



- NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
- BACKGROUND INFORMATION
- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS



The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance -

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IN THIS ISSUE

In Defence of Our Constitution With Prayer and Passionate Conviction by Geoffrey Dobbs	1
The Proven Constitution and the Unique Nature of Every Man	2
Australian Need to Recognise the Truth	3
Unions Campaign to Pad the Electoral Roll	4
Working 60 Hours a Week at 3 Part-Time Jobs and Still Living Paycheck to Paycheck	6
Europe in Pursuit of the Larger Lunacies by A. C. Cummings 1936	7

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Election 2016 may herald the beginning of the end of party rule in Australian politics. Indeed, rather like Mikhail Gorbachev, Malcolm Turnbull might just have inadvertently pulled the trigger on the dissolution of the party system.

It's a big thought, after a century or more of the national interest being subordinated to vested interests, but there are signs that Australian electors are thoroughly jack of party politics and more than willing to try new things and new people...

It only takes one thing for this to happen. For a majority of voters to rip up their party how-to-vote cards, ignore the deluge of deceptive advertising and soon-to-be-broken promises, and put their mark next to the name of the most decent, well-intentioned Australian standing in their electorate. The one with a track record for honesty, trustworthiness, integrity, hard work and commitment to the future. The exact antithesis of the usual party hack. Of such small things are political revolutions made.

Julian Cribb is a Canberra-based author and science writer.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/comment/is-this-the-end-of-party-rule-20160502-gokc1m.html#ixzz48zXocoNG>

IN DEFENCE OF OUR CONSTITUTION WITH PRAYER AND PASSIONATE CONVICTION

Geoffrey Dobbs warned us a number of years ago as to what we face:

The British conception of the free and responsible man of the Common Law is derived from Christianity, and the British tri-partite Constitution of Sovereign, Lords and Commons is a Christian Constitution, developed over many centuries under the influence of the Christian Church.

It is desperately necessary for those nations which are so fortunate as to have developed a balanced, Christian Constitution, to realise its immense value, and to defend it, not out of mere conservatism, but with prayer and with passionate conviction, as the will of God and the essential foundation upon which a genuinely free Society may be built. This means going directly in the face of prevailing mass-prejudice, as created by the controllers of popular opinion.

It means always defending and strengthening the weaker, counter-balancing powers of the Constitution, such as the Crown, and the Upper House, rather than slavishly agreeing with the claims of dominant and aggressive powers which seek to sweep away the last hindrances to their monopoly.

It means rejecting wholly, as anti-Christian, the vice of envy of other people's privileges, of indeed all privilege, and instead demanding, with Magna Carta, that "everyman be confirmed in his privileges".

It means realising that, not only our tri-partite Constitution, but our Common Law, being based upon Natural Law, i.e. upon precedent and experience of the way things work in human affairs, is a unique expression of the Christian conviction, not only that the World was created by a Higher Power, with which human and statutory law has to conform, but also that this Power is no vast, remote and impersonal Deity, but is concerned with the practical details of human affairs to the point of incarnation as a human being.

BY THEIR FRUITS ...?

It is this "binding back" (re-ligare) of spiritual belief to practical affairs which has distinguished Christianity from the other World Religions, and resulted in that humble attention and submission to the precise facts of the matter which characterised the pioneers of modern science.

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With the abandonment of this religion and of this attitude by scientists, and the increasing pursuit of knowledge for the sake of the power which it gives to control and to dominate other beings, Science is plunging back into the morass of witchcraft and superstition, providing ever-clever techniques for outsmarting the common herd with meretricious goods and false explanations, while deploying its brain-power to develop the techniques of control over humanity.

In the face of the present situation there is really no time left for playing at religion in the churches, while adopting the opinions and ideas which stem from atheistic materialism in everyday life, including the fields of science, politics and economics.

The Christian conception of the Universe and of its Creator is one of a dynamic balance of diverse powers and beings, exercising different functions, and constituting a unity through their diversity, and not only through their homogeneity. The power which we call Love and which has the function of creating, i.e. of uniting and linking these diversities, each functioning freely according to its nature, into a new balance or being, may be seen operating throughout the Universe at every level, including that of chemical linkage, and of the dynamic equilibrium which every ecologist finds when he studies the natural associations of plants and animals.

