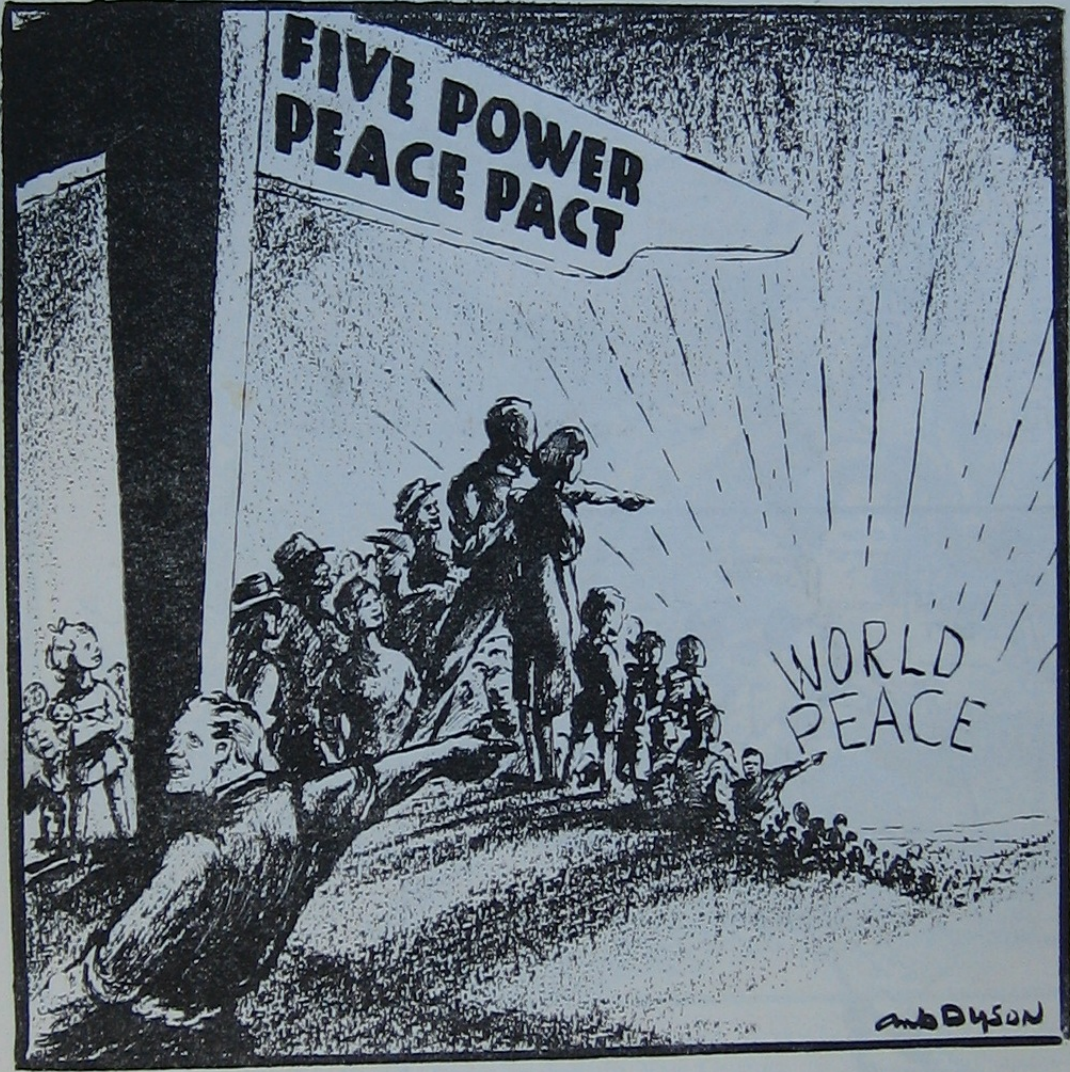


Sir Arthur Fadden (Deputy Prime Minister):
"The Federal Government will pursue its national
policy even if it is politically unpopular with the
greedy and selfish elements of the community."—
(Argus, June 30, 1952).

**FIVE POWER
PEACE PACT**

WORLD
PEACE

and BYSON





Here's the blood, Sam—let's have the dollars.

Amb Dyson.



NEWS ITEM: Tokio, Sunday.—Japan will press strongly for the right to migrate to the South Seas, including New Guinea, in her current peace talks with U.S. Ambassador at large, John Foster Dulles.—Sun, Jan. 22, 1951.



Henry Lawson: "This is not what we fought for."

NEWS ITEM: "U.S. Embassy officials admit they are making a file of Australians' fingerprints."



WALL ST. SHARES RALLY

"War Babies" Up

Australian Associated Press

NEW YORK, Wednesday. — The stock market responded today to President Truman's message to Congress with gains of up to four dollars, about 35/- a share.

