

The "New Times" is a really independent, non-party, non-class, non-sectarian weekly newspaper, advocating political and economic democracy, and opposing totalitarianism in all its forms.

Now, when our land to ruin's brink is verging, in God's name, let us speak while there is time! Now, when the padlocks for our lips are forging, Silence is crime.
—Whittier.

THE NEW TIMES

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The Planning Octopus Grips Agriculture!

Primary Producer v. Bureaucrat

(Radio Talk by ERIC D. BUTLER over 3CS, Colac.)

For the year ending June 30, 1939, the Department of Commerce and Agriculture spent £495,496 of the taxpayers' money. For the year 1946-47, the estimated expenditure is £2,396,910 or approximately five times the amount spent prior to the war. Last year Food Control succeeded in spending £2,026,472 in spite of the fact that the Treasurer estimated in the Budget that it would spend only £810,000. No doubt it will do even better in increasing its expenditure for this year.

These figures relating to Food Control and the Department of Commerce and Agriculture give some indication of the manner in which bureaucratic control over primary production is being extended. Although there were a few Food Boards before the war, the war years provided the bureaucratic planners with a glorious opportunity to centralise control of all primary production and marketing. The ultimate objective is, of course, the complete socialisation of the primary producer.

If the Australian primary producers are going to escape the fate planned for them, they have got to start to do some realistic thinking about the basic problems confronting them. Like other sections of the community, they are far too inclined to take the short view of their problems, and accept the tempting baits placed before them, only to discover later that they have bartered their freedom of action for what appeared to be a little security.

It will be recalled that it was the Menzies Government, which early in the war gave a great stimulus to the creation of Food Boards. We can study as a classic example the infamous Apple and Pear Board. This Board provided us with a typical example of socialistic control—higher prices for poorer apples, widespread allegations of racketeering, and a loss of several million pounds to the Australian taxpayers.

The Apple and Pear Board was created ostensibly because the war position made it impossible to export apples to Great Britain. The Federal Government therefore proposed to establish a Board to market all apples or subsidise the destruction of all those apples, which it was stated, could not be sold in Australia.

It is true that many apple and pear growers strenuously resisted the introduction of bureaucratic control, but there were others who accepted control in exchange for what they thought would be security. Some apple growers have actually stated that they liked the control, as they were subsidised for the non-marketing of their production.

The acceptance of this state of affairs can only lead to complete serfdom. There was no physical reason why all apples produced in Australia should not have been consumed in Australia without any bureaucratic control whatever. Various authorities showed that most people will eat a much increased amount of fruit if they can afford to buy it. This, of course, concerns financial policy.

If the people had adequate purchasing power to buy all the production they desired, they would automatically indicate to producers just how much they wanted produced. But far too many primary producers apathetically accept the idea that export markets are the end-all and be-all of their efforts, and that, if these export markets fail, they should submit to some form of control in order that they can be subsidised by the Government.

The object of production is obviously consumption, and members of a sane community should first make suitable financial and other arrangements for adequate home consumption before seeking markets on the other side of the world. Then, if other peoples do not want our legitimate surpluses, obviously we should reduce the production of them and have a little more leisure.

At the present time, of course, there is an

urgent demand from all over the world for food, and there is no difficulty in selling production. But the primary producers, particularly the wheat growers, believing that they would get a little more security under bureaucratic control, have to a great extent allowed the marketing of their own production to be taken out of their control.

Many primary producers appear to have overlooked the fact that the increased prices they received during the war years had nothing whatever to do with bureaucratic control. During the war years the supply of money was increased in this and other countries, which, together with restrictions and destruction as a result of the war in Europe, resulted in increased prices. But the bureaucratic planners are determined that the producers shall not get the full benefit of these prices.

The Wheat Board, with its staff of inspectors, accountants and executives, wants to continue what it calls Stabilisation. Just how much this and similar Boards are costing is something that primary producers cannot discover with any degree of accuracy, but the bureaucracy is merely "stabilising" the producers out of their own money. In exchange, the producers are asked to submit to control. The main weapon used against them is fear.

The wheatgrower is asked to take his mind back to the days when he received such a low price for his wheat. He is told that when other countries return to full production, prices on the export markets will fall and that, without stabilisation, he will again suffer low prices.

When they have used the money held back from the wheatgrower for his wheat now being sold, it is obvious that the bureaucrats will expect the wheatgrower to restrict his acreage as ordered and expect the Government to use the taxpayers' money to subsidise him. Thus will be introduced complete socialisation of the primary producer.

If financial policy is such that the Australian consumers can buy wheat and the products of wheat at a profitable price to the growers, and if export prices are low, then it is a policy of insanity to suggest that the entire community should subsidise the export of wheat, merely so that wheatgrowers can continue to force extra hundreds of thousands of acres with artificial fertilisers, ruin the soil and help erosion. If financial policy is based upon the realities of the production system, primary producers will automatically adjust their production to the demands of consumers.

Most primary producers and workers would agree that Monopoly is a vicious thing. They no doubt condemn the big industrial and chemical cartels which deliberately, among other things, set out to force prices up by restricting production and destroying any opposition which might upset this arrange-



"LIBERAL" LEADER MENZIES

He called himself "a practical Socialist" and he helped the growth of bureaucratic Boards.

ment. Instead of production being controlled by free individuals with adequate purchasing power, it is planned from above in order that there is a controlled shortage.

Primary producers, who allow Food Boards and marketing schemes to be used to dictate just what production shall take place, and to insist that no one shall grow things unless he first gets a permit from bureaucratic officials, are also establishing a monopoly. How can we say we are free men when one group of men, some of them servile to the dictates of bureaucratic controllers, can prevent other men from growing and selling food?

The original democratic basis of Unionism is being destroyed in a similar manner. We see the "closed shop" principle being introduced. Unless a worker belongs to a Union, employers are not supposed to employ him. Eventually, of course, every man requiring a job will be told what Union he must join. No free choice will be left to him.

With the creation of monopoly Board control of primary production, monopoly control of industry, and monopoly control of manpower through a highly centralised Trade Union cartel, a few power-lusters can effectively control the entire community. Every individual who surrenders any of his powers (Continued on Page 4)

Significant Political Pointers

During the debate on the Opposition's no-confidence motion at Canberra last week, Dr. Evatt, in commenting upon the demand for reduced taxation, said that "it is impossible to look at the question of taxation without also realising that the modern State is a social service State, adopting, as a legal duty, looking after its people . . ."

The Social Service State is, of course, the servile State, in which the citizen is robbed of the control of his own purchasing power and placed at the mercy of an all-powerful army of officials.

Mr. Menzies and his associates must not be allowed to forget the fact that they played a most important role in furthering the policy of building the Servile State under the guise of social services.

If Dr. Evatt's Social Service State is to be extended, so far from taxation being reduced, we can confidently predict that it will be increased.