When men co-operate with nature instead of trying to subdue it wholly, then we see one of the loveliest examples of this creative power at work, as may be seen, for instance, in the English country landscape

THE PROVEN CONSTITUTION AND UNIQUE NATURE OF EVERY MAN

If ever there was a Constitution which has been proved, on a vast scale, in its virtues, it is the British Constitution of balanced powers, ensuring that none of them should become a tyrannous monopoly. Consider, for instance, what power it was, which united in a balanced peace and unity the diverse peoples, races and creeds of India and of Nigeria! and what has happened after it was removed. Compare the size of the armed forces, the police, and the bureaucracy, which was necessary to maintain the scattered British Empire with that of the great monolithic Empire of Socialist Peoples republics...

No one supposes that the Christian conception has anywhere achieved perfection, or finished growing; but in the British Empire it was applied with a wonderful flexibility to a wide variety of different peoples at different stages of civilisation - and under it they enjoyed peace and stable government, and moved towards greater freedom and the agreed goal of national independence, which in every case was achieved peaceably, at least so far as Britain was concerned.

at its best, dotted as it is with the grey stone spires of village churches, which look as if they grew there (as in a sense they did) so much are they an integral part of the landscape, symbolising as they do the conception of the Universe which created it.

We have seen also that this dynamic equilibrium of diverse powers united by love is to be found also in the human family, and in that balance of political and other powers (including the tri-partite Constitution of Crown, Upper and Lower House) which have been developed gradually in the more Christian nations, and especially in Britain and the British Commonwealth.

The progress of mankind towards a Christian society has been far from a steady and continuous advance. There have been many setbacks and backslidings, and far from it being an "outdated creed" (as the current sneer-word has it) it is a creed which has been rarely and as yet only partially grasped and applied on the social scale. There has never yet been anything approaching a Christian Society, but among these imperfect attempts at it, the late, and bitterly derided British Empire and Commonwealth was perhaps the greatest in its scope and achievement.

The imperfections of this great association of peoples are not difficult to see in retrospect, and have been much exploited, mainly by people who condone, or support blatant tyrannies; but the fact remains that there never has been, before or since, so large an area of the world governed in relative peace, freedom and justice and held together with so small an element of force, and so large an element of loyalty. ***

The fatal weakness of this great association, in its later days, lay in its surrender of the Christian idea of equality, stemming as it does from revolutionary atheism, denying the unique nature of every man, and reducing him to the status of a political and economic unit.

It is quite essential that everyone should ponder and make up his mind about these two, wholly incompatible, conceptions of democracy, and having done so, act accordingly. Is it democracy that everyone should have an equal x-millionth of a "say" (according to the size of the electorate) as to which group is to dominate their lives, and that every child should have "equality of opportunity" in scrambling for the favours of the Top People?

Or is it not rather what people mean, and long for in their hearts, when they hear or say the word "democracy" that every man should be free to live his own life, within the limits of other people's freedom, as determined by a framework of law and order which it is the duty of the Government to maintain? ***

AUSTRALIANS NEED TO RECOGNISE THE TRUTH

It should be recognised by Australians, and the members of other, smaller nations, that the independence of their country from the more populous United Kingdom, arises from the second conception, and that the first would be fatal to it. If the metropolitan cities of Australia have a democratic right to dominate the country areas, because there are more people in them, then, surely, the City of London, which alone could out-vote Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne thrown together, has a democratic right to do so! In that case, the political separation (or Apartheid) of Australia from Britain was an anti-democratic and reactionary step, and all Australians who believe in one-man-one-vote, should demand a union of electorates with Britain, so that they can enjoy the democratic privilege of being outvoted by 4 to 1, or better still, join the U.S.A., where the Australian vote would scarcely be noticed.

And if this prospect does not appeal, if the distance of Australia from these great voting populations, and its different and unique character, are to be used as arguments for its independence, do not these arguments apply also to the difference between country and town and their people? No one could argue that the countryside ought to be as independent as a nation; but why, then, did our predecessors try to establish a balance between the two, irrespective of the great voting strength in the metropolitan cities? Was it not that they had a different conception of democracy? And was it not a more valid and practicable one than the automatic dominance of the city mass.

