

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 NEWTIMES

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Real Bank Issue Revealed

Big Rally in Melb.

Approximately 500 people enthusiastically applauded Mr. Eric Butler's address at the Princess Theatre, Melbourne, last Sunday, when the plan to nationalise the Australian Banking system was exposed as being merely one part of a policy of centralised world control.

The Communists turned out in force in an attempt to disrupt the meeting, but Mr. Butler wasted no time on them. He instructed the police to have all agitators removed immediately. He pointed out that he was prepared to answer any questions at the conclusion of his address, but he was not going to permit the meeting to be disorganised by a few agitators.

In the course of his address, Mr. Butler said that many sincere people who were opposed to the existing financial policy were being misled into believing that nationalisation of banking would result in desired financial reforms.

"So far from this being the case, it will result in an even greater concentration of power. Monopoly of any description is a vicious thing, but Monopoly cannot be defeated by making it a Government Monopoly, which is the most vicious Monopoly of all. If it can be shown that any Monopoly group is holding the community up to ransom, it is the function of the Government to take action to restore a balance of power in favour of all the people.

Real Bank Issue

"So far as banking is concerned, the Commonwealth Government already has more than sufficient power to ensure that there is a financial policy which destroys the menace of Monopoly. It is a matter of history how, after World War I, the restrictive credit policies of the trading banks was offset by the policy of the Commonwealth Bank under the then Governor, Sir Denison Miller. "Sir Denison Miller is reported as having said that for every



Mr. ERIC BUTLER

This Week's Laugh

Our regular readers will enjoy the humour of the following statement from the front page of last week's Melbourne Communist "Guardian":

"Speakers against bank nationalisation include the 'Social Credit leader,' Mr. Eric Butler, who now comes forth in his true colours as a champion of the money lords against the people."

pound of credit withdrawn by the trading banks, he would issue one pound of credit from the Commonwealth Bank. No one can deny the fact that even this comparatively orthodox policy was responsible for saving Australia, from the depression, which most countries had after the First World War."

Economic Dictatorship

Dealing with the suggestion that nationalisation of banking was necessary to defeat another depression, Mr. Butler said that the fear of another depression was being used to persuade people to give increased powers to some of the very economic planners associated with the disastrous Premiers' Plan.

He pointed out that it was very obvious that the plan to nationalise the entire banking system was designed to allow the Canberra planners to dictate all activities. Instancing how even Mr. J. T. Lang has pointed out that the controller of a nationalised banking system would be the economic dictator of Australia, Mr. Butler asked Labor supporters how they would like Mr. Menzies to have this power if his Party were elected to office at the next elections.

After showing how the creation and issue of financial credit governed production, Mr. Butler said that centralised control over credit policy would permit the economic planners at Canberra to realise their dream of peace-time conscription. "In case there are some people in this audience who do not believe that there is a plan to obtain peace-time conscription, I desire to outline some of the factual evidence.

What Chifley Said

"Speaking at the Melbourne Trades Union Conference in June, 1944, Mr. Chifley said: 'It might be as well to be realistic about this great programme, as it might happen that when provision is made for these works they might not be a form of employment acceptable to some people. We are not going to develop this country if every mail thinks he has to see the Town Hall clock every day and hold the hand of his wife every night.'

Coombs And Giblin

"Then we have the views of our chief economic planner, Dr. H. C. Coombs, who, in speaking at the Planning for Service Conference at the Melbourne University on June 11, 1944, said, 'People could not expect complete freedom after the war. . . . It would be necessary for some individual to be given the right to say what was best for the community. There was nothing



Dr. H. C. COOMBS,
Key Economic Adviser

new about interference with individual freedom, it had been going on for centuries.'

"Yes, this battle has been going on for centuries—the battle for independence for the individual. If we are to believe Dr. Coombs and his totalitarian associates, we have to fight and win all over again the very battle, which our forefathers fought.

"Although I have dozens of statements by the Canberra, totalitarian planners, I will content myself with giving just one more. I have here in my hand a booklet by one of the economists responsible for the Premiers' Plan, Professor Giblin. In this booklet Professor Giblin suggests that direct manpower controls are necessary for a peace-time economy."