The most important function of the State should be to provide genuine dividends for its members. The main ob-

used to serve free people, provide dividends in the shape of increased production with decreasing physical effort. A realistic financial policy would make the necessary financial provisions to distribute the dividends to the people.

Dr. Evatt's Social Service State is designed to make impossible the social Dividend State.

From the start of the exposure of the Bretton Woods Financial Agreement, it was made very clear in the "New Times" that Bretton Woods was linked with the destruction of the Empire Trade Preference system.

This was denied for a time. Then cautious admissions were made about "modifications."

Now our leading London School of Economics planner, Dr. H. C. Coombs, back from seeing his international planning friends overseas, has bluntly stated that the Empire Trade Preference system is completely doomed and that the British Government will have to fall into line with "American" policy.

At least one Labor leader, Mr. Hanlon, the Premier of Queensland, has had the courage to demand of the Federal Government that Dr. Coombs be not permitted to "represent" Australia at any further international conferences.

"When the U.S. loan to Britain was going through it was cynically suggested in the more anti-British American press that it should not be a loan but a gift, because it wouldn't be repaid, anyway. Those who thought so have had fresh ammunition supplied to them by Lord Woolton, who, addressing the Empire Industries Association in London, said he could see no prospect of Britain repaying. 'How can the loan be repaid?' he asked. 'As a line of credit it implies that goods must go into America, but the American people have so far shown no signs that

(Continued on Page 2)

The Secretary of the Trades and Labor Council of South Australia has sent a strong protest to Mr. Chifley against excessive direct and indirect taxation. That's rather encouraging, as it seems to indicate that some Labor executives are recovering from the mesmerism by Chifley and Co.

This Council also drew attention of the A.C.T.U. to "the gratuitous insult to the working class for the Federal Treasurer to graciously permit a 7/- a week interim basic-wage increase and at the same time to collect a large portion of that in taxes of various disguises." Chifley and Co. will have to go some to controvert the logic of that argument.

PRODUCTION PROBLEM: This term is usually applied to industry, but judging from the welter of propaganda on population, this so-called problem is being reduced to a plane similar to that of industry. The latest contribution is a census, put forward by Dr. V. H. Wallace, a Collins Street gynecologist, which covers interviews with 530 women who were each asked why they did not have more children. It is not on record how many women told the interviewers to mind their own business, but some of the answers were grouped thus: 292, financial considerations; 133, housing difficulties. The remainder had many reasons, but all of them wanted their children to enjoy better facilities than they themselves had. Perhaps some of our clergymen will answer that they need a change of heart.

WHITE AUSTRALIA: The "White Australia Policy" will be discussed in the near future at an Inter-Asia Conference in India. Some foolish people think that if we get together in a big huddle with the people from the social cataclysms of India, China and Indonesia and compromise in some way by allowing hordes of incompatible Asiatics to invade Australia, it will strengthen our position. If the time ever comes when these races become militarily strong, and they decide to attack us, any

compromise that we may now make will merely assist the attackers, whoever they may be. It is far better to prepare and wait for that day instead of caving-in now.

STRIKE-BAN SEQUEL: Strong protests are being made by the Soviet radio and press against General MacArthur's ban on a Japanese general strike. The Soviet journal "Izvestia" condemns this as "an infringement of democratic rights, directly opposed to the principles of the Potsdam Declaration." Fancy that comment coming from the socialist Utopia where strikes are banned, where workers are kept on the job under armed guards, and where critics of the Government are condemned to concentration camps! No doubt our local Commos will endeavour to influence Evatt and Co. to support this Soviet propaganda drive against MacArthur.

FRANC FRENZY: A campaign to "save the Franc" is being boosted in France; the big idea is a series of arbitrary and uncompensated 5 per cent, reductions in price levels. Radio and press exhort the people to call the nearest policeman if traders do not allow them the reduction. It is not stated whether or not employers can also demand the 5 per cent, cut at (Continued on page 4).



DR. EVATT.

jective of any form of association is to ensure that those who associate get "dividends" of some description. No reasonable person can deny that the present production system, vastly improved in many ways during the war years, can, if

THE ALBERTA GOVERNMENTS BILL OF RIGHTS

Regular readers will recall that before Christmas we reprinted, from "The Social Creditor," England, an article by Dr. C. G. Dobbs dealing critically with the Alberta Government's "Bill of Rights," also a reply from Mr. A. V. Bourcier, M.L.A., Chairman of the Alberta Social Credit Board. The discussion has been carried further by the following letters to "The Social Creditor" from Dr. Dobbs and Mr. Bourcier respectively:—

The Editor, "The Social Creditor,"

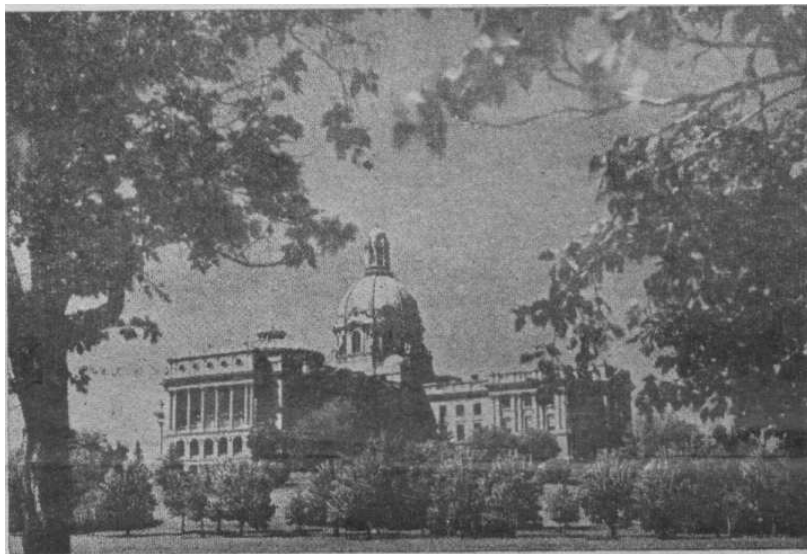
Dear Sir,—I should like to thank Mr. Bourcier most sincerely for his letter and for the explanations which he was kind enough to give in it. There is clearly one point at least in my article with which he is in the heartiest agreement, and that is my declaration that "I know nothing about Albertan politics"; but I ask him to believe that in writing it I was very conscious of this, and for that reason limited my remarks to matters within the scope of my experience in this country, and to considerations the validity of which is self-evident, and independent of the special circumstances in Alberta or elsewhere. Consequently, so far as Bill 76 is concerned, I kept to a few salient points in its very broadest outline, as presented to the public, which left me very little scope for inaccuracy arising from my ignorance of Albertan affairs, with which Mr. Bourcier specifically charges me.