There was large demand for "war baby" stocks. Most of those in demand were aircraft, steel, motorcar, copper and oil issues.

There was active but lesser demand for railways, chemical, electronic and industrial shares. About 1000 million dollars (£246,428,571) was added to market value of all stocks listed on exchange.

(President Truman has asked Congress for a huge war grant, unlimited powers of conscription and other sweeping powers in the Korean crisis. He proposes partial home front mobilisation.)

"War baby" stocks are those considered likely to gain most by the continuation or extension of war preparation.

DOW JONES INDEX	
High	Low
34.28	33.87
41.93	41.58
48.51	47.11
52.1	51.29
58.1	57.63
64.1	63.48
70.1	69.13

War Boom on Tokio 'Change

TOKIO, July 17 (A.A.P.).

The Korean war has created a boom on the Tokyo market, which until recently was suffering its depression in history.

Page 26—THE SUN—Saturday, July 15, 1950

BROKEN HILL PTY. PROFIT

£91,144 HIGHER: DIVIDEND HOLDS

BROKEN HILL PTY. CO. LTD., Australia's largest industrial company, earned a profit of £91,144 higher than the previous year.

...d. Colson, manufacturer reasonably satisfied results in

STEADY HERE

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AMB DYSON





The Essential Services Act Fiasco. . .



The Man who Came to Dinner.

SHARPLEY RATS



"Hark the Herald Angel Sings."



Put Menzies Back in the Pound!



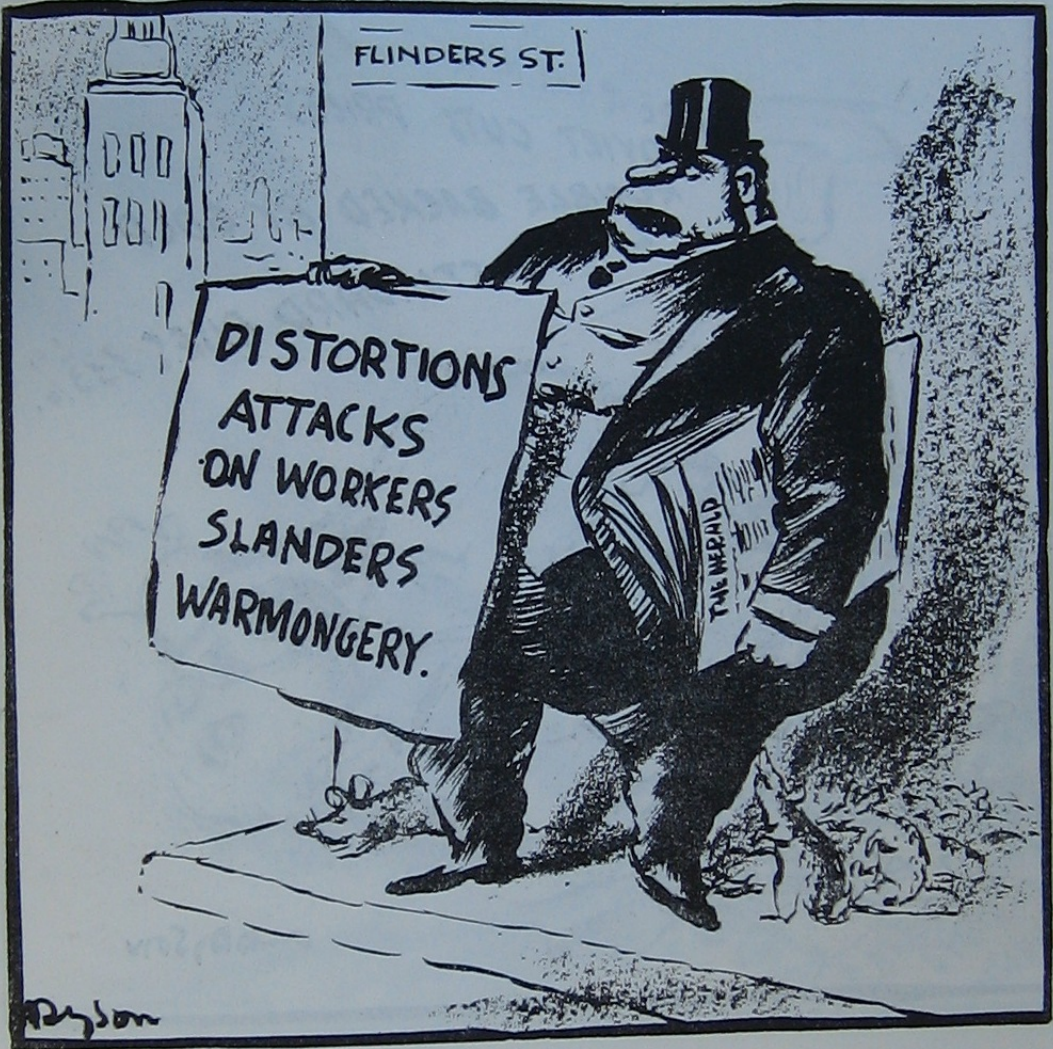
FIELD MARSHAL SLIM: As a soldier I am never satisfied.

