

"All that is necessary
for the triumph of
evil is that good
men do nothing . . ."
— EDMUND BURKE.



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SURVEY

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FROM THE NEW TIMES 63 YEARS AGO

Upon Constitutional Barriers

"When Dr H. V. Evatt was Australian Attorney-General, we drew attention to the fact that this internationalist has bluntly declared that international agreements can be used to by-pass the barrier of the Federal written Constitution. Written constitutions are detested by the planners everywhere."

In 2014, we can now see the Truth of this statement and how it was brought to pass; 'international agreements' are fostered by the United Nations and Dr Evatt was the third President of the United Nations General Assembly from 1948 to 1949 and helped draft the meaningless United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Behold the deception of traitors.

EXCHANGE AND EXPORTS

by Major C.H. Douglas 1919 (*The English Review*, XXVIII (1919): 368-70)

The following excerpts from Douglas' original article are even more relevant today than they were 95 years ago.

In the welter of economic propaganda served up to us, like the powder in the jam, with our morning and evening prize-fight, murder, and motor-bandit thrills, and labelled the news, it will no doubt not have escaped the observant that a certain group of features recur and are interconnected. They are broadly the "necessity" for super-production in general (not of specific articles such as houses, clothes, more and better travelling facilities, but just "increased production" without any pettifogging details), the "necessity" along with this of consuming less than ever, i.e., lowering the standard of living; and the "necessity" of enormously increased exports, in order to "restore the exchange."

It is necessary in passing to point out a curious circumstance. In spite of the fact that, broadly speaking, nearly every action which takes place in the civilised world is either *inspired* by money or has some *relation* to money; notwithstanding the plain evidence of the senses that 75 per cent of the business world *lives* for money, *works* for money, *dreams* of money, and will *die* and *condemn*

millions of others to death for money, not one person in ten thousand, at a very conservative estimate, has any grasp of the real relation of money to goods and services, and still less any conception of the method by which modifications in the money system can and do divert the current of productive energy supplied by skill, science, and labour into alternative channels of enterprise, with not less certainty, and quite possibly as the result of at least equal prevision, as the manipulation of more concrete materials by the civil engineer may modify the course of a great river.

As a result of this, the blatant contradictions of the financial propaganda just mentioned largely escape comment... But these are side issues. The important point to grasp is that the problem of exchange is a problem which is raised solely by the treatment of money as a commodity in itself, quite apart from what it represents, and that because of the immensely powerful interests behind the whole system of money broking and credit issue, an attempt is being made once more to fasten on the world at large,

and this country in particular, a form of society *which, in combination with an international political system* forming its complement, is directly responsible for the misery and unrest in the world to-day.

It is not too much to say that the whole future of this civilisation is involved in this matter. If the super-production-for-export policy gets its way, nothing can possibly save the world from an early, final, and cataclysmic war between continents, except an equally cataclysmic class war between the controllers of production with their dupes, and the consuming community.

Under the present system of unregulated currency and credit, administered in their own interests by international groups of financiers and super-industrialists, the cost of living measured in terms of intensity of effort will rise, and the standard of life measured in terms of security, leisure, and freedom will fall until the crash comes. ▲

C.H. DOUGLAS AND 'THE DELUSION OF SUPER-PRODUCTION'

Anyone who is informed regarding Social Credit understands that not only waste, but increasing waste, is an absolute essential of the existing financial system. We do not receive sufficient effective financial income in each cycle of production whereby to purchase the product of that cycle. Consequently, we are compelled to produce increasingly more in order to generate incomes which can claim, not what we are currently producing but what we produced in the past cycle.

The following is C. H. Douglas's original article, "The Delusion of Super-Production", published in the English Review in December of 1918 (96 years ago...ed). Note his ominous prediction as made in the last paragraph of the article—a prediction that has proved, inevitably and tragically, to be all too true. The "Greens" know nothing of the real underlying cause of waste. They have an instinctive feeling that something is wrong with waste but they have no realistic financial accountancy or "economics" by which to deal with the situation. Hence, their protestations and objections are sterile.

-- Wallace Klinck January 2014

"It is hardly necessary to draw attention to the insistence with which we are told that in order to pay for the war we must produce more manufactured goods than ever before—a powerful section of the Press would have the whole military, political, social and industrial policy of the Allied Governments directed to the purpose, that, when by a complete victory we have acquired control of raw material and disposed of our most dangerous competitor, we may adjust our internal differences and settle down to an unfettered era of commercial activity, from which all other desirable things will, it is suggested, proceed naturally.

There are an almost infinite number of aspects to this proposition which is not dissimilar, so far as it goes, from that with which Germany went to war: it is possible to attack it from the point of view of the historian, the psychologist, or even the physiologist. It is even possible that certain quite indispensable suffrages have still to be obtained for it. But it is sufficiently interesting to take it as it stands on a frankly material, "practical" basis, and see what are its logical consequences.