However, before dealing with this charge of inaccuracy I should like to offer some explanation of the sentence, which Mr. Bourcier rejects so emphatically as "sheer nonsense." When I say that the Bill was "concocted" over here, I do not, of course, mean, "drafted," and since Mr. Bourcier is as remote from London as I am from Alberta (a circumstance upon which I can congratulate him!) I do not think he is in a very strong position for being so sure that I am wrong. However, I think I understand that his vehemence arises from the mistaken belief that I was attacking his friends and colleagues who drafted the Bill, whereas my intention was the very opposite; and for this I fear I must take some of the blame, in that, in my anxiety to deliver an urgent warning which could not be ignored, I chose a striking, rather than a more courteous way of putting it, which might have avoided the possibility of such a misinterpretation.

Nevertheless, the fact must be faced that the social security proposals in the Bill, which are the part which has been given most popular appeal and publicity, exhibit their London origin almost as blatantly as they do in the Marsh Report, despite the non-contributory basis proposed in Alberta. Once this fact has been grasped, as few Albertans appear yet to have grasped it (but they assuredly soon will) it becomes clear that the Government of Alberta, consisting as it does of sincere Social Crediters, cannot be accused without the grossest affront of being the true originators of that part of the Bill which it shares so obviously with the Beveridge Plan. At the same time Mr. Bourcier in his letter has given some indication of the means adopted by the enemy to present these proposals in an innocent light, as an expedient way of circumventing the difficulties placed in the path of the attainment of genuine freedom and social credit.

To return now to the rather serious charge of gross inaccuracy and of dealing for the most part with matters not related to the actual provisions of the Bill, I shall be grateful if Mr. Bourcier will substantiate this, and if the Bill does not, in fact, contain defects I have criticised my thankfulness will far outweigh any shame I may feel at being shown to be in error. My article, however, dealt only with two major points in the main structure of the Bill, and one piece of significant illustrative detail (the retirement pension) and it is difficult to see how I could get those wrong, unless, indeed, they have been changed recently. Moreover, the two major points seem to me to be implicitly admitted in Mr. Bourcier's reply, giving the reasons why they have been adopted. They were (1) that the rights of the citizens are to be limited by the laws instead of vice versa, from which I conclude that the Bill is not a true Bill of Rights, but its reverse, and this conclusion is absolutely independent of the power of the courts to find such a Bill ultra vires; and (2) that the principle of "work or maintenance" has been adopted in the "social security" proposals, which I conclude will lead to loss of security and an increase in compulsion, and again these conclusions are independent of the circumstances in Alberta and of my remoteness from them. Here also Mr. Bourcier seems to admit the fact in combating the conclusions drawn from it, but I should be glad if he will explain exactly what is meant when he says the Bill limits the direct dividend to persons in receipt of less than \$600 a year, and that this \$600 a year is unconditional. Does he mean that the condition that the recipient must not be in gainful employment, so clearly stated by Premier Manning (e.g., in his broadcast reported in the "Canadian Social Creditor" of May 2, 1946) has been withdrawn and with it all the interference inseparable from the enforcement of such a condition (as outlined in my article page 3, second Para, beginning "The way it happens is all too familiar")? Has also the retirement condition for pensions been withdrawn? If so, my article is indeed off the mark, but I fear that the reference to the "Draft Scheme for Scotland" as a justification for the imposing of conditions indicates that these have been retained. I wish, now, that I had put into my article the paragraphs

on the Draft Scheme which I had intended in case this happened. Briefly, it seems to be another case of "Daemon est Deus inversus." The conditions there proposed are designed to give precisely the opposite effect to those in the Alberta Bill. The dividend is to be dependent on working (if able) not on not working, and is additional, not alternative to the wage. Its purpose is clearly to establish the claim of the individual to have a stake in the country, and hence a claim to its inheritance; the other condition, which limits the dividend to those with less than four times its amount for their own personal use (remembering that the dividend contemplated was over £300 a year per family, pre-war value!), has again just the opposite effect to limiting it to people with under \$600 (post-war). In the one case you exclude only the well to do whom it can affect very little; in the other you exclude everybody but the extremely poor. Furthermore, as Mr. Bourcier points out, these conditions in the Draft Scheme are an interim arrangement, specifically limited to five years. Is it similarly stated in the Alberta Bill of Rights that the conditions attached to the social security dividends are temporary, and that after a specified time limit they will give place to unconditional dividends for all? The real crux of the disagreement is this:—Mr. Bourcier



LEGISLATIVE BUILDINGS, EDMONTON, ALBERTA.

believes that, when the available dividend is small, payment to those in greatest need confers more freedom than unconditional payment of a smaller dividend to all, and I venture to deny this absolutely. I beg him to reconsider this, as the difference is of immense importance. The first, which adopts the principle of the National Minimum, associated over here with the name of Sydney Webb, a founder of the London School of Economics, leads down the hill to the servile Scarcity State. The second, however, small its beginning, leads up the hill to increasing independence and security. If the available productive power is small, the "security" available is also necessarily small. The important thing is that it should be distributed in such a way as to encourage, and not discourage, its increase. The dividend does the first, the "dole" the second. The end does not justify the means, and the adoption of wrong means invariably leads to the attainment of the wrong ends. It is true that some of the right means, viz., tax reductions and price discounts, may also be adopted, and I wonder why these have been so lightly stressed in the public presentation of the Bill, but since these are to be subsidiary, i.e., the balance only after the social security payments is to be distributed in this way, they do not radically affect my arguments. It seems that Alberta is at the parting of the ways.

In conclusion, I should like very humbly to ask Mr. Bourcier and his colleagues to overlook any offence I may have given, and not to lay aside too lightly the warning which has been delivered. We in this country have in recent years passed through such bitter experiences that we have been forced either to give up thinking, or to learn the desperate practical importance of distinctions, which formerly looked like mere subtleties of principle. This is certainly no matter for pride on our part, but it does make us anxious to prevent others from having to pass through the same fires. If I had come across one single letter or article criticising the Bill of Rights on Social Credit grounds it is unlikely that I should have ventured to express my views, but since, after waiting anxiously for six months, not one came to my notice, it seemed that "something must be done" to relieve a dangerous situation—and when a Social Creditor thinks that, he knows that he must do it himself.

—Yours truly, C. G. DOBBS.

LETTER FROM MR. BOURCIER

I wish to tender my sincere thanks to Dr. Dobbs for his reply to my letter. His

letter removes the main grounds upon which I took issue with him, namely, the implied motives that he attributed to the responsible members of the Alberta Government in connection with the Bill of Rights.

It will perhaps help to clarify the matter further if the following points are noted:

(1) The Bill of Rights Act has not been presented to the public as a Social Credit measure. Moreover no enactment of the Provincial Legislature, having the scope of this Bill, which could pass the Social Credit test would have the smallest hope of being upheld in any court in this country in view of the adverse judgments standing against the Credit Regulation Act.