FLINDERS ST.

DISTORTIONS
ATTACKS
ON WORKERS
SLANDERS
WARMONGERY.

THE HERALD

Ryson



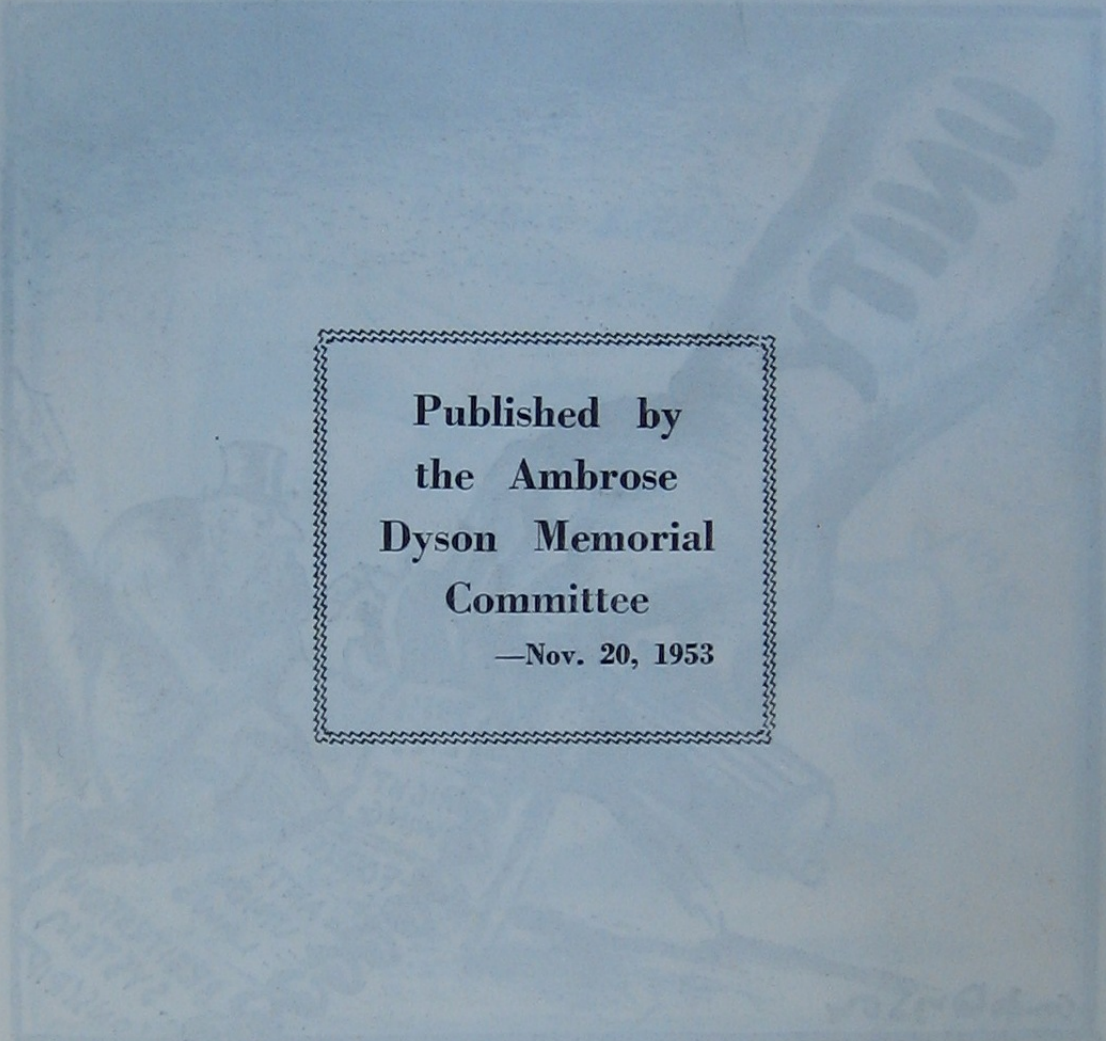


HERE IS THE NEWS -
SOVIET CUTS PRICES
ROUBLE BACKED BY GOLD
LIVING STANDARD RISES 333 1/3%

DEVALUATION
INFLATION

andy sorn





**Published by
the Ambrose
Dyson Memorial
Committee**

—Nov. 20, 1953