A fair statement of the argument for unlimited and intensified manufacturing subsequent to the war would no doubt be something after this fashion:

(1) We must pay for the war. (2) This means high taxes. (3) Taxes must come from earnings. (4) High earnings and low labour costs can only be continued if the output is increased.

Before dealing with these points let it be thoroughly well understood that, as compared with the economic power of absorption, the world was over-manufacturing before the war in nearly every direction.

If any person capable of independent thought disagrees with this statement, he will no doubt be able to explain the immense development of advertising; why the cost of selling a sewing machine, amongst many other instances, was higher than the manufacturing cost; why a new model, not novel in any real essential, appeared from most of the motor-car works each year, thus automatically depreciating the value of the previous year's fashion, and why, in spite of all these and countless more desperate efforts to stimulate absorption at home, aided by the barter of trade gin to our black brother abroad, the stress of competition to sell was daily growing more insupportable, the main pressure, of course, appearing in the guise of labour troubles, unemployment, strikes for higher wages, etc, but being definitely felt all over the social structure and being focussed from a national point of view in the struggle for markets; of which struggle war was the inevitable and final outcome.

Bearing this selling pressure in mind, let us consider what will be the post-war situation, assuming any reasonably early termination of hostilities, and in the absence of any radical modification in the economic structure.

It is almost impossible to form any accurate estimate of the extension of manufacturing plant which has taken place in the British Empire since 1914, but on a gold standard basis it is almost certainly to the value of not less than £750,000,000, and may be much more. To this has to be added the still more gigantic expansion of industrial America, with Japan, France and Italy by no means idle; and the fact that Germany and Austria have clearly put forth a comparable effort.

But, still more important, these extensions are largely homogeneous instead of being accretions on small jobbing plants. In spite of a number of notorious instances of bad design, the main object--repetition-production by modern methods--has been achieved, and in consequence the output per individual has gone up in most cases several

hundreds per cent. and in some cases thousands per cent. And by the introduction of women into industry on a large scale the available sources of labour supply have been greatly increased.

On the whole, therefore, the plant and the organisation for manufacturing have been expanded in every great country to many times their pre-war capacity; much of this extension is easily convertible to peace-time uses; and while the raw material side of the question is rather less easy to compute it is possible that something to feed into the machines might be available for a considerable period of unlimited activity, although by no means indefinitely. Therefore it may be accepted as obvious that the factory system of the world is prepared, to a degree transcending anything dreamt of in the past, to flood the market with any article on which a profit in manufacture can apparently be made.

But absorption is a very different matter, and, in considering it, a clear idea of what is meant by the power of absorption is necessary. It is quite incontestable that the real power of absorption of the world after the war will be considerable; the repair of the devastated areas, housing schemes, power, railway, shipping, aerial and other transport problems will all require the effort and attention of civilisation, not to mention the demand for a higher standard of life all round.

But the capitalist manufacturer means by power of absorption the total money or credit value available as payment for his goods, and in the last resort this is represented by the total sum of the spending powers in cash or credit of the units of the population. The contention of the existing capitalistic and financial authorities, on whom of course the responsibility for the policy rests, is that super-production would mean high wages and the high wages would mean high absorption power, and so on. Let us see. The factory cost--not the selling price--of any article under our present industrial and financial system is made up of three main divisions--direct labour cost, material cost and overhead charges, the ratio of which varies widely, with the "modernity" of the method of production. For instance, a sculptor producing a work of art with the aid of simple tools and a block of marble has next to no overhead charges, but a very low rate of production, while a modern screw-making plant using automatic machines may have very high overhead charges and very low direct labour cost, or high rates of production.

(Continued on page 3)

Since increased industrial output per individual depends mainly on tools and method, it may almost be stated as a law that intensified production means a progressively higher ratio of overhead charges to direct labour cost, and, apart from artificial reasons, this is simply an indication of the extent to which machinery replaces manual labour, as it should.

Now, for reasons which it is hoped will be clear from what follows, the factory cost, including management and indirect labour, of the total factory output of any article is always more than the total sum paid in wages, salaries, and for raw material, in respect of it. Consequently, the total output of the world's factory system is inevitably costed at a figure greatly in excess of the salaries and wages which go to the production of it. Selling charges and profit merely increase the price and decrease the purchasing power of money, as, of course, *caeteris paribus* (with other things equal) do general rises in wages.

In order to realise clearly this most important relation between factory cost, and money released, it must be borne in mind that manufacturing, or, what is commonly called production, is conversion, and just as the conversion of mechanical energy into electricity or heat into mechanical energy involves a dispersion, which for practical purposes is a loss, so the conversion of manufactured articles can never take place without a similar economic dispersion.

Obviously the balance, which is represented by this economic dispersion must go somewhere. A little reflection will make it clear that it represents depreciation, obsolescence, scrapped material, etc., all of which are charged to the consumer instead of being a charge against the value of the product.