(2) The provisions of the Bill of Rights do not limit the so-called Social Security Pension to \$600 a year on the basis of the 1945 price level. Neither does its receipt depend upon the recipient being unemployed. A married man may be in receipt of a net income of only \$300 in any year from his employment. He would still be entitled to an additional \$300 and his wife to \$600 in that year, assuming that the amount of the pension was \$600, a matter which would be determined by the productive capacity of the province. Dr. Dobbs's criticism of the administrative implications are however, sound. It should be plain that the administrative difficulties involved is a guarantee that the measure as it now stands will have to be amended.

(3) Premier Manning has repeatedly stated that the Bill of Rights will be amended as often as necessary to give the people of Alberta the results they desire.

(4) I must repeat that I did not and do not now say that Dr. Dobbs's criticism of the manner in which benefits are to be distributed is incorrect from a Social Credit viewpoint. In fact his criticism could perhaps be carried much further on grounds

Political Pointers

(Continued from page 1)

they are prepared to allow British goods to enter their country."

—Sydney "Bulletin," Feb. 19.

Labor propaganda in South Australia is attempting to make much of the fact that the South Australian Government is now the only non-Labor Government in Australia and that South Australians should "stand all square with the rest of Australia." There is a straight-out suggestion that a Labor Government in South Australia would be able to get more hand-outs from Canberra than can a "Liberal" Government.

The establishment of a Labor Government in South Australia would no doubt lead to a direct attack upon the Legislative Council. It is becoming more and more obvious that Legislative Councils everywhere are going to come under increasing attack from now on.

At long last the fact has been proved that the Federal Government, apparently without even discussing the matter with the bureaucratic Wheat Board, has agreed to sell wheat to New Zealand at 5/9 per bushel. This providing of cheap wheat for New Zealand, not, be it carefully noted, for the hungry British, will cost the Australian taxpayers £2,000,000 for this year. Australian wheatgrowers will be among the taxpayers contributing to make up the price the wheat would bring at present on the world's markets.

If Mr. Chifley and his economic "advisers" are going to wipe out all subsidies, the case for drastic taxation reductions can no longer be ignored. But there is trickery planned. Having allowed prices to rise by abolishing the subsidies, no doubt some reduction in taxation, probably approximately the same amount as is now being used for subsidies, will take place. This will, in effect, mean that no real reduction has taken place. Mr. Chifley and his "advisers" are probably hoping that they can appease the taxpayers in this manner.

That allegedly great anti-Socialist organisation, the Institute of Public Affairs, which invariably quotes with approval the famous London School of Economics socialist, Sir William Beveridge, says in its publication entitled "Taxation in the Post-War Years," that "... the individual taxpayer may find that not many years after the war the taxes he will be called upon to pay, however fearsome they may appear at the moment, can be borne without excessive strain." The I.P.A. says that we must, prepare for permanent high taxation. This should cheer Mr. Chifley immensely.

On November 30, 1946, the total number in Government employment was 537,300. This was an increase of 2700 for the month. There are now approximately 13,000 more officials than when the war finished. Thus we progress to serfdom. Nothing can save us but a powerful attack upon high taxation and bureaucracy.

Every production problem is now regarded as an excuse to establish another Board or Commission, increase the number of officials, and thus provide a further burden for the taxpayer. This procedure inevitably results in still less production.

Rather than remove the causes of discontent in the coal-mining industry, the power-lusters at Canberra seized upon the discontent as an excuse to establish the Joint Coal Board and effectively centralise 80 per cent. of Australia's black coal supplies under bureaucratic socialism.

The Australian press of Saturday, February 15, contained the first of the Coal Board's advertisements for officials. A chief welfare officer is to receive a salary of £900 to £1100. No doubt he and other officials will soon collect a large staff of typists and others around them.

The press of February 15 also contained Commonwealth advertisements for Field Liaison Officers and Regional Planning Officers in the Department of Post-War Reconstruction, and the Commonwealth Prices Branch seeks a Public Relations Officer. This Public Relations Officer will receive up to £826 per year to tell the public what a great thing is price control.

It was stated at Canberra only a few weeks ago that more people could be employed in the various Departments if they could be obtained. Nearly every day's press carries Commonwealth advertisements for bureaucratic positions of some type.

This is, of course, "full employment."

Mr. G. J. Jenkin, a former adviser to the Rationing Commission, is advocating further rationing in Australia in order to send more food to Great Britain.

No one can say that this writer has not at all times advocated the utmost assistance for the British people. But to ration the Australian people more comprehensively and severely is to force them into the same disastrous position as that into which the British have been forced. The plight of the British people must not be used as an excuse to force more bureaucratic socialism upon us. It should inspire us to force the Government to alter the policies, which are crippling production in this country and thus preventing us from sending adequate food supplies to the British people without accepting further officialdom in this country. —E. D. B.

BELATED RECOGNITION

The soundness of Major C. H. Douglas is being recognised at last in more and more quarters.

Beland Honderich, Financial Editor of the Toronto "Daily Star," writing in that paper, declares:

"Twenty or more years ago, when Major C. H. Douglas, father of Social Credit, made this claim (of a chronic shortage of purchasing power in the hands of the people) he was soundly ridiculed.

"It is interesting to note that this basic Douglas claim is now being advanced in the writings of several prominent modern-day economists. And like Douglas, they say the solution is the distribution of benefits to the people."

Henderich notes, "already, economists are predicting a depression around 1950 that will be worse than any in the past."

—"The Canadian Social Creditor."

ANT STATE OR NATIONAL DIVIDENDS?

Readers will recall the striking article by two Canadian technical experts published in our February 7 issue under the heading, "The Automatic Factory: Machines Without Men." The industrial future envisaged in the article may seem a little remote at the moment in the face of the determination of the Powers-That-Be to pursue the policies of Full Employment and Planned Scarcity; but unless the Planners are to be allowed to have a walk-over, the issues raised by the article will have to be faced. We therefore follow-on by reprinting hereunder the relevant chapter of "The Truth About Social Credit": —

We have mentioned that Social Crediters have continually emphasised that a financial system should be merely a "ticket system" for distributing goods and services. They have demonstrated that the cultural heritage, the science built up over thousands of years, belongs to everyone, and that, as science is the major factor in an age of power production, the displacement of men by machinery should not be regarded as a curse, but as a blessing. Social crediters say that every person in the community should receive some money in the form of a "national dividend." This dividend belongs to every individual as a right, a right conferred on him by his forefathers. It is ridiculous to talk about "something for nothing"; the whole of our civilisation is something we have obtained for nothing. We cannot take any credit for the efforts of our forefathers.

Like their "opponents," Labour spokesmen declare that the financial system should be used, not to distribute the results of the people's heritage to them, but to put them to work. Are they afraid that the workers, if obtaining a regular dividend, would be free men deciding when and where they would work, without worrying about Union Bosses?