These same considerations apply in every case where the swamping of the smaller group by the larger, the crushing of the smaller mass by the greater is proposed in the name of "democracy" - that Europe should swallow Britain, that the Australian Commonwealth should dominate the States, that the Lower House of a Parliament or Legislature should sweep away the Upper House, that Big Business should swallow up small business, that "factory farming" should eliminate the small farmer, that huge "comprehensive schools" should

SOME CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS

The first step is to get our thinking clear about the two conceptions of democracy, that which stems from Christianity, and that which stems from atheism and/or any other of the 'isms'.

The second step is to defend, with passion and conviction, those Powers in our Constitution which check or limit the dictatorship of the Government; and particularly to defend those elements in their origin which provide alternatives to the "mandate" of the popular vote, which has degenerated into a forced

take the place of smaller, well-established schools with a tradition of good education, that universities should swell into vast, impersonal centres for mass instruction, and so on; meaning that, in every case, actual people shall be dominated by the mass, which, in turn, is dominated by fewer, and more remote, Bosses.

All this is familiar enough, but what is so incongruous about it, and confuses people so that they can take no action, is the idea that there is something "democratic", Christian, or in some way good about this "trend" towards Monopoly. Let us at least clear this nonsense out of the way. Every time it is Power talking: the greater Power wishing to extend itself, and to dominate more people. There is no moral virtue in the victory of the Big Battalions.

Why, everywhere is the Lower, or mass-elected Chamber, trying to eliminate the other traditional Powers of the Constitution which limit its power to impose its will on the people?

Nobody is afraid that the Monarchy, or the Lords (in Britain) or the Senate or State Councils in Australia, are aggressive Powers which might establish a tyranny or a dictatorship. On the contrary, they are jeered at as feeble anachronisms, which should be swept away, since they still interfere to a slight extent with the right of the elected Government to exercise absolute power over the people.

This is the claim that is being made: that the act of election confers the right of absolute dictatorship, limited only in time by the statutory need to have another election, which, as has occurred again and again (as was notably in Nazi Germany) can easily be swept away under cover of an "emergency" by an elected Government which is sufficiently obsessed by its sacred right to govern.

All this is not an "inevitable trend". It is something into which we are drifting through confused thinking.

choice between detested alternatives, performed under psychological pressure from the mass-media.

These elements include heredity in the case of the Monarchy, which gives a "vote", as it were to our ancestors and our cultural inheritance, since there is no "democratic right" of one generation to squander the inheritance of the next.

To have a President as Head of State, is to erect the principle of election into the sole basis of Society.

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(continued from previous page) In the case of an Upper House which is already elected, it is quite vital that the electorate should not be merely a replicate of the universal suffrage that elects the Lower House, other-wise the power-base for a dictatorship remains unchallenged.

The third step is to realise and defend the proper place of the ballot in the operation of a democratic society, and to take the initiative in developing it towards this.

The first virtue of the ballot is that it eliminates violence; and it is this aspect which is being side-tracked and attacked by our revolutionaries (who at the same time claim to be acting “democratically”).

The second is that, if properly used, it can provide an opportunity for the negative vote, the Voters’ Veto on the unwanted alternatives offered by those seeking power over us.

Finally, it might be used as a basis for the responsible vote, as suggested earlier.

The Fourth Step is to look, with confident imagination, into the potentialities for the future of a real democracy, including Constitutional changes to strengthen and revitalise the Powers which revise and, if necessary, limit, the power of the Executive.

UNIONS CAMPAIGN TO PAD THE ELECTORAL ROLL

From: <http://www.news.com.au/national/breaking-news/unions-to-call-20000-swinging-voters/news-story/4a5a2bd663a06f2c169b291684bd4896>

Unions will step up their election campaigning this weekend, making 20,000 telephone calls to swinging voters in marginal seats.

The two-day telethon will involve 600 ACTU volunteers asking voters about their issues of concern and urging them to put the Liberals last on July 2.

“We want to see Australians elect a government that will put their interests first, create jobs, and fund health and education with revenue from a fair and equitable tax system,” ACTU secretary Dave Oliver said in a statement.

This excerpt from a letter to Cairns News places a different slant on the story above:

“At the risk of exposing my ignorance, I am not sure how the unions could reliably know who is and isn’t currently a swinging voter in a marginal seat sufficient to “telephone” them.

This might include a power of temporary Veto by the Crown, in order to give the electorate an opportunity to reject oppressive or vicious legislation or interference with their personal lives.