Non-Party Action

In urging all those present to join and help the League of Rights, Mr. Butler stressed the fact that the League did not ask people to leave any Party or reform group to which they might belong at present. The League was a basis upon which all liberty-loving citizens could meet to make a united fight against the growing totalitarian menace. Mr. Butler also stressed the fact that the plot to centralise control of the people's credit still further could only be defeated by non-party action in all Federal Electorates.

"Individual Members of Parliament have got to be made to realise that their future as politicians depends upon their actions in opposing in the Federal Parliament the nationalisation of banking.

"To those people who ask what is the use of writing to your non-Labor Members, I point out that these Members will only be speaking for their Party in the Federal Parliament unless they have the solid backing of their electors. If a Liberal Member can get up in the Federal Parliament and hold up tens of thousands of letters of protest from his electors, then the Government must take some notice."

The chair for the Princess Theatre meeting was taken by Mr. J. M. Atkinson, who urged all those present to back the League.

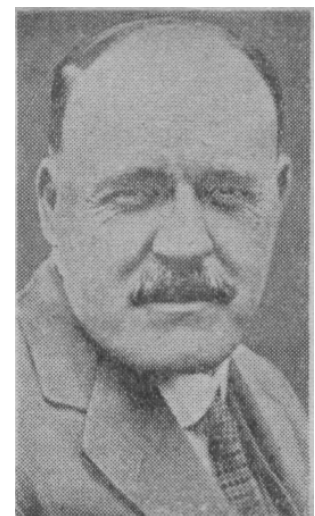
Mr. A. G. Hebblewhite, Campaign Director for the People's Union of New South Wales, gave a short address before Mr. Butler spoke. He gave an outline of the work being done by the People's Union and how it had come to be associated with the League of Rights.

LANG CRITICAL OF BANK PLAN

Although Mr. J. T. Lang, Independent Labor M.H.R., like all Labor Members, supports the nationalisation of banking, in his paper "Century" of August 22 he makes some critical observations which bring into clear relief the grave menace of the Federal Government's proposals:

"Before he (Mr. Chifley) can enforce industrial conscription in peace-time he must have absolute control of banking. By that means he hopes to obtain the economic powers that he has been denied by the people through referendum. . . . There is one big question that must be answered. Who is going to control the Commonwealth Bank? That is the crux of the problem. Experience of wartime control has demonstrated the danger of totalitarianism emerging in this country. Whoever controls the Bank will be the real dictator of this country"

Mr. Lang is right. But why take the risk he warns about? Why place enormous power in a few hands. How



Mr. J. T. LANG

would Labor supporters like Mr. Menzies to have control of a nationalised banking system? We will be most interested to hear what Labor supporters of bank nationalisation have to say about this question.

SOCIAL CREDIT ADDRESS

On Wednesday, August 20, Mr. Eric Butler addressed the Hughesdale branch of the A.N.A. Although Mr. Butler's address was to have been on "The Alberta Experiment," he also dealt with the relationship of Social Credit to the proposal to nationalise the Australian banking system. Those present were obviously intensely interested in what Mr. Butler had to say about bank nationalisation and all obtained copies of "The Truth About Social Credit."

Colac Radio Talks

We have been asked to publish the wavelength of 3CS Colac, "Victoria, over which regular weekly Social Credit talks are given every Friday at 8.45 p.m., Eastern Standard Time. Wavelength: 1130 K.C.

NOTES ON THE NEWS

The "New York Post" in a front page editorial, urges President Truman and Congress to insist that any further loan to Britain be made contingent on the immediate admittance of 100,000 Jews to Palestine, and the immediate repeal of the law restricting the buying of land by Jews in Palestine. Slowly but surely the Dollar Crisis is seen to be related to the Jewish Question. There seems little doubt that Jewish control of Finance and the Press in U.S. determines American policy to Britain. This contingency may compel Britain to adopt a realistic policy of coordinating Empire resources. This policy will make it quite unnecessary to accept either loans or Jews.