One shrewd wit has stated that many so-called reformers are more interested in representing poverty than in abolishing it. So long as labor leaders join with the "capitalists" in insisting that "full employment" is the sole objective of society, they are offering those whom they represent nothing but perpetual wage-slavery. Can it be that the labor leaders are more concerned with representing labor and organising it into bigger and more highly centralised groups than with acceptance of the fact that science, if allowed full play, would make labor, as we understand it a rapidly diminishing factor in production?

Social Crediters have pointed out that if production were regarded as a means to an end, not an end in itself, those who engaged in production would be those most competent to do so. But what of the rest of the community? Are they merely to draw dividends, sit around and do nothing? They will certainly draw dividends, and as improvements in production methods take place, their dividends will increase, but, so far from doing nothing, there is nothing more certain than that they will do far more than ever. They will be self-employed. They will be doing all those things they have always longed to do.

But both the Socialists and their "opponents" assure us that it would be the ruination of us all if we had paid leisure, that we must all be kept hard at work, even if only digging holes and filling them in again.

When giving evidence before the Federal Parliamentary Committee on Social Security in 1942, Professor GIBLIN actually said that unemployed men should be paid to shove sand from one side of the road to the other, rather than let them obtain any money without working for it!

The different Party Leaders merely differ about the best methods of reaching the "full-employment" objective, which they all advocate. There are different roads to slavery, but the roads all have the same ending. In a real democracy the electors would choose their own policy, their own destination; they would not be tricked into arguments about various methods of reaching an objective chosen for them by someone else.

It is time the electors started to ask a few simple questions concerning this "full employment" policy. We have been taught that we must demand work. But surely work is merely a method of obtaining what we want? If work is an end in itself, as so many of our "leaders" state, then the human race has been very foolish for thousands of years. Men have been constantly endeavouring to reduce the amount of labor required to produce the necessities of life. The idea was to obtain freedom from compulsory work, work imposed by nature, in order that more and more effort could be devoted to what we might term cultural pursuits, a development of the spiritual as well as the material.

Take from the human race all the knowledge, which has been accumulated and passed on from generation to generation over thousands of years, and we would be as the lowest barbarians. We would have to start laboriously all over again to learn, for example, the use of wheels and levers. This knowledge of how to do things, termed "the cultural heritage" by Social Crediters,

obviously belongs to everyone in the community. It is not suggested that the "capitalists" or someone else should have the benefit of this cultural heritage to the detriment of the community—nor that there is any necessity to dispossess those people who still enjoy a reasonable standard of living, in order to try and improve the conditions of the rest of the community. The fact is that the controllers of the financial system, now being assisted by the bureaucracies, have attempted to sabotage this heritage by preventing the people from obtaining the fruits of it. But they could not completely sabotage it, the result being the "embarrassing" poverty amidst plenty before 1939—and even then production was being throttled down. But the new strategy is to ensure that there is no plenty. The plenty is being prevented by the bureaucrats, who are determined that the people shall only work to produce those things which the bureaucrats consider necessary. "Full employment" can only be maintained by economic conscription and sabotage of the cultural heritage. Hitler achieved "full employment" by putting millions of Germans to work on non-consumable goods:



PROFESSOR L. F. GIBLIN,
Advocate of Work for Work's Sake.

war production. Professor Coombs visualises big public works to keep everyone a wage slave.

Every sensible person must agree that the sole purpose of an economic system is to provide goods, when and where required, with the minimum of human effort. As greater and greater efficiency in production is obtained, it is obvious that less and less labour is required. There are more "unemployed." But then the great cry goes up that these people must be got back to work before they can have money to buy goods, which machines have produced without their efforts! Commenting on this insanity, a Social Credit member in the Canadian Federal Parliament stated:

"I have yet to hear any individual, either on the Government side or on the Opposition benches, indicate what he means by full employment . . . Why do we have an economic system? Judging from most of the speeches I hear both in and out of the House, the complete purpose of an economic system is to keep people at work. . . . I wish to dissent completely from that point of view. . . . I assert that the purpose of the economic system never was, is not, and never will be, that of providing jobs . . . The only sound, sane, sensible, logical and legitimate purpose of an economic system is to provide the maximum amount of goods with the minimum of work and trouble . . . it is not "work" that anyone objects to much; it is being compelled to work either by Government or by Nature . . . When a Government, whether it be this Government or any other, seeks to compel the people of a nation to work, whether it be on public works or work of any other kind, then that Government is imposing a condition of slavery on the people. The Work State is nothing less than a Slave State. I wish to say with respect to private enterprise that I do not consider it the duty or obligation of private enterprise anywhere to provide jobs . . . There is a lot of criticism of private enterprise being made today. The only thing I see wrong in private enterprise is the abuse of it. . . . When the Socialists contend that the way to deal with the abuses of the private enterprise system is for the nation to take it over, that is equivalent to saying that we ought to abolish freedom lest it be abused."

The case for the "national dividends" idea has been outlined in detail in Social Credit literature. Both the Socialists and the "Capitalists" have attacked the idea. Both object to the human race entering into its

heritage. They are both frantically trying to pursue an insane economic policy in the face of increasing scientific progress. The war speeded up the application of science to production a thousand-fold. Here are a few facts given by a Labor member in the British House of Commons, a Labor man who has seen through the insanity of "full employment" in the twentieth century. Speaking on June 22, 1944, Mr. Maxton said:

" . . . Do not start at the end of trying to find employment for our people. To see, now, that the persons concerned get their full share of the wealth that is produced, that is the major problem, rather than the problem of seeing that everybody takes a full share in the work of the world. "The world's shipbuilding capacity today . . . is sufficient to build, in one year, a mercantile marine of as great a tonnage as the whole mercantile marine of the whole world of pre-war days. One year can produce that 65,000,000 tons of shipping . . . What do the shipbuilders of the world do, when in one year; they put on the seas sufficient ships to keep the world going for 25 years?"

"Suppose we have all the ships we need for 25 years produced in one year. What do the shipbuilders, the steel workers behind them, the local shopkeepers in the localities and the food and clothing producers, do for the other 24 years while waiting for the ships to go down?"

"Here is a little cutting . . . which I have shown a hundred times to my friends: 'Speaking in Vancouver, Sir Robert Fairey, Director-General of the British Aircraft Commission, . . . added: "Britain could turn out enough planes in three days to last all the world's commercial airlines for five years."

"This tremendously increased capacity for producing goods can be paralleled in every branch of industry where machine power plays a primary part."

The reader is urged to investigate facts such as Mr. Maxton mentioned, and then to ask himself what all this cry for "full employment" means. It may be true that here in Australia we could absorb a considerable amount of manpower on roads, etc., for a short period, although anyone familiar with the use of machinery during the war for laying down new military roads and aerodromes knows that very few men would be required if full use were made of machinery. And we only want public works, which will benefit the individual people. We don't want public works just for the sake of making work—which is, of course, what the economic planners want. The controllers of the Egyptian slaves kept them busy building pyramids!