Whatever the basis of the Revising Chamber, or Upper House, it must be such as to ensure the quality of its members, and also that it is free of the pressure of the mass-majority-vote, so that it is free to present without bias the claims of minorities, such as the rural people, or the vital professions, or any person or group whose oppression, in the name of the majority, should be vetoed by the Upper House.

Ultimately, we should have as our objective the dispersal of such power over their own affairs to the individual citizens as to enable them to control their political and economic servants. When this happens we shall, at least, be on the road, not only to political, but to the even more important economic democracy; which will imply, of course, decentralised financial control, in the pockets of the people, over the vast productive potential of our civilisation, which at present is being so appallingly misused, and squandered.

Ref: <http://www.alor.org/Political%20Democracy/Responsible%20Government%20in%20a%20Free%20Society.htm> ***

The sceptic in me immediately wondered if this was a cover story (above) for a secret plan that relies on the telephone campaign to identify occupancy at addresses known to have changed hands sufficiently recently. Real estate activity here in Forest Hill (Melbourne) has been epic in the past two years thanks to Chinese interest in Australian property. It must have generated hundreds of title transfers per electorate only recently, potentially representing thousands of electors who have died or moved away while their names remain on the roll.

Could the union telephone campaign be exploiting the latency arising from transfers of titles in the marginal seats to validate name of electors for impersonation at polling places on 2 July?

With electoral laws as fraud-friendly as they are and contests so nail-bitingly close, anyone not constrained by law would have to think themselves fools not to try.”

Ref: <https://cairnsnews.org/2016/05/17/unions-campaign-to-pad-the-electoral-roll/> ***

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JO NOVA ENCOURAGES READERS TO LISTEN TO HANNAN'S SPEECH

Brilliant BREXIT speech by Daniel Hannan:

“It’s not just the financial price of EU membership – it’s the democratic price. We fought a civil war in this country to establish the principle that laws should not be passed nor taxes raised except by our own elected representatives. And now supreme power is held by people who tend to owe their positions to having just lost elections: Peter Mandelson, Neil Kinnock and what have you.

No one is talking about drawbridges or isolation. Nowhere else in the world do countries apologise for wanting to live under their own laws. New Zealand is not about to join Australia. Japan is not applying to join China – and do you hear anyone complaining about these bigoted Sino-sceptics in Tokyo?

It is a natural healthy thing for a democracy to live under its own laws whilst trading with every other country in the world.

The United Kingdom is the world’s fifth-largest country, it is the fourth-largest military power.

THE AUTISM EPIDEMIC

by Mrs Vera West

A 2015 report by the US CDC gives the US autism rate as one out of every 45 children. In 2003 the rate was one out of every 150 children, and this autism pandemic seems to be occurring across the developed world. Some speculate that by 2025 it may be as high as one out of every two children! At that rate the human race will be heading towards extinction. (*Natural News.com, May 11, 2016*)

The main causes, at least discussed by alternative health folk include vaccines, electromagnetic radiation (Wi-Fi, mobile phones, computers etc) and our polluted food (GM foods, chemicals in the food such as glyphosate). This seems to be a problem of creeping extinction brought about from a mindless, uncritical faith in technology and technocrats.

Not only do people need to minimise use of electromagnetic radiation devices, eat organic and understand the vaccine issue, but they need to begin to develop a critical consciousness about technology and how technology mixed with power leads to technocratic tyranny.

So-called “smart cities” subjected to comprehensive IT control - as is being done for Adelaide (see *Technocracy News, May 2, 2016*) will not only undermine privacy and liberty, but will encase humans in an electromagnetic cage, worse than the one we are now imprisoned in. As one blogger put it: “Expect mind-boggling incompetence and bureaucratic insanity that will cost millions but produce misery and frustration for the population”. ***

How much bigger do we have to be before we have the confidence to raise our eyes to more distant horizons?”

- - *Daniel Hannan, Ref: <https://youtu.be/FC9nDCmqj8>*

If there is anyone out there who hasn’t seen the M.P. Daniel Hannan speech on BREXIT, it’s worth your 6 minutes. It’s articulate. Compelling. Why would any great nation vote to give up their right to set their own laws and negotiate their own deals?

The EU is it’s own best example of big-government grown too big. As Hannan says, “Every continent on this planet has grown over the past decade except Antarctica and the European Union.” And it is so much more than just economics, but economics is the main reason given to stay. “It’s not just the financial price of EU membership – it’s the democratic price.