GROWING GANGSTERISM

The recent threat of the Miners' Federation to withhold coal supplies from the South Australian Government, if it attempted to test the validity of the Coal Industry Act, represents yet another illustration of growing gangsterism under Labor rule. This form of blackmail attacks the very foundation of British Law; it is intimidation designed to prevent an appeal to law—a very serious offence. The Coal Industry Act itself derives whatever power it has from the Law which seemingly has bestowed a monopoly over coal to a small body of militant Unionists, who thus enjoy a benefit bestowed by law, and who now seek to intimidate others who seek to test that law. Such blackmail takes us back to the rule of force; it is the more dangerous because the Government, which permits it, pretends to uphold the rule of Law.

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FEDERAL FAILURES

The proposal of the Federal Government to monopolise banking makes it appropriate to recall other Federal ventures, which proved costly failures. There is the Billy Hughes' ships which were almost given away when all hopes of making them pay was abandoned. The Walsh Island Docks, which cost taxpayers about £400,000 before it was abandoned; then the Coalcliff Colliery failure which cost about £56,000 after which they were handed back to their former owners. Then there is the Glen Davis Shale Oil project, which is reported as being abandoned after a loss of nearly £4 million. These are but a few samples of Federal flops.

* * * *

RUSSIAN AIR FORCE

American air experts, commenting on Russia's obsolete Air Force assert that she is greater at copying than Japan, but her Air Force is relatively much weaker than Japan's before Pearl Harbour. Max Cook, aviation editor, in a report of July 30, says Russia's aircraft engines are outmoded copies of American, French and German types. (Seemingly they haven't even copies of the superior British types.) He also remarked, "The Russians obtained turbo-superchargers from other nations, but they know little or nothing about developing gas engines."

* * * *

BUILDING BURDENS

An economy programme for Government sponsored houses is now receiving much publicity; these economies consist of fewer designs, which will doubtless retain the ugliest and plainest types. Elimination of front and side fences to avoid privacy is one, and reduction in size of timber structural members so that they will not last long is another. These doubtful economies are said to be an attempt to reduce costs due chiefly to increased labour and material prices. These increased costs are expressed in terms of money, and so it is a "money cost" which is the real problem. Finally, these money costs ("wages" in one form or another which are incurred) have to be charged into the price of the house. These increased wage costs can and should be distributed to those concerned without going through industry as a cost.

* * * *

BIGGER BILLS

As a result of our inflationary wages-into-prices system and with the aid of Unionism and indirect taxation levied by a workers' Government, the family budget will be further loaded with bigger bills for the following commodities: bread, potatoes, pork and bacon,

onions, cocoa, flour, butter, clothing, milk, rail fares, gas, etc. Then there is petrol, kerosene lighting and fuel oils. With reference to fuel oils, the Prices Chief says, "he had no option but to approve the increased price, as the oil companies could no longer carry all the added cost." ("Herald," Aug. 23.) There is a similar limit to price fixing for all production, which makes price fixing a snare and a delusion. What is needed is a cost prevention formula—one that will distribute wages and incomes to individuals from new money, which will not go through industry as a cost. This can and must be done if our inflationary spiral is to be halted.

TRADE TRENDS

During the Imports debate in the House of Commons, Dr. Dalton (certified economist) stated, "terms of trade were continually moving against Britain." Dr. Dalton, however, gave no indication as to who was responsible for these "trends," or why they should be "continually moving against Britain." Only immature minds would accept the idea that, outside natural law, "trends" just happen. If we can forget this economist's absurd theory, then some person or persons must be held responsible. Who? Since the "trends" are always against Britain, it would be only common sense to look for those in positions of power with an anti-British philosophy. Mr. Snyder, U.S. Secretary and part instigator of the recent American loan, might provide a clue. The immediate "trend," at least, can be directly traced to this loan. In a similar manner the origin of other related "trends" could be tracked down.

* * * *

THE RULE OF LAW

In these days of growing anarchy in our community, nothing is more essential than a constant endeavor by responsible members of the community to bring before their fellows the necessity, of the Rule of Law.

Professor A. V. Dicey, in his great work, "The Law of the Constitution," states that the Rule of Law "means, in the first place, the absolute supremacy or predominance of regular law as opposed to the influence of arbitrary power, and excludes the existence of arbitrariness, or prerogative on the part of the Government."