The burden of work is being shifted from the backs of men by the use of solar energy in the form of electricity and steam. And now scientists tell us of the almost-unbelievable power, which can be made available in the form of atomic energy!

Is the human race to be prevented from using Nature's energy to bring freedom to an increasing number of individuals, simply because men like Hitler tell us that we must not accept Nature's gifts, that they would not be good for us? Social crediters challenge this idea.

* * * * *

[NOTE: "The Truth About Social Credit," a booklet by Eric D. Butler, from which the foregoing is taken, is obtainable from New Times Limited, Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne. The price is 1/1d per copy, including postage.]

"THRESHOLD OF GREAT EVENTS"

The following letter by Mr. Norman Jaques, M.P., appears in the "Edmonton Bulletin" (Alberta): —

"Sir, —The mere promise of increased old age pensions does not explain Social Credit's victory in Pontiac, Quebec, or the crushing Liberal defeat in spite of mothers' allowances. A key to the political situation in Quebec is the heavy drop in C.C.F. votes following consistent C.C.F. support of Liberal policies during the recent session.

"The facts show that the tide of Socialism is on the ebb. The truth is coming out, in spite of all the propaganda by Communists and their Socialist fellow travellers.

"It is common knowledge in Ottawa's corridors and lobbies, that the Liberal party itself is threatened with revolt against the ever-increasing flood of legislation to centralise power, and the planned economy directed by the Socialist London School of Economics, which has trained all the chief economic experts of the Liberal Government.

"It is true that the Progressive Conservatives protest in vain against this Liberal drift toward Socialism, but their progressiveness can be measured only by the extent of their own drift to the Left.

"These are negative reasons for Pontiac's upset. Positively and fundamentally Social Crediters in Quebec are more numerous and more enthusiastic than they are anywhere else, including Alberta.

"For years Quebec Social Credit leaders, with the faith and zeal of missionaries, have been spreading the philosophy of Social Credit in every corner of the province.

"The ground has been prepared for political action. This teaching has stood the test of time; its truth has been established and confirmed. Social Credit is the Christian answer to Marxian Socialism, Communism and totalitarianism.

"Under other names the fundamental truths of Social Credit are spreading in the U.S.A. and elsewhere, in spite of "Communist controlled propaganda.

"Inevitably these movements will co-operate across national boundaries in the spirit of the Atlantic Charter and in opposition to Potsdam, Marx and Morgenthau.

"We are at the threshold of great events through a revival of Christian faith in individual security and freedom."

ZIONISM A STEP TO WAR

Headed "Political Zionism Held Step to War," the following is from the "Montreal Gazette" of November 6: —

"The Canadian Arab Friendship League yesterday charged political Zionists in every country, including Canada, as sharing the responsibilities for the admitted world-wide conspiracy against Britain. The League condemned in particular the recent bombing of the British Embassy in Rome and warned that similar acts of terrorism could be expected from the announced intentions of the terrorist organisations.

"How can Montreal supporters of political Zionism condone such terrible acts and be offended when the conspirators are called 'terrorists' instead of 'defenders of Zion'?" the statement of the League asked. "The present underground war waged by political Zionists against Britain and the Arab countries can only lead to more hatred and misunderstanding between the Jewish people and those of the Western World. Anti-Semitism, despised by Arabs because they are Semitic themselves, has already increased on this continent. Since the murder of Lord Moyne, the bombings of the Haifa railroad and the Tel-Aviv hotel, Anglo-Saxons in general and Arabs in particular have come to the conclusion that the main aim of political Zionism is the destruction of existing law and order and not the creation of a refuge for European Jewry. Their second aim, the founding of a political State on Arab soil, advocated for the past 27 years, is doomed to failure because of the methods employed by terrorists to gain such political recognition," the statement declared.

"The League at a special meeting last night approved a wire of protest which was sent to President Truman, whose policy was termed 'anti-Arab' and 'against the best interests of American-Arab relations.' The wire, signed by M. S. Massoud, president of the League, said in part: 'This policy means another world war, which will start in the Holy Land and eventually involve Russia, the United States and Britain.'

RUSSIA THEN—AND NOW

It appears to be possible to make any statement on the transcendent merits of the Russian social and economic system, which is State Monopoly, Socialism, or State Capitalism, whichever label you prefer, with the assurance that the response will be that of the children when the rocket goes up. A newsletter quotes General Schestakov as saying that "by the socialisation of agriculture, the Soviet Union will soon be self-sufficient in food."

Prior to the Bolshevik Revolution, Russia was not only self-sufficient in food on a general standard of living higher than that obtaining in 1939, but was the largest exporter of food, and particularly wheat, in Europe.

So far as it is possible to obtain information on Russian affairs, Socialism has done one thing and one thing only, and to do that has required immense outside help. It has equipped a magnificent army, the human material of which has always been of the highest class for fighting purposes. As Socialism always pretends to detest war, this achievement seems to require explanation. — "The Social Crediter."

DOUBLE TALK

From the "Canadian Social Crediter": —

How interesting a daily paper can be! An eastern correspondent sent us two clippings from the Toronto "Daily Star" of December 20th last.

The first clipping told of Russians inventing a mechanical track layer (for laying railway track) by which 20 men do the work of 5000.

The second clipping, speaking of "major planks in the C.I.O. Programme," reports that full employment was the basic theme of the whole convention. "Full employment is the key to economic security. . . . If we are going to maintain peace between nations, we must have full employment. . . . If we are to grow as a nation and raise our standards of living, we must have full employment." And that's only the half of it.

Now, asks our correspondent, is the C.I.O. going to tell its Moscow bosses to smash the mechanical track-layer that will create unemployment?

DON'T MISS THIS

Extra copies of the January 31 special anti-taxation issue of the "New Times" are available at the "New Times" Office, McEwan House, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne. (Postal address: Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne.)

The price to you, for a parcel of these extra copies, is 2/- per dozen, post free.

A supply of them will help you to further the tax-reduction campaign, so write or call for your parcel without delay.

SEWING-MACHINE REPAIRS

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Special Attention to Country Clients

Annual General Meeting of
The Douglas Social Credit Movement in Victoria,
Room 8, First Floor, the Block,
Elizabeth Street Entrance.
Thursday, 20th March, 8 p.m.
Business: Election of Officers.
Members are specially invited to attend to organise a statewide taxation reduction campaign.

A dispassionate consideration of such events as the Mond-Turner Conference (not to mention the deliberations of less known bodies) ought to convince anyone that the Materialistic Conception of History, which Marx popularised, but did not originate, is, like so many other theories and ideas, which are current, an inversion of the truth.

Mond, and possibly others with him, was perfectly conscious of what he was aiming at, and was animated by a conscious hatred of the traditional English way of life, which represented an unconscious subordination of the "employment" and production systems to spiritual and social needs. It was the remnant of Christian Europe. Given that conviction, it is not difficult to see that mass production, majority democracy, collective bargaining and collectivism, one world Government (intended to be ruled by Zionists) and World War and World Annihilation are all of a piece. They are the inescapable results of a choice—conscious in a small minority, unconscious and essentially passive in "the Common Man."