The other argument to stay revolves around solving “global” problems like climate change. But since these are global, not European, it’s a non-argument (and about a non-problem). Brexit in or Brexit out, it won’t change China’s emissions.

In the West everywhere we need better public debates — we need a discussion of the dangers and costs of big-government. This movie is excellent, ominous, frightening — how did this bizarre faceless elite layer of unaccountable power come to be?

Ref: <http://joannenova.com.au/2016/05/brilliant-brexite-speech-by-daniel-hannan/> ***

ACTION TARGET

Included with the other week’s issue of OnTarget was a supplementary Voters Test Kit. If you do not have one then the kit is available from all League offices or our website. <http://alor.org/Library/Voters%20Kit.pdf>

It is a very easy way for you to test the candidates offering to represent you in Parliament. Simply fill in the names and addresses and post it.

The importance of the exercise is not only to discover their answers but to get their commitment to act!

At this stage, not all candidates will be known, so watch the local media for their names. Of course the sitting Member is already known so send to him/her now. They will then have ample time to respond before their campaigns gain momentum. This will be one of the easiest Targets and it may prove one of the most valuable, so please give it your support.

Remember to report the results to the Melbourne office so they can be shared with our readers.

Nat Dir

WORKING 60 HOURS A WEEK AT 3 PART-TIME JOBS AND STILL LIVING PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK

by Michael Snyder

What can you do when you are working 60 hours a week at three part-time jobs and it is still not enough?

In America today, many people have taken on more than one job in a desperate attempt to make ends meet, but they still come up short at the end of the month. And those that are actually working are the fortunate ones, because in one out of every five families in the United States nobody has a job.

There are more than 100 million working age Americans that are currently not employed (yes this is true), and as

I pointed out yesterday, job cut announcements by major firms are currently running 24 percent ahead of last year's pace.

But unemployment is just part of the overall problem. There is this growing misconception out there that if you "have a job" that you must be doing okay. Unfortunately for the growing number of "working poor" in America, that is not true at all.

Ref: <http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/working-60-hours-a-week-at-3-part-time-jobs-and-still-living-paycheck-to-paycheck> ***

TO THE EDITOR

I was amazed when learning about the management decisions of Murray Goulburn Dairy Company and the Fonterra Group's plan to reduce the price of dairy produce and make the price cut retrospective.

This amazement was compounded with disgust when it was further announced the 'overpayment' will be converted into a loan to be repaid with interest.

How can the factory management do that?

If this situation is allowed to continue, then in one foul blow confidence in any form of food production in Australia will be annihilated.

This policy and treatment of farmers is reminiscent of the old Soviet Union under the murderous Stalinist regime. This is no way to treat Australian dairy-farmers or any Primary Producers!

In total, national milk production has increased 30 per cent since 1970. Farmers have done everything expected of them to feed Australians and the world, and this is their reward. Shame on the factory management. Shame on the farm leaders. Shame on their elected political representatives — all are self-indicted incompetents!

What can be done now?

Firstly, the factory debt management scheme must not proceed from this moment.

Secondly, if prices for dairy production must drop, then it must not be allowed to go below the estimated cost of farm production now, and this includes debt management!

The flow-on from the factory management decision will impact on all sections of the Australian economy — as farmers decrease their spending then other businesses will have to increase their prices or they too will face bankruptcy; the economic destruction will escalate further to job layoffs, with the only growth industry 'police and emergency services' as they cope with the breakdown of a once stable society.

Australian are fortuitous that an election is in full swing so it is time to punish the elected representatives who have allowed the decimation of rural Australia to happen — candidates for all the major parties must be placed last on your voting paper!

Louis Cook, Numurkah ***

CLASS ACTION FILED AGAINST DAIRY GIANT MURRAY GOULBURN

Global dairy prices have fallen around 60 per cent since early 2014. Australia's biggest milk processor Murray Goulburn is being sued by investors for allegedly misleading investors ahead of its float last year.

The class action was filed in the Supreme Court of Victoria just days after it emerged members of the board of the milk processor were allegedly aware it was not meeting its targets months before informing the market... The fallout of Murray Goulburn's profit downgrade was made worse for Australia's dairy farmers who supply the company.