In consequence of this the book value of the world's production is continuously growing more and more in excess of the capacity to absorb or liquidate it, and every transaction between buyer and seller increases this discrepancy so long as the exchange takes place at a figure in excess of the total wages, etc., which go to the various conversions of the product; with the result that a continuous rise in the cost of living absolutely must take place, apart and above that represented by currency inflation; palliated by intrinsically more efficient productive methods, but leading along a path of cumulative fierce competition and harder toil to an absolutely inevitable breakdown. The money

required for public works can only be provided by loans or taxation, a decreasing amount of which is returned in wages and salaries; an increasing amount going to swell the mortgage held by the banker and the manufacturer on the effective effort of the world's population.

The complete fallacy of the super-production argument as it stands is apparent; it must be clear, if the statements just made are admitted, that neither apparently high wages nor even apparently cheap items amongst the articles produced can evolve a social system having in it any elements of stability whatever.

There is no more dangerous delusion abroad in the world at this time than that production per se is wealth--it is about as sensible as a statement that because food is necessary to man he should eat continually and eat everything. Production is necessary and desirable just so long as the actual thing produced is a means to something else which is necessary to humanity, and like everything else the thing produced has to be paid for by effort on the part of someone. So far from the necessity of this country and the world, being an orgy of unlimited production, the first need is for a revision of material necessities, combined with sound scientific efforts, to produce to a programme framed to meet the ascertained demands; not artificially stimulated, but individualistic in origin whenever possible.

Such a programme might be allotted in sections amongst the available producing centres at block prices, and such producing centres might again contract with the whole "effort" (i.e., staff and labour) involved, at a price to cover the whole output; such price to include upkeep of plant, stocks, etc. Efficiency in operation would then result in shorter hours, and would itself be cumulative.

If such a policy can be combined with a large decentralisation of initiative, high rates of production would follow naturally, and the individual, for the first time, would begin to reap the solid benefits of the use of mechanism. *On this basis it would be possible to attack the second urgent necessity, the reduction of money in any form whatever to the status of an absolute medium of exchange.* These are not light tasks, but the alternative to their assumption is a weary pilgrimage which may have some very lurid passages. And in the end it may be found that the chief crime of the capitalist was that he was such a very bad capitalist; in that he neither recognised his assets, nor met his liabilities. ▲

HUH ? CLIMATE CHANGE BLAMED FOR BOOST TO INSECT POPULATIONS?

The world's supply of bananas is under threat from plagues of bugs and fungal infections which could be disastrous if they continue to spread, researchers say. The government in Costa Rica, one of the biggest suppliers of the fruit, has already declared a "national emergency" over the state of its crop.

The country's half-a-billion-dollar banana export industry has been hit by two separate plagues of mealybugs and scale insects, with up to 20 per cent of its produce written off. Warning comes as Costa Rica declares 'national emergency' over state of crop.

Magda Gonzalez, the director of the agriculture ministry's State Phytosanitary Services (SFE), told *The Tico Times* last week that climate change had boosted insect populations in recent years, making plagues increasingly likely across the world. "I can tell you with near certainty that climate change is behind these pests," she said. The insects weaken plants and cause blemishes on fruit, leading to vast batches being rejected. Ms Gonzalez said there were serious concerns the country would not meet its export agreements.

Meanwhile, a Scientific American report warned of a variant of banana-eating fungus which is currently threatening key plantations around the world. Scientists believed the disease, caused by the fungus *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* (Foc), was limited to parts of Asia and Australia. Yet it has now been found in Jordan and Mozambique, and in a new strain to which the vast majority of bananas are susceptible. "It's a gigantic problem," said Rony Swennen, a breeder at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

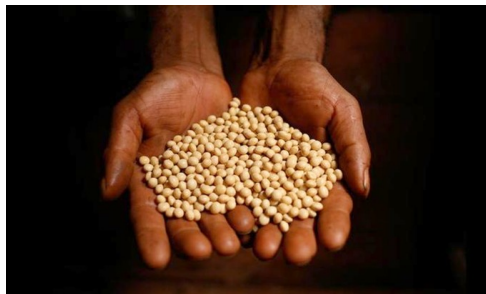
Gert Kema, a *Fusarium* researcher at Wageningen University and Research Centre in the Netherlands, co-authored the report on the disease in Jordan. He told Scientific American: "I'm incredibly concerned. I will not be surprised if it pops up in Latin America in the near future." Combined with the threat of bugs, researchers said the Foc-TR4 strain could threaten banana exports across the whole of Latin America and the Caribbean – which accounts for more than 80 per cent of the world's supply. ▲

Biotechnology, Mechanisation, and Herbicides have Radically Changed Lives

The earth is a source of life. If you know how to use it, then the earth is, first and foremost, "the factory of the poor".

That is the law of Power... if you want to extend your property, there is nothing to stop you.

The documentary, *Raising Resistance*, illustrates the mechanisms of a global economy that relies on 'monocrop' agriculture and corporate ownership of land. In telling the story of Paraguay, *Raising Resistance* poses the larger question of whether the global community wants to go on living with a system that allows one crop to prosper at the expense of all others.