It has often been observed that there has been a steady degradation in the attractiveness of life in England, and perhaps to a less extent in Scotland, as the statistical wealth of the nation has increased. Since (a) the population has increased—rather mysteriously—and (b) the rate of production per man-hour has been accelerated by a factor of at least one hundred and probably more, it is indisputable that something must be happening which is ignored. There are many factors of this character. The first is that most of our production has little value in adding to the pleasure of life. The second is that a startling amount of our exports are a complete loss, from which we get no return. A third is that we get less return each year per unit of export, so that the amount of labour paid per unit of import tends to remain constant, or to increase irrespective of the productivity of that unit. At the present time, as a result of labour agitation reinforced by the failure of this policy to raise living standards, actual output tends to drop.

That is the system, and its apotheosis is, "full employment" for unspecified ends. Now, in fairness to many people whose education and daily work renders it nearly impossible that they should comprehend the insanity of this policy, it has to be admitted that war is its justification. If we are to contemplate more world wars, competitive armaments, not absolute standards of military strength, are inescapable. Put quite shortly, the world is doomed, and at no distant date, if this is the only conceivable policy by which to deal with the threat of war on a modern scale.

But there are at least two policies, which can be applied to the situation. One of these is being publicised by every means, which modern methods can suggest. It is the policy of the omnipotent World State. And the second is hardly mentioned and still more infrequently understood. It is the policy of the Free Individual.

It is difficult to pick up any newspaper at this time without reading a suggestion of the growing risk of war, accompanied by the remark, "Of course, nobody wants war." Well, if nobody wants war, from whom do wars proceed? The answer is: From the Common Man, manipulated by his Greatest Enemy, the Power Maniac. Without the common man, the Power Maniac is helpless.

There is really no room for argument about this matter. Not a day passes without some action being taken to make the individual more impotent and to transfer his individual initiative—his personal power—to the mass. The Trades Union, the Co-operative "Movement" (Co-operation between High Finance and the "Labour" Party

to monopolise and cartelise distribution), the Producing Cartels, the various infringements on real property, and, most deadly perhaps of all, the combination of calculated inflation, taxation and "coupon" restrictions are all steps to Russian serfdom.

Perhaps the greatest disservice to struggling humanity, which the past hundred years has witnessed, has been fostered by those "money reformers" who have supported the "nationalisation" of the Bank of England. It is simply appalling in its implications that men, well educated in the everyday sense, should be so unconscious of the very roots of the democracy for which they profess such admiration that they cannot or will not grasp two elemental propositions. The first is that genuine control of genuine finance was the core of a genuine Parliamentary system, not its electoral devices, and that this involved getting the money from Parliament not from a Ways and Means Account, and that "na-



MAJOR C. H. DOUGLAS.

ionalisation" of the Bank of England has now made it quite unnecessary to bring financial questions into the House of Commons at all. So evident has this become that the proposal to vote thousands of millions of pounds merely empties the House. It ought to be elementary, but it is not, that if no considerable number of individuals as individuals, can be found to say they want war, then the way to prevent war is to prevent those individuals from being coerced or deceived, by desire for money or State action, "into a war which only a tiny minority do want, because of its indispensability to a Power World Organisation. The present Administration is going further and faster than any previous Administration along the course in which Mr. Churchill's Administration concurred, and against which the so-called Conservative Opposition is making no real protest—the transfer of power and initiative from the individual to the institutions controlled by International Finance. And no Power on earth can avert the consequences, failing a reversal of the policy and the discredit of its Philosophy. Those consequences are war and the death of civilisation. (To be concluded.)

MR. GULLETT, M.H.R., ON "REFUGEES"

Many or most of our readers probably were interested but left in the dark by our passing reference last week to Mr. Gullett's blunt statement on Jewish "refugees" published in the Melbourne "Argus" of February 12. Therefore, and because it is of sufficient importance to put on the record in these columns, we print the statement in full hereunder:—

Sir,—As you were good enough to publish part of my speech on migration in the last Parliament, I thought you might be interested to have my views on the further migration plans announced in the Press today (Tuesday).

The arrival of additional Jews is nothing less than the beginning of a national tragedy and a piece of the grossest deceit of the Parliament and people by the Minister for Immigration and his department.

Mr. Calwell says that only close relatives of the Jews already here will be permitted to come, but this, of course, means nothing. By this means we could ultimately find ourselves with the Jewish population of the world.

Others beside myself have repeatedly asked Mr. Calwell how many Jewish refugees have come into this country and how many he is prepared to admit. He has evaded the question and assured us that only a few have arrived—a mere 600 last year. All this time he and his department were secretly arranging, without consulting Parliament or people, for more Jewish refugees to come here.

In the last Parliament when I raised this question I received many critical to say the least, letters from Jews, but I also had many other letters and expressions of approval from Australian citizens. The mere

expression of views on this vital question is not enough. Everybody today feels some sympathy with the Jewish people, and politicians are unwilling to deal with the subject of Jewish migration.

I believe it is time that members of Parliament indulged in a little plain speaking on this question, and that the people, as a whole, took a more active interest and demonstrated to the Minister and to the Government their opposition to immigration of this sort. It is time to consider these refugees arriving from Poland and elsewhere purely on their merits as migrants and in an unsentimental light. In the last 50 years these people have swarmed all over Europe, coming principally from Armenia, Russia, and the Balkans. We should remember that they are European neither by race, standards, nor culture. They are, in fact, an Eastern people. In 2000 years no one but Britain has been successfully able to absorb them, and for the most part they owe loyalty and allegiance to none. They secured a stranglehold on Germany after the last war during the inflation period, and in a very large part, brought upon themselves the persecution, which they subsequently suffered.

In the United States they are enormously rife, especially in New York, where there are 3½ millions of them; where they own practically everything, and where they are the leaders of the most violent anti-British campaigns. In addition, they are practically

in a state of war with Great Britain in Palestine, and almost daily they carry out their murderous attacks and assaults against British subjects.

One could respect them more if they were so ready to flog professional soldiers of their old friend and ally had shown an equal determination and courage to the threat of extermination by Hitler and the Nazis. These are the people who, at the direction of international Jewish organisations, are being foisted upon us who are to become the dumping ground for the world's unabsorbable at the dictates of the Minister for Immigration.

I believe that this is contrary to the desire of the overwhelming part of the people of this country, and if this policy is continued, we shall bitterly rue the day.

I wish to make it clear that I refer only to Jews from the Continent of Europe, not British Jews or Jews already in Australia. — H. B. GULLETT, M.P.