They were told the farm gate price of milk would be lowered from \$5.60 for every kilogram of milk solids to \$4.75 a kilogram after Murray Goulburn had overestimated the value of the milk. Adding to the pain was Murray Goulburn's decision to backdate the lower milk price for the 2015/2016 and to warn farmers that milk prices would remain low for another three years to make up for the "overpayment" they had received...

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/business/class-action-against-filed-against-dairy-giant-murray-goulburn-20160516-govz40.html#ixzz499xykBkl> ***

(Although originally penned in 1936 for the "Fig Tree" and referring in this section of the article to the situation in France, it could just as easily have been written today about the situation in Portugal, Greece, Ireland, Spain, Italy or Australia.-ed)

Disordered Europe, fantasy-led, continues in pursuit of the larger lunacies.

Commodity-wealth fills her factories and blossoms in her harvest-fields; she sabotages it lest her semi-starved millions should benefit. Cheap power, seen wherever the dynamo spins or the internal combustion engine thuds, offers progressive release from toil; she inhibits its use and binds again the peasant to his sweating labour. Gold from the ends of the world pours in upon her; she buries it deep in the earth and by fetish-worship makes it god—the god Melkart, eater of children. Freedom, peace and economic democracy are hers, given the will to seek them; yet she drives ever faster towards autocracy, "totalitarianism," armaments, and the negations of liberty.

Hate and fear, frustration and the menace of war are the determinants of Europe's political and economic life today. Hate between the "haves" and the "have-nots" —the "have-nots" in ignorance of what they might have. Fear, because of the ever-accumulating rancours of unnecessary economic rivalries. Frustration, so that increasingly the dispossessed believe there is but one way out of their degradation—the way of revolt and bloodshed. And, over all the minor neuroses of the individual nations, the major conflict projects itself in a nightmare race for the multiplication of guns and forts, aeroplanes and warships, poison-gas and the rest of the appalling ingenuities of death.

On a far vaster and grimmer canvas, Europe in this age of power and wealth repaints the spectacle, enlarged a hundredfold, of the condition of England nearly a century ago when Carlyle's "*Picturesque Tourist*" rode away from the workhouse of St. Ives, in Huntingdonshire, reminded of Dante's hell.

"With unabated bounty," wrote Carlyle, "the land of England blooms and grows; waving with yellow harvests; thick-studded with workshops, industrial implements with fifteen million workers understood to be the strongest, the cunningest and the willingest our earth ever had; these men are here; the work they have done, the fruit they have released is here, abundant, exuberant on every hand of us; and, behold, some baleful fiat as of Enchantment has gone forth saying, 'Touch it not, ye workers, ye master-workers, ye master-idlers; none of you can touch it, no man of you shall be the better for it; this is enchanted fruit.'

Will Europe ever free herself from such enchantment?

Little as yet shows that she even wishes to turn against the spells of her witch doctors. Those whose business it is to assess and forecast, talk gravely of "Recovery or Relapse?" and warn us that the nations are still struggling hard to avoid the abyss to the brink of which the Great War brought them.

True, industrial production, led by Soviet Russia, has recovered to the level of 1929—that dubious high-water mark before the economic tide left the world stranded. Unemployment has lessened in many countries. Prices for agricultural products have improved somewhat. And so on.

But how much of this economic betterment is due to unparalleled armament schemes; how much to conscription and colonial war that have put hundreds of thousands of men in uniform to be maintained at the taxpayer's direct expense; and how much Nature's and man's sabotage of food-crops has helped, the relevant statistics fail to indicate.

FRANCE'S SHADOW SHOW

More obvious than the economic trends, because the newspapers dramatise it daily, is the political shadow-show behind which they operate. France has a new government. It is a colour-scheme of pink and red with neutral tints to help out the pattern. Its supporters talk of a struggle that "may well decide the fate of democracy in France."

The overthrow of the regents of the Bank of France is what is meant. But the enemy is not one to be frightened by Socialist battle cries. It has a century or more of experience of governments and it sets them up and knocks them down with the skill of an accomplished ninepin player.

The Bank of France is a Napoleonic creation. It is a private firm with about 40,000 shareholders. Only 200 of these, however, can vote for the regents who are the dictators of policy and the controllers of all its affairs.

There are eighteen regents in all; the State appoints the governor and two vice-governors, and there are three representatives of the Treasury. The remaining dozen regents represent banking, industry, commerce and agriculture. Included are nominees of such financial houses as the Rothschilds, the Hottingeurs, the Neuflyzes, Lazard Freres, the Wendels, who are all-powerful in the steel industry, and the de Vogues, a noble family interested in chemicals and armaments.