Raising Resistance is about how large-scale soy farming is increasingly threatening the existence of local rural inhabitants and farmers in Paraguay

Beautifully shot and interweaving interviews with scenes from soy fields in Paraguay, *Raising Resistance* explores Latin American farmers' struggle against the expanding production of genetically modified soy in South America. Biotechnology, mechanisation, and herbicides have radically changed the lives of small farmers in Latin America. For farmers in Paraguay this means displacement from their land, loss of basic food supplies, and a veritable fight for survival.

Geronimo Arevelos and a group of small farmers are pictured standing defiantly in a corporate-owned soy field adjacent to his own, blocking a

tractor from spraying herbicides that will decimate his crops and expose nearby families to toxic chemicals. As corporate farms seize farmland and rapidly expand production of genetically modified soy, Geronimo and the campesinos find themselves in a life and death struggle. For many campesinos - or farmers - in Paraguay, the expansion of soy fields is like a large, heavy barrel rolling towards them. It takes away the land on which they live and the air they breathe.

The problem of expanding soy fields affects many South American rural populations, not just in Paraguay. In the film, *Raising Resistance* identifies a fundamental level of social conflict. It is a conflict that has an archetypal character because it takes place in many regions around the world where the global production of raw materials is the most important factor, while smaller interests are secondary.

For us, they say, it painfully expresses one of the harsh truths of our civilisation - those who have the technological advantage will use it, no matter who suffers as a result. Around the time we first travelled to Paraguay, the rural population had

just decided to begin resisting the soy field expansion. Across the country, groups of campesinos put up their plastic tents in front of the soy fields in an effort to halt soy farming which was damaging their own crops and destroying their communities.

Before our very eyes, the rather abstract connection between the production of raw materials, agricultural chemistry and land conflict suddenly had faces, voices and feelings - and we felt what we saw had to be made into a film. We wanted to show that the campesinos also have the right to exist and feed their families.

The problem of the expanding production of genetically modified crops is not just limited to rural areas of Paraguay. The expansion of raw material production is going on in all regions of the world. At one point in the film, Geronimo, our main protagonist, predicts, "There will be collisions ... violent conflicts ... maybe even war"

- - - Filmmakers: David Bernet and Bettina Borgfeld

www.aljazeera.com/programmes/witness/2013/12/raising-resistance-20131218123316525273.html ▲

IS THE TPP A CORPORATE GIVEAWAY?

U.S. House Rep. Alan Grayson, (Democrat-Florida's 9th District) was recently allowed to see a draft copy of the TPP (Trans Pacific Partnership). While he's been banned from telling anyone what he read, the populist Floridian described the agreement as one that "hands the sovereignty of our country over to corporate interests." It undermines America's middle class, working class and is unjustly skewed in favour of Big Business.

Grayson told Huffington Post that the agreement would be very appealing to multinational corporations, but had very negative implications for the public interest on a variety of fronts. "It's all about tying the hands of democratically elected governments, and shunting authority over to the nonelected for the benefit of multinational corporations," Grayson said. "It's an assault on democratic government".

The article has been updated to note that some congressional committee staffers are given access to portions of the negotiation text, and to clarify that labour groups, environmental organizations and other groups are officially permitted to see the text, although they have complained about lack of access to the negotiation process.

Read further here... http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/06/18/alan-grayson-trans-pacific-partnership_n_3456167.html ▲

Crop Pollination Exposes Honey Bees to Pesticides Which Alters Their Susceptibility to the Gut Pathogen *Nosema ceranae*

The following is but two short portions from an important study by the Plos One organisation on the recent decline of bees.

For the full paper download from <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0070182>

Jeffery S. Pettis, Elinor M. Lichtenberg, Michael Andree, Jennie Stitzinger, Robyn Rose, Dennis vanEngelsdorp

Published: July 24, 2013

Abstract

Recent declines in honey bee populations and increasing demand for insect-pollinated crops raise concerns about pollinator shortages. Pesticide exposure and pathogens may interact to have strong negative effects on managed honey bee colonies. Such findings are of great concern given the large numbers and high levels of pesticides found in honey bee colonies. Thus it is crucial to determine how field-relevant combinations and loads of pesticides affect bee health.

We collected pollen from bee hives in seven major crops to determine

- 1) what types of pesticides bees are exposed to when rented for pollination of various crops and
- 2) how field-relevant pesticide blends affect bees' susceptibility to the gut parasite *Nosema ceranae*.

Our samples represent pollen collected by foragers for use by the colony, and do not necessarily indicate foragers' roles as pollinators. In blueberry, cranberry, cucumber, pumpkin and watermelon bees collected pollen almost exclusively from weeds and wildflowers during our sampling. Thus more attention must be paid to how honey bees are exposed to pesticides outside of the field in which they are placed. We detected 35 different pesticides in the sampled pollen, and found high fungicide loads. The insecticides esfenvalerate and phosmet were at a concentration higher than their median lethal dose in at least one pollen sample. While fungicides are typically seen as fairly safe for honey bees, we found an increased probability of *Nosema* infection in bees that consumed pollen with a higher fungicide load. Our results highlight a need for research on sub-lethal effects of fungicides and other chemicals that bees placed in an agricultural setting are exposed to.