* * * *

CANBERRA CONTINGENT

The Canberra "Army of Occupation" now numbers 156,000, and the Commander-in-Chief, Mr. Chifley, says he thinks that this contingent is quite reasonable. Immediately before the war, Commonwealth public servants numbered 46,000; thus the "Army" has increased by 110,000, or more than trebled. Those who favor State functions being taken over by Canberra should be interested to learn that the States, rather than decreasing their manpower burden, have also increased their staffs, although not to anything like a similar proportion. This growth of a redundant and costly human overhead is, of course, symptomatic of socialistic centralisation. Only a very small proportion of the "Army of Occupation" renders any real service to the community. Very soon another Referendum for more powers, with a continuation of Federal Price-Fixing Control, is likely to be sought by the Canberra Cabal. Voters should understand that more powers mean more wasted manpower, which means more taxation and regimentation. Common sense will demand another emphatic NO. O.B.H.



"National Control Of Credit"

L.G., of Sydney, asks where Social Credit differs from Mr. E. Ward's ideas on the "national control of credit."

To Mr. Ward and his Socialist colleagues, "the national control of credit" means that politicians and their bureaucratic "advisers" should have the right to use the national or real credit of the community as they think fit. For example, Mr. Ward is a keen advocate of the unification of railways and other big public works.

He proposes that financial credit be made available in order that the real credit of the community—the ability of the community to produce—be used as he and his colleagues think fit.

Social Crediters say that it is an indisputable fact that the real credit of

fit. If Mr. Ward and other politicians believe that the building of unified railways will ultimately increase the real credit of the community, they should have to come before the people and outline their proposition, stating that the individual will have to surrender some of his financial credit in order that ultimately, by increasing the real credit, he will receive a still greater dividend.

No Government should be permitted to have direct access to the real credit of the community by having the power to create financial credit for their own desires. All financial credit should first be controlled by the individual. All Governments should be compelled to get their financial credit from the people, to whom it belongs.

This is a very necessary safeguard for the individual against the tendency of all Governments to seek greater and greater powers. If Governments are to be allowed to have direct access to the real credit of the community as Mr. Ward and his colleagues suggest, we can easily have what Germany had: "guns before butter."

* * * *

Big Finance Backs Nationalisation

M.K., of South Melbourne, asks what evidence there is that some leading financiers are in favour of the nationalisation of banking.

(1) Mr. Montagu Norman, Governor of the Bank of "England" for many years, and one of those mainly responsible for the present plight of the British people, bluntly said, "Nationalisation? We welcome it."

(2) When the prominent banker, Sir Edward Holden, chairman of the Midlands Bank in Great Britain, was told that his policy was leading to nationalisation, he said, "Well, I don't care. I should still manage it."

(3) Mr. James Warburg, of the German-Jewish group of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., Wall Street, has openly advocated nationalisation.



Hon. E. J. WARD

Wants To Control Your Money

the community has been built up over centuries, and that the individual is entitled to his share of it as his right.

He can only obtain access to his share of the real credit if financial credit is made available to him to use as he sees

Sound Economics

"Desperate to relieve her unemployment, Holland put thousands of men to work planting wheat on lands reclaimed from the Zuyder Zee. But when these new fields began to bear, more wheat was harvested than the market could absorb.

"What to do? Devote the surplus to the poor and let them turn it into bread? No, that would wreck the current price of wheat. So instead the surplus was dumped in Denmark, where there was a demand for cheap hog-fodder.

"But no sooner was that done than a new problem arose. The Danish pigs, having no respect for economics, took advantage of their improved diet to grow inordinately fat and fecund. Before long Denmark found herself with more pigs on her lands than could possibly be sold at a profit.

"What to do? Bring the price of pigs so low that even the poorest might have bacon for breakfast? Certainly not! That would ruin the established market. So instead the pork was turned into fertiliser to spread on the new wheat-fields that had been reclaimed from the Zuyder Zee."

—Lewis Browne, in "Something Went Wrong."

FREE BACK NUMBERS

Readers desiring to help our drive for more circulation, by introducing the "New Times" to their fellow-electors, are advised that a parcel of back-numbers will be sent, free of charge and post-free, to anyone who writes to us and asks for it. Melbourne readers may obtain a parcel by calling at our office. Our postal address is: New Times Limited, Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne. The "New Times" office is on the 5th floor of McEwan House, 343 Little Collins St., Melbourne. The time to act is now.