THE PLANNING OCTOPUS GRIPS AGRICULTURE

(Continued from page 1.)

of self-determination helps to bring the Monopoly State a little closer. The big wheatgrower who sees the small grower being crushed by Board control may feel satisfied that he is thus all right, but the policy of monopoly will eventually also overtake him. The entire community is being bribed with its own money to sell its liberties.

Some stupid people take criticism of control to mean that people should be allowed to do as they like. No sensible person denies the necessity of certain laws to govern our activities.

It has been said that traffic laws prove that controls are good, and that the liberty of the individual must be sacrificed in a modern community. So far from some traffic laws, such as the one, which states that all traffic shall travel on the left-hand side of the road, interfering with individual liberty of movement, they not only increase individual liberty of movement by making for order instead of chaos, but also increase safety. But you will notice that this type of law is law freely obeyed by individuals because it brings them increased benefits. However, the controllers want to impose laws and restrictions, which, in the case of road transport, would force people to travel where, when and as told. There is vast difference between really free individuals voluntarily associating in any organising to get results they could not get as individuals, and, on the other hand, the enforcing of controls upon all people by a small handful of planners who believe, like Hitler, that they were born into this world to mind other people's business.

When we have completely de-centralised all political, financial, and economic power back into the hands of individuals in order that they may use it as they see fit, the present mania for imposed planning and controls will become a thing of the past.

Primary producers should take note: Once they are under the control of centralised bureaucratic planning in this country, they will then be subject to international planning. Already so-called "representatives" of the Australian primary producers who have been overseas are saying that there will have to be international control of food production and marketing.

Liberty can only be won and extended by fighting for it at all times. The organised minority of power-lusters can only defeat the disorganised majority because the latter are too apathetic to mind their own business. If we will not mind our own business, we should not be surprised when other people try to mind it for us.

FAIR WARNING OF FOUL PLAY

From the "Canadian Social Creditor":—

1947 will see the most violent effort ever launched to unseat the present Social Credit Government of Alberta. Already this has become apparent to every observer. The reason for the move is equally obvious: if we hold the province for another term of office, Canada will be so organised for electing a federal Social Credit Government that the game will be over with the "party" promoters. So Alberta must go.

The Marxists will be in the spearhead of the attack. If possible, every organised body in the province will be infiltrated and turned against the most honest and progressive Government Alberta has ever known. A continuous barrage of propaganda will be unleashed, ranging from downright lies to playing on prejudices, dreams and the petty complaints from which we all suffer at one time or another.

That is all for now. Social Crediters, on the alert!

FARMING UNDER SOCIALISM

The British Labour-Socialist Government has just brought down legislation, which will guarantee to British farmers prices for many crops. The price to be paid by the farmers, themselves, however, is that the Government will exercise complete supervision and control over all farming operations. The legislation provides that if any farmer refuses to abide by the official regulations as to what to grow and how to grow it, the farmer may either be imprisoned, heavily fined, or, if necessary, may have his farm taken from him. The first case heard was that of a farmer in Lincolnshire, Mr. Ralph Bishop, who was sent to prison for four months and fined \$6000 for sowing six acres more of a crop than the regulations provided. British farmers, therefore, it would seem, are paying a high price in the loss of their independence, liberty and freedom for whatever "price-security" the Labour-Socialist Government is giving them.

—"The Canadian Social Creditor," January 16.

Notes on the News

(Continued from page 1)

the labour end. Anyway, it is hailed as a bold and energetic stroke, which may relieve the Socialist Party's fallen fortunes. If the Socialists' prestige (?) depends on such obviously stupid stunts, which can lead nowhere, their eclipse should not be long delayed. Then the long climb back to sanity will begin.

WHEAT WORRIES: The Wimmera region in Victoria is reported to be so full of wheat that farmers hardly know what to do with it; silos are full everywhere and still there is wheat in the fields. When the Socialist Planners hear of this they will most likely reduce wheat-growing licenses for next year to make sure of scarcity. World wheat production has nearly reached record figures, so it is likely that the "Famine" theme-song, will become a back number and those who were using it to bolster up the plot for a World Food Control Board will have to change their tune to a pre-war theme of production restricted by Board control in order that prices may remain high. All political Parties practiced this form of sadistic socialism. Meanwhile the International Wheat Council, without reference to farmers, have limited Australia's share of the world export to 19 per cent, and they have also fixed the price at from 6/1 to 8/2.

CONSCRIPTION CANKER: In the press of January 31, General Blarney was credited with some rather blunt remarks on the alleged necessity of conscription. For example: "You will never get enough people to volunteer in good times, compulsion is the only way." He evidently overlooks the practice of "making things bad" to encourage enlistment. He also stated that at the coming census, "military authorities would probably want certain questions added"; thus the census may become a military dossier. A peculiar aspect of this conscription canker is that no condition is imposed on the conquered countries preventing conscription; apparently the military cliques in all countries refuse to close this loophole.

STALIN'S SCHEME: Stalin is reported as seeking a pact with Great Britain under which, if America ever attacks the Soviet Union, the U.K. would come to Russia's immediate aid. This is said to put Great Britain in a spot with U.S. and to place Bevin in an awkward position with his Commo backbenchers who prefer the Soviet tyranny. Bevin so far has made no formal reply, but of course there is no reason why Great Britain should undertake to defend the Soviet dictatorship, especially as any contra agreement, which Russia may offer, would not be worth the paper it was written on. But Bevin may counter with a proposal for freedom for the Russian people in accordance with Western ideas. That would put Uncle Joe in a real spot!

SNAPPY SHORTS: (1) A claim was made in the U.S. House of Representatives that, "U.N.R.R.A. had gone a long way towards making Stalin dictator of Europe," and the House was advised to make sure that any further aid given to Europe did not further this development. (2) A London report says: "The High Court quashed a Government order for the compulsory acquisition of 6100 acres of land in Hertfordshire upon which the town of Stevenage stands. This is a severe blow for Mr. Silkin and his 'satellite town' idea." (3) The Polish Prime Minister (Mr. Modzelweski) told pressmen in Paris that Poland would introduce a law as a part of its drive against anti-Semitism to shoot those who engaged in such activities. —O. B. H.

HELP TO GET YOUR TAXES DOWN

Tax-reduction demand-letter forms are now obtainable from The Honorary Secretary, Victorian League of Rights, 9 Durham Road, Surrey Hills, E.10, Vic. The price of the forms is 2/- per 50/- or 3/6 per 100, post-free.

In addition to canvassing fellow-citizens, it is suggested that actionists who intend doing something about distributing forms should contact individuals in as many organisations as possible with a view to enlisting their aid.

This is an issue in which Laborites, Liberals and others of different political views, can co-operate for their individual and mutual benefit. Individuals in these organisations are, we are sure, just waiting for a lead to go into action.

The "New Times" is most anxious to receive progress reports as the campaign advances in the various centres.

Write for your tax-reduction demand-letter forms NOW, and let us know what YOU are doing from time to time.

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