Discussion

The results from this study highlight several patterns that merit further attention. First, despite being rented to pollinate specific crops, honey bees did not always return to the nest with corbicular pollen from those crops. These findings support other research with honey bees and native bees indicating that in some crops native bees may be more efficient pollinators [45]. Second,

fungicides were present at high levels in both crop and non-crop pollen collected by bees. Third, two fungicides (chlorothalonil and pyraclostrobin), and two miticides used by beekeepers to control varroa infestation (amitraz and fluvalinate) had a pronounced effect on bees' ability to withstand parasite infection. Research on pesticides' effects on bee health has focused almost exclusively on insecticides (e.g. fipronil [15] and the neonicotinoids imidacloprid [13], [14] and thiacloprid [15]). Finally, several individual pollen samples contained loads higher than the median lethal dose for a specific pesticide. While multiple studies have shown negative effects of specific pesticides on honey bee individual and colony health [14], [15], [22], [26] and high pesticide exposure [27], [28], ours is the first to demonstrate how real world pollen-pesticide blends affect honey bee health.

Our results show that beekeepers need to consider not only pesticide regimens of the fields in which they are placing their bees, but also spray programs near those fields that may contribute to pesticide drift onto weeds. The bees in our study collected pollen from diverse sources, often failing to collect any pollen from the target crop (Fig. 1). All of the non-target pollen that we were able to identify to genus or species was from wildflowers (Table S1), suggesting the honey bees were collecting significant amounts of pollen from weeds surrounding our focal fields. The two exceptions to this were hives placed in almond and apple orchards. Almond flowers early in the year, and almond orchards are large, thus providing honey bees with little access to other flowers. Honey bees rarely collect pollen from blueberry or cranberry flowers, which only release large quantities of pollen after being vibrated by visiting bees (buzz pollination) [46], [47]. Honey bees are not capable of buzz pollination and thus are unlikely to collect large amounts of pollen from these plants to bring back to the colony. Bumble bees, which can buzz pollinate, collect mainly blueberry pollen when placed in blueberry fields [48]. Interestingly, the two crops that saw high levels of pollen collection by honey bees are Old World crops that evolved with honey bees as natural pollinators. Crops native to the New World, where honey bees have been introduced, yielded little or no pollen in our samples.

It is possible that bees were exposed to pesticides while collecting nectar from our focal crops, even when we detected no pollen from those crops. Because pollen traps collect only corbicular pollen intended for consumption by the colony, our data indicate only flowers from which bees are actively collecting pollen and not all flowers they visited. Several studies have detected pesticides in floral nectar and pollen [49], [50], sometimes in concentrations with sublethal effects on honey and bumble bees [51], [52]. Honey bees may collect nectar from blueberry and cranberry flowers via legitimate visits or "robbing" through slits cut at the base of flower corollas [53]. However, exposure to pesticides via nectar may be unlikely in cucumber, pumpkin and watermelon. Beekeepers often report poor honey production when their hives are placed in these crops (pers. obs.).

The combination of high pesticide loads and increased *Nosema* infection rates in bees that consumed greater quantities of the fungicides chlorothalonil and pyraclostrobin suggest that some fungicides have stronger impacts on bee health than previously thought. *Nosema* infection was more than twice as likely (relative risk >2) in bees that consumed these fungicides than in bees that did not. Research on the sub-lethal effects of pesticides on honey bees has focused almost entirely on insecticides, especially neonicotinoids [54]. In our study, neonicotinoids entered the nest only via apple pollen. However, we found fungicides at high loads in our sampled crops. While fungicides are typically less lethal to bees than insecticides (see LD50 values in Table 2), these chemicals still have potential for lethal [55] and sub-lethal effects. Indeed, the fungicides chlorothalonil (found at high concentrations in our pollen samples) and myclobutanil increases gut cell mortality to the same degree as imidacloprid [56], an insecticide with numerous sub-lethal effects (e.g. [21], [57]). Exposure to fungicides can also make bees more sensitive to acaricides, reducing medial lethal doses [58]. In our study, consuming pollen with higher fungicide loads increased bees' susceptibility to *Nosema* infection. This result is likely driven by chlorothalonil loads. The pesticide with the highest relative risk was the fungicide pyraclostrobin. Bees that

(Continued on page 6)

BASIC FUND

Once again, our very loyal and generous supporters have brought the Fund up to \$15,910.66. Thank you. Naturally enough, there was some slackening off in the response to the League of Rights' Basic Fund over the holiday period.

Please keep the momentum going. 2014 will be a year of the greatest challenge the League has had to face. Regrettably the great majority of people only move under the pressure of events. But there will have to be advice and

guidance to ensure that movement is in the right direction. This is what the League alone offers. But it must be fully equipped. Please ensure that the Basic Fund is subscribed as soon as possible.
ND

(Continued from page 5)

consumed pollen containing pyraclostrobin were almost three times as likely (relative risk = 2.85, 95% CI 2.16–3.75; Table 2) than bees consuming pollen without this chemical to become infected after *Nosema* exposure. Our results show the necessity of testing for sub-lethal effects of pesticides on bees, and advocate for testing more broadly than the insecticides that are the targets of most current research.