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By means of interlocking directorates, the Bank of France and the *Comite des Forges*, a body whose ramifications extend through all French industry, virtually run the country. They own newspapers, they control armaments through the Schneiders and the Creusots, and they get rid of the Cabinet whenever they have a difference of opinion with the ministers.

Comite des Forges - French Employees Organisation of the Steel Industry

The Bank of France can engineer a monetary “crisis” whenever it likes. Through it the Government has to obtain short-term loans on the security of Treasury bills. Consequently its grip on the nation is amazingly strong. The “two hundred families,” as the regents are called, have insisted on the maintenance of the gold standard; they have refused to allow money to be spent on big public works; they have favoured rigid national economy and wage-cuts, with the inevitable decline of purchasing power and the accentuation of unemployment; they have damaged France’s foreign trade and curtailed industrial output. But—so great is their power—they have so far “got away with it.”

Now comes M. Leon Blum and his alliance of Socialists, Radicals, and Communists with threats to nationalise the bank—he has already changed its governor—the railways, and the armament firms, to restore wages to former levels, to give industrial workers a forty-hour week and to float huge loans for public works—a remedy for unemployment especially favoured by the Communists. The new Premier finds the Treasury empty and the budget unbalanced—a fact which worries him, as an orthodox economist, a good deal. He promises not to devalue the franc, nor will he “inflate” or “deflate.” He is a “sound money” man—so sound, indeed, that the hated regents are said to be ready to “co-operate” with him. Cynics in Paris recall the “co-operation” of the lion and the lamb and warn M. Blum against the bankers “getting him where they want him.”

Working-class France, told by its Communists to look to Russia for its new model, waits and threatens and locks itself into its masters’ factories. Thirty-three out of every hundred Frenchmen own no property whatever.

An English illusion hard to shatter, is that across the Channel there exists a nation chiefly composed of peasant proprietors, able in times of slump to live on the land.

Actually, there are as many urban as rural residents in France today, and the drift of the peasantry into the factories ever accelerates. Peasant-owners number only four millions, and half of these must work for others. Tenant-farmers and metayers number, in addition, one and a quarter millions, and there are 2,700,000 agricultural workers—who do not get even a “dole” when they need it—or a total of less than eight millions actively occupied on the land.

The total wage-earning population of France is 21,000,000. Of these six million are employed in industry.

France is, therefore, slowly building up a “proletariat” ripe for Communism, and becoming increasingly aware of its economic frustration. The “hands” of the Renault armament works during the recent “stay-in” strike told the Paris reporters how pleasant was the feeling of “being lords and masters ourselves.”...

Technological unemployment, meaning labour displaced by the intensified use of machinery and improved mechanical processes, spreads its shadow over the hopes of the orthodox economists who see Europe slowly but steadily emerging from the great slump. The United States has hitherto been the land where this demonstration of the approach of the Age of Leisure when machines alone will be slaves, could be studied in its most significant forms.

Now Europe is awakening to its importance. In Belgium an attempt has been made to return to hand labour on public works, but the result is officially reported as “slow, wasteful and expensive.” The Dutch government tried to harvest its grain crops by the sweat of the peasant’s brow instead of by machinery; it gave a bonus as encouragement. But unemployment failed to decrease thereby. Spain, Italy and other countries have tried the equivalent of using spades when the mechanical shovel would have been cheaper and more efficient. Logically, they should have used teaspoons. Even the International Labour Office at Geneva has discovered that “technological unemployment cannot be combatted by preserving antiquated methods by artificial means.”

The “real problem,” it says, “**is to ensure that the economies in wages effected by mechanical improvements do not neutralise the volume of available consuming-power.**” But this is no problem at all to those who know the financial methods by which production and purchasing power can be equated.

“Enormous progress in the technology of production,” says the *Report on Workers’ Nutrition and on Social Policy* prepared for the International Labour Conference, “has impressed on the public mind everywhere the idea that **there is no longer any economic necessity why all members of society should not enjoy the material needs for good health and social well-being.**”

There is, indeed, no longer any economic necessity for imposing poverty on Europe. It arises only from the disordered pursuit of the larger economic lunacies by her bankers and financiers.