Mr. Morrison's Threat

Mr. Herbert Morrison (British Cabinet Minister) recently warned of impending Government action against unofficial strikers, uncooperative businessmen and "work - dodgers or drones."

"Britain and Russia will have to draw their belts tighter to build up and consolidate their power to achieve a high standard of living," Mr. Morrison said. "The Russians have been doing it, with their eyes open, for 19 years—a point we might remember when our own road seems particularly long and rocky."

It is singular that nowhere in the world has the Socialist State resulted in the INCREASE of goods or human amenities. On the contrary, every Socialist regime has resulted in a curtailment of both goods and amenities. It is singular too, that never does the Socialist State talk in terms of INDUCEMENT, but always in terms of COMPULSION. It is becoming clear to the meanest intelligence that Socialism in practice inevitably results in a condition of planned scarcity, restricted freedom, with the State using its sanctions with the tyranny of the traditional slave driver.

Mr. Morrison's ugly threats have a most incongruous sound in Britain, which has been represented to the world as the "cradle of human liberty." If Britons do not forthrightly reject this new threat of the Servile State, then we can tearfully conclude that Britain HAS slumped into the decadent status of a second-rate power.

"The New Era," Sydney, June 27.

Keys To Current Events

SIGNIFICANT NEWS SURVEY

International

Mr. Cohen Says

"Speaking at Long Beach, California, Mr. Benjamin Cohen, a State Department Counsellor, said Europe might require up to £6,000,000,000 in outside assistance during the next four years to prevent starvation and check the danger of dictatorships. Mr. Cohen, who is one of Mr. Marshall's leading advisers, made it plain that he thought Britain should share in whatever aid programmes were worked out to help Europe as a whole."—The "Manchester Guardian," June 13, 1947.

Just like Conquered Germany.
—"The Social Crediter" (Eng.),
June 28, 1947.

United States

Eleanor's Earnings

Eleanor Roosevelt does pretty well: Pension as Presidential widow, 5,000 dollars per year; United Nations job, 12,000 dollars per year; writing and personal appearances from 25,000 dollars -- 50,000 dollars per year. Note: It is rumored here that Harry Truman put Eleanor on the United Nations to keep her out of Washington.

—N.N.S., June 30, '47.

Sees Party Racket

Knutson Speaks: The following was delivered on the floor of Congress the other day by Rep. Harold Knutson (R., Minn.), fighting Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. "I would like somebody to tell me what single New Deal function we've abolished since we Republicans took over. During the election campaign the Democrats said the only thing we were promising was that we could run the New Deal more effectively. It seems to me that if we continue as we are doing, the only thing we can say to the voters in 1948 is that we can run the New Deal more cheaply. You may want to go back and face your people with that story; I don't. And if we do, we won't win in 1948."

—N.N.S., June 30, '47.

Great Britain

Whisky For Johnny American

Mr. Frank Bowles, M.P., writes to "The Times" of June 14:—

"Sir,—In 1946 we exported nearly 4,000,000 proof gallons of whisky to dollar countries at a ruling wholesale export price of 5/- a bottle. The expected increase of United Kingdom whisky exports to the United States and other hard currency areas during the next 12 months, as compared with 1946, is 2,400,000 proof gallons (Hansard, June 4). The total is nearly 6,400,000 proof gallons, or, at six bottles a proof gallon, 38,400,000 bottles. If we charged 25/-, which is less than the price in this country, instead of the present 5/- a bottle we should get five times as many dollars -- that is 192,000,000 dollars. In discussion with friends, I am asked whether the Americans would buy it at this price. I do not know; but I do know that seven dollars to nine dollars is the common price the consumer pays in the United States, and if we sell only half we shall get two and a half times as many dollars and have twice as much whisky for home consumption. I hope to develop the argument more, fully on my new clause to the Finance Bill. Yours faithfully,"

FRANK BOWLES.

Marxian Viewpoint

"I would ask the Committee to consider, as passionlessly as possible, what is the difficulty of the Russian point of view. I remember that before the

last war I used to have conversations with a Russian diplomat and he used to explain to me, 'It is not fair to say that we Communists want to make revolutions in other countries. You misunderstand us if you say that. The way we are compelled to look at it as Marxians is that we think that all non-Communist societies are coming to an end anyway. There are these inherent contradictions in non-Communist economies which mean that they are inevitably riding for a fall. Therefore, the problem, as we see it, is not that we want to create disturbances in those countries but that they are coming to an end anyway and the only question is whether we shall allow them to collapse into chaos, or take such steps as are open to us to guide them on to the next logical point in their route towards the Communist state.'"

—Mr. Christopher Hollis, M.P., in the English House of Commons on February 27.

Electricity Cost Stepped Up

Mr. Allighan asked the Minister of Works if he is aware that before he took over I.C.I. House, the charges for electricity averaged 1.448d per unit, but under the new contract with Central London Electricity Limited, he has been paying an average price of 2.229 per unit; and if he will explain this increased charge.

Mr. Key: Yes. The prices paid for electricity at I.C.I. House since it was taken over for Government use are at the best terms on offer to new consumers in the area served by this Company. Owing to increased costs, the Company felt unable to apply to new agreements, or to the renewal of existing agreements, the favourable maximum demand tariff that operated in the I.C.I. agreement.

—British House of Commons,
June 9, 1947.

Sir Stafford Cripps Follows Bismarck Tradition

It is not long since progressive Englishmen looked admiringly at Bismarck and Prussia for the great example of State Socialism, and it is curious today to note the extraordinarily close parallels between Bismarck and Sir Stafford Cripps; for Bismarck, too, was fond of explaining as a Christian his activities as a politician, and telling how, seeing the State as existing for the benefit of all, he found no better form of practical Christianity than legislation for State Socialism, and in particular for a controlled economy, social insurance, and the practices which the English Radicals of Lloyd George's day went to Germany to copy. All this policy, which the curious can study in the contemporary books of Mr. William Harbutt Dawson, made the conception of the State immediately present and pervasive in every German working-class home. It kept German Socialism nationalist, and was the psychological preparation for Hitler's National Socialism. Today the Germans find themselves, after more than half a century of an ever-intensified experience of the positive State, without a State at all. M. Molotov has seized this fact.

—The English "Tablet," March 15, '47.

N.U.T.S.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh has made the suggestion that the Transport Commission will "call itself the National United Transport Service, because I think the initials would not only look extremely well on the engines but would provide a one-word epitome of what I think of this Bill."

Hungary

Ex-Nazi Communists Take Over

In November 1945, fairly free elections were held in Hungary. The result was a 57 per cent majority for the Smallholders (or Agrarian) Party, with 18 per cent, for a still fairly genuine Social-Democracy, and 16 per cent, for the Communists — largely recruited from among former Nazi sympathisers or among inhabitants of such small villages over which pressure was simple, either by the ease with which non-Communist voters could be identified, or by discrimination in distributing much needed relief. Ever since then, various methods have been found to prevent the majority from actually governing. Various pressures have been put upon the Smallholders to eliminate their most outstanding leaders, on the Socialists to find their leadership more and more among men who are Social Democrats only in name and for temporary reasons of expedience. An entirely Communist State Police was organized under the Communist Minister of the Interior, Rajk (his real name is Reich, a Transylvanian German whose nearest relations were active Nazis and even S.S. men). The civil service was gradually put under Communist control. This process went on throughout the year 1946.

—The English "Tablet," June 7, 1947.

Switzerland

Swiss Dismiss Socialism

The Swiss people recently rejected, by a very large majority, the Socialist proposal that the state should take the necessary steps to guarantee to every citizen the "right to work," which in practice would have meant the introduction of a planned economy. This is the third time that an appeal of this sort has been made to the nation during the past half century, and on each occasion it has been rejected. — "Christian Science Monitor."

Italy

U.S. Finance Backed Mussolini

... Americans like former Secretary of the Treasury Andrew Mellon, bolstered Mussolini by praising him as "the greatest man in the world," and

by asserting that there was liberty in Fascist Italy," Mr. Nitti said. Writers like Washburn Childs, of the "Saturday Evening Post," served as Fascist propagandists, he said. Even American Jewish financiers supported Fascism, he asserted. He said that he wrote to one of them that Mussolini was an anti-Semite and that the recipient of the warning turned it over to the Fascist ambassador, thus causing difficulties for Mr. Nitti's friends in Italy

—The New York Herald Tribune (European edition), July 27, 1947, reporting a speech in the Italian Parliament by a former Prime Minister, Francesco Saverio Nitti.