A similarly large increased risk of *Nosema* infection was associated with consumption of DMPF and fluvalinate, miticides applied by beekeepers to help control the highly-destructive *Varroa* mite [3]. The path from in-hive application of these miticides to pollen on foragers returning to the hive is unclear. An increasingly popular practice, rotating combs out of hives to remove accumulated pesticides, is expected to reduce miticide levels in hives, and will hopefully decrease spread of these chemicals to the environment. Potential extra-nest sources, however, would slow efforts to reduce miticide accumulation and slow the development of resistance to these chemicals.

Insecticide relative risk values showed an interesting pattern: directional separation by insecticide family. Within a family, relative risk values significantly different than one were almost all in the same direction. The formamidine (DMPF) and two of the three the pyrethroids (bifenthrin and fluvalinate, but not esfenvalerate) were associated with an increased risk of *Nosema* infection. The carbamate (carbaryl), all neonicotinoids (acetamiprid, imidacloprid and thiacloprid), organophosphates (coumaphos, diazinon and phosmet) and the oxadiazine (indoxacarb) were associated with reduced risk of *Nosema* infection. Esfenvalerate and coumaphos have previously been found to be associated with apiaries without Colony Collapse Disorder [59]. These patterns suggest that insecticides' modes of action have differential effects on honey bee immune functioning. Because of the

relatively small number of pesticides we found in each insecticide family, however, additional sampling is necessary to determine how robust this pattern is.

The large numbers of pesticides found per sample and the high concentrations of some pesticides are concerning. First, two pollen samples contained one pesticide each at a concentration higher than the median lethal dose. Esfenvalerate (LD50 = 0.13 ppm) was measured at 0.216 ppm in pollen collected by bees in a cucumber field, and phosmet (LD50 = 8.83 ppm) at 14.7 ppm in one apple orchard. While the mean loads for these pesticides are well below their respective median lethal doses (0.0169 ppm for esfenvalerate, 0.7987 ppm for phosmet), our data indicate some bee colonies are being exposed to incredibly high levels of these chemicals. Second, research suggests that simultaneous exposure to multiple pesticides decreases lethal doses [58], [60] or increases supersedure (queen replacement) rate [61]. Our pollen samples contained an average of nine different pesticides, ranging as high as 21 pesticides in one cranberry field. Thus published LD50 values may not accurately indicate pesticide toxicity inside a hive containing large numbers of pesticides. Research looking at additive and synergistic effects between multiple pesticides is clearly needed. Third, pesticides can have sub-lethal effects on development, reproduction, learning and memory, and foraging behavior. The mean and maximum imidacloprid loads in our samples (0.0028 and 0.0365 ppm, respectively) are higher than some published imidacloprid concentrations with sub-lethal effects on honey and bumble bees (0.001–0.0098 ppm [21], [54], [62]).

It is not surprising that total pollen collection varied by crop. Bee foraging activity levels vary with weather [63], thus outcomes of short-term measurements may be sensitive to temperature, cloud cover or humidity during data collection. Because we collected pollen samples from different parts of the country and on different days, weather conditions undoubtedly differed

between crops. Crop flowering timing and landscape-level floral availability can also affect bee activity levels. We focused our analyses on variables less affected by these factors, such as the diversity of pollen types found in samples and the proportion of a sample that was from the target crop.

Our results are consistent with previously published pesticide analyses of pollen collected by honey bees or honey bee nest material [16], [18], [27]. The more intensive and geographically more diverse sampling of Mullin et al. [27] resulted in almost triple the number of pesticides we found, but the average number of pesticides per sample (7.1) is slightly lower than our 9.1. In our study and those listed above, pesticides applied by beekeepers to control hive pests were present in a large proportion of the samples, often in quantities higher than most of the pesticides that are applied to crops.

Our results combined with several recent studies of specific pesticides' effects on *Nosema* infection dynamics [13]–[15] indicate that a detrimental interaction occurs when honey bees are exposed to both pesticides and *Nosema*. Specific results vary, and may depend on the pesticide or dose used. For example, bees exposed to imidacloprid and *Nosema* can have lower spore counts than bees only infected with the pathogen but also exhibit hindered immune functioning [13]. Our study improves on previous methodologies by feeding pollen with real-world pesticide blends and levels that truly represents the types of exposure expected with pollination of agricultural crops. The significant increase in *Nosema* infection following exposure to the fungicides in pollen we found therefore indicates a pressing need for further research on lethal and sub-lethal effects of fungicides on bees. Given the diverse routes of exposure to pesticides we show, and increasing evidence that pesticide blends harm bees [16], there is a pressing need for further research on the mechanisms underlying pesticide-pesticide and pesticide-disease synergistic effects on honey bee health.

Source: <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0070182> ▲

Vale Keith Albrecht

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Keith Hamilton Albrecht on the 8th of January 2014, he was in his 97th year. Keith and his late wife, Nancy, were a familiar couple at the Annual New Times Dinners from the early 1980's. Keith was a navigator on Lancaster bombers during WW2 in the Battle for

Europe and his talent for relating his experiences made him excellent company.

Keith was a 'natural social creditor' although he was not introduced to the works of Douglas until he connected with the League.

He is survived by a daughter and two sons and their families to whom we offer our sincere condolences.

Here in the League we have been blessed to know a wonderful gentleman. Rest in Peace Dear Keith. *ND*



AND WHAT OF THE BEE DECLINE IN AMERICA AND EUROPE?

Bee decline overshadows Endangered Species Act's 40th anniversary
by Renee Lewis December 28, 2013 Al Jazeera America

Beekeeping and environmental groups have sued the EPA over registering a new pesticide linked to bee deaths. Saturday marks the 40th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act being signed into law; the occasion, however, is being eclipsed by criticisms about whether government agencies are doing enough to protect some species – bees, especially.



A bee colony run by Adam Finkelstein and Kelly Rausch who are raising queen bees in Frederick, Md., in attempts to reverse colony collapse disorder.

A lawsuit, the first to invoke the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in defense of bees, was filed in March by major U.S. beekeeping associations against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over its decision to register a new pesticide called sulfoxaflor. Sulfoxaflor is a new chemical in the same category as controversial pesticides known as neonicotinoids – which scientific studies have shown contribute to mass bee deaths. Several neonicotinoids have been banned in the European Union.

The Pollinator Stewardship Council, American Honey Producers Association, National Honey Bee Advisory Board and the American Beekeeping Federation are among the groups that aim to challenge the EPA's decision in federal court. On Dec. 13, the Center for Food Safety (CFS), a national nonprofit public interest and environmental advocacy organization, filed a legal brief in support of the lawsuit.

The disturbing trend of bee deaths,

known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), has led to mass die-offs of pollinators in recent years and could cause an agricultural disaster. Without pollinators, many fruits and vegetables, such as apples, cucumbers, broccoli, onions and almonds, will also disappear.

"Our country is facing widespread bee colony collapse, and scientists are pointing to pesticides like sulfoxaflor as the cause," Attorney Janette Brimmer of Earthjustice, the public interest law organization representing the groups, said in a press release. "The effects will be devastating to our nation's food supply and also to the beekeeping industry, which is struggling because of toxic pesticides."

Congress passed the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973, recognizing that America's natural heritage is of "esthetic, ecological, educational, recreational, and scientific value to our Nation and its people." It added that many native plants and animals were in danger of becoming extinct.

As CFS explained in its legal brief, scientists have linked the drastic declines in honey bees and other pollinators to neonicotinoids, like sulfoxaflor, which the EPA has determined to be "very highly toxic" to bees.

One-third of US bees vanished

Conservationists worry that the introduction of yet another highly toxic pesticide into the environment will exacerbate the "ecological crisis" that is CCD. The EPA said in a May 6 press release after it registered sulfoxaflor for public use that the chemical was safe when "used in accordance with the labeling terms and restrictions". The release specifically mentions concerns over pollinators in the release, and argues that "the final label includes robust terms for protecting pollinators".

But there is evidence that neonicotinoids are harmful to pollinators even when "used as directed" – such as the largest mass bumblebee die-off ever recorded, which took place this summer in Oregon.

Some 50,000 bees were found dead in a suburban shopping centre parking lot in mid-June in Wilsonville, Ore. The cause of death was determined to be a pesticide called Safari, the primary ingredient of which is dinetofuran – a compound in the same class as neonicotinoids, like sulfoxaflor. About a month later, 37 million bees were found dead in Ontario. One local beekeeper, who lost 600 hives, blamed the heavy use of neonicotinoids on nearby fields where corn had recently been planted.

On Aug. 1, the EPA announced new neonicotinoid labeling requirements that are due to appear on products in 2014. The agency said it is in the process of reviewing several neonicotinoid registrations, which will be completed in 2018.

But beekeepers say the products shouldn't be sold until research is completed. Other scientific research has linked pesticides to CCD, including a March 2012 study published in Science. Another scientific study published in July in Plos One, an international, peer-reviewed, online publication, said pesticide exposure and pathogens likely interact to contribute to CCD.

Nearly one-third of all honey bee colonies in the U.S. have vanished, the National Resource Defense Council (NRDC) has said. In some areas of the country, more than 50 percent of bees have disappeared.

There are dozens of neonicotinoid pesticide products, and they are used on approximately 75 percent of all acres planted with food crops – commercial and residential – in the U.S., and on 95 percent of all U.S. corn.

The NRDC links bee deaths to pesticide exposure and adds that the USDA has so far failed to aggressively seek out a solution. Without bees to pollinate many fruits and vegetables, the U.S. could lose \$15 billion worth of crops and cause major food shortages, the NRDC said. ▲

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THREE NEW TITLES:

"Grace and Mortgage: The Language of Faith and the Debt of the World" by Peter Selby,

the President of the National Council for Independent Monitoring Boards. He was previously Bishop of Worcester, Bishop of HM Prisons and a Church Commissioner.