Italian Communist Tactics

They (the Communists) have not, in general, expected to be able to capture authority by constitutional means. In Italy, for instance, it was useful to them to have the Ministry of Justice, where Signor Giulio was able in April to order the suspension of the investigation into the whereabouts of the treasure, worth some nine million lire, nearly all national property, which Mussolini had with him when he was shot; an investigation which the Italian Government had commissioned Signor Giulio to undertake in February. Mussolini was shot by a Communist named Audisio, calling himself "Colonel Valeric." The treasure was then divided and, together with his private correspondence, it has entirely disappeared. Six local residents who witnessed the division have come to violent ends, and the journalist who first published the real names and party pseudonyms of the Communists concerned was murdered the day after doing so. In an affair like this the Communists like to have ministerial opportunities, but their organization is a self-sufficient one, designed not to penetrate a coalition but to supersede it.

Italy has been divided into sixteen military regions by the Military Bureau of the Italian Communist Party, which, as in France, has its own army alongside the official Army of the Republic. In many places officers and N.C.O.s of the regular Army hold the same rank in the Communist Army also, and it is the furtherance of this kind of penetration by appointments and dismissals that makes the Communists covet Ministries of War. But they are content to place their main reliance not on weakening the official army, but on building up their own. —The English "Tablet," June 7, 1947.

Mihailovitch and the Communists

Mihailovitch stood athwart the Soviet path to the Adriatic. He had to be translated from hero to traitor, not only for the fooling of the simple citizens of the Soviet, but for the fooling of matured minds—the minds of Mr. Churchill and the late President Roosevelt.

How this was achieved makes perhaps the grimmest of all the grim tales of modern history.

Every device of propaganda, every trick in the inexhaustible repertoire of fraud and calumny, was employed in a campaign organised down to the last detail, and the villainy met with such success that the Western statesmen were persuaded not only to disown Mihailovitch, but to arm and equip the Russian stooge Tito, that he might make secure the Russian road to the Adriatic.

"I was wrongly informed and deceived," Mr. Churchill had the grace and the manhood later to confess, but at the time of the deception nobody could have been more dogmatic than he was about the rightness of his course . . .

... Mr. Martin has made a profound research into every possible aspect of the betrayal of Mihailovitch, and the authenticity of his record is apparent in every line . . .

What is particularly alarming, from the British point of view, is the ease with which the British Intelligence Service, which in two wars did such magnificent work, was ensnared in the plot. That there were in British employment many honest but ingenuous dupes is not in doubt. That those who sent to

London the highly coloured communiqués of Tito as official British Intelligence reports may have been lazy and inefficient fools is also possible, but that is not the end of the matter.

Mr. Martin assures us that accurate estimates of the situation, particularly by British officers attached to Mihailovitch, underwent considerable changes as they passed from one desk to another before reaching the War Cabinet in London. Sometimes they were toned down, sometimes completely perverted.

The conclusion is inescapable that there had infiltrated into the British Intelligence Service persons whose sole desire was to serve Russia. Are such sinister men still employed? Or did the wave of truth, which swept the deceptions from Mr. Churchill's mind, also lead the British Government to investigate the infamous plot by which it had been duped? If the latter, how many of the fools have been punished, how many of the traitors shot? . . .

—Caius Marcius Coriolanus, reviewing "Ally Betrayed," by David Martin (Prentice-Hall Inc.), in "Truth," (London), July 11, 1947.

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No. 35

THE LIBERAL PARTY AND THE BANKING QUESTION

Naturally enough, the Liberal Party is attempting to make the greatest possible Party capital out of the present banking issue. But the question which the rank and file members of the Liberal Party should be asking themselves is this: If the banking system is nationalised, will Mr. Menzies and Liberal leaders give an unqualified assurance that they will de-nationalise the system if they are elected to office at the next elections?

One of our readers has written to Mr. Menzies and other Liberals on this issue; also on the nationalisation of medical services and the steps being taken to nationalise the airways. He asked for an assurance that a policy of de-nationalisation would be pursued if the non-Labor Parties were elected to form the Federal Government.

But no such assurance has been forthcoming.

In other words, all incoming Governments merely take over the powers centralised by their predecessors and continue to use them. Most modern Governments are corrupt and they continue to get more and more corrupt as they arrogate to themselves increased powers at the expense of the individual.

When the Federal Labor Government passed its 1945 Banking Legislation, we carefully analysed it and showed it to be part of the policy of centralised control. Mr. Menzies and his associates made a great song and dance about the matter, threatening to make it an issue at the next Federal Elections.

But they did nothing of the sort.

As a matter of fact, they actually incorporated much of this legislation into their own party platform. Victorian Liberal M.L.A., Mr. Kent Hughes, is reported in the Melbourne "Herald" of August 28 as follows: "The Opposition voted against both (1945) Bills, but several months later the Liberal Party, which was then in

the process of formation, published its platform, which approved of much of the substance of these two bills."

The Liberals rightly point out that the Labor Party did not make its banking policy an issue at the last Federal Elections, and cannot therefore claim that it has a mandate from the electors to nationalise the banking system. But what if the electors had elected a Government comprised of the Liberals and the Country Party? Would this have meant that they endorsed the banking policy of the Liberal Party? How could they endorse this policy when they had never even heard about it? All the Parties have been guilty of introducing major policies without consulting the electors. We well recall non-Labor Governments being elected before the war without any definite mandate from the people to increase taxation. But these Governments acted on the assumption that once a Government is elected to office, it should be Free to do almost as it likes until the next elections. And, as we have already pointed out, the history of party politics proves that power centralised by one Party is used by the other Parties when they obtain office.

If the Liberals have any definite banking policy, which will result in decentralised control of the people's credit, the reduction of debt, and other desirable financial reforms, let them make it an issue at the next Federal Elections.

But we prophesize that, just as they opposed the 1945 Banking Legislation and subsequently endorsed much of it, the Liberals will, if elected at the next elections, continue a policy of nationalised banking—that is, providing the Labor Government is successful in its nationalisation plans for next Federal session. We ask the rank and file of the Liberals what they intend to do about the matter.

"NEW ORDER" IN INDONESIA

The powerful world-wide propaganda machine of the Communist Party is painting the Indonesian Republicans as oppressed, freedom loving democrats who merely want to live a progressive, peaceful life free from the economic exploitation of a brutal Fascist European power.

But the picture of the Indonesian "democrat" at close quarters, shows him to be neither democratic nor peaceful.

This is starkly illustrated in the appeal of the chairman of the Federation of Chinese Associations in Java, Mr. Hung Yaun-Yaun, to the United Nations to halt the wave of brutal atrocities against his people by the Indonesian Republicans.

In a recent broadcast Mr. Hung Yaun-Yaun

- accused the Indonesian Republicans of "atrocities worse than the Japanese."

- declared that they had repeatedly "murdered, plundered, despised, and squeezed" the Chinese residents of Indonesia.

- claimed that the Republican Government was powerless to govern the people and couldn't even

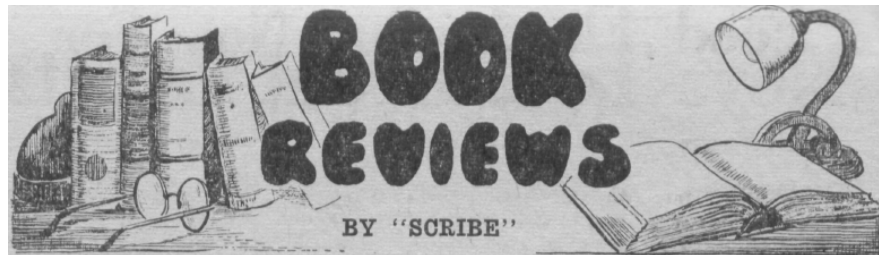
control its own army.

The protection of Indonesia's two million Chinese from atrocities at the hands of the Indonesian Republicans, and the return of thousands of prisoners should be the Security Council's first consideration, he claimed. Withdrawal of the Dutch forces to their former defence lines would be the signal for the unleashing of another reign of terror against the defenceless Chinese.

He added: "The Security Council should not make a decision on Indonesia before it hears fully from the Chinese."

"If the Indonesians feel they have the right of independence, the Chinese have the