"This book has largely been about the violation of the conditions of the economy of exchange, such that it no longer shows that it takes place within the gift economy of God. The violation of the poor at home, of debtor nations abroad, and of the planet we share, are signs of an economy of exchange that does not know itself as inhabiting an economy of gift, that is oblivious to its conditionality, and that it therefore is unable to give and receive genuine gifts, the gifts of God and one another.

An economy of exchange that no longer dwells within the realm of gift turns into one in which exchange is itself dishonoured, and in which there is space neither for the gift nor the graciousness that are essential to the experience of God. In such a debased economy all becomes contract, and broken contract at that. It is to such a world that Christ came as Gift from the Giver, a Jubilee from Nazareth, to renew the gift and to call for a response: the remission of the debts that had accrued, the remission of the debts of those who had been violated by an exchange economy that had in its turn forgotten the condition and purpose for which it had been given." – Peter Selby. Price \$38 inc. p/h.

"Decoding Mammon, Money as a Dangerous and Subversive Instrument" by Peter Dominy:

He has served as missionary in Nigeria for fifteen years before pastoring two parishes in the UK. He is an Emeritus Canon of Chichester Cathedral.

The book is a condensed version of the author's PhD thesis for the University of Exeter, approved in 2011, entitled "De-Coding Mammon: Money in Need of Redemption," which is available on the university Web site (to which readers are referred for a more detailed treatment of the subject) at <http://hdl.handle.net/10036/3065>

"Decoding Mammon" is an exposition of the negative assessment of money implied in Jesus' statement: "You cannot serve God and Mammon". On the basis of the theology enshrined in the Old and New Testament and in the long-term tradition of the church, it is claimed that problems associated with money do not arise simply from the way it is used but from the nature of money itself. Despite the fact that money has enabled great economic development, and in contrast with the general consensus of governments, economists, and many theologians that money is either a positive or neutral instrument, the book seeks to show that money is a deeply flawed instrument, created by fallen human beings, and fashioned over the years to suit the interests of those in power rather than the needs of people in general. It is argued that money should be allowed to operate within severe restrictions, and that any reformulation of the global economy as a result of the recent financial crisis needs to be based on this understanding. Price \$37 inc. p/h.

"Taxing Air: Facts & Fallacies About Climate Change"

Price \$30.00 inc. p/h.:

The book is not written by "alarmists", nor is it by "deniers" - it is by SCIENTISTS - it tells what science observed so far. "Taxing Air" will answer many questions about the CLIMATE, there is an urgent need to be informed and open the debate. Firstly, find out: do we need a TAX dictated to us by UN to fix a problem... what problem? You may ask why tax air? Are we polluting? **No! Carbon Dioxide is Not a Pollutant!** Over the last 500 million years, the levels of CO2 in the atmosphere, has varied between about 0.5% (5,000 ppm) and 0.03% (280 ppm). Ice core

studies have shown that changes in ancient atmospheric carbon dioxide level persistently lag parallel changes in temperature by up to 1,000 years. That temperature leads carbon dioxide, in this case by up to 200 years, is well documented in recent ice core study (2013). The points considered are of physical effect, but **the molecule is also the key for one of the most crucial biological function of furnishing plants with the essential material they need for photosynthesis. Carbon dioxide is a plant food**, it underpins all plant growth.

To the degree that presently increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide might cause mild warming - and noting that our planet is currently traversing a short warm interval in an extended series of glaciations - more carbon dioxide is likely to be beneficial. Where plant growth is concerned, 'however likely' has nothing to do with it, for it is certain that moderate increases in carbon dioxide beyond present levels (say to a doubling or tripling) will enhance plant productivity; combined with which, plants use water more efficiently at higher carbon dioxide levels. Recent studies have estimated that between 1989 and 2009 about 300,000 km2 of new vegetation became established across the African Sahel region in parallel with the increasing levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide. In other words, the recent increases in carbon dioxide have helped to green the planet and feed the world.

OUR POLICY

- To promote service to the Christian revelation of God, loyalty to the Australian Constitutional Monarchy, and maximum co-operation between subjects of the Crown Commonwealth of Nations.
- To defend the free Society and its institutions — private property, consumer control of production through genuine competitive enterprise, and limited decentralised government.
- To promote financial policies, which will reduce taxation, eliminate debt, and make possible material security for all with greater leisure time for cultural activities.
- To oppose all forms of monopoly, either described as public or private.
- To encourage all electors always to record a responsible vote in all elections.
- To support all policies genuinely concerned with conserving and protecting natural resources, including the soil and environment reflecting natural (God's) laws, against policies of rape and waste.
- To oppose all policies eroding national sovereignty, and to promote a closer relationship between the peoples of the Crown Commonwealth and those of the United States of America, who share a common heritage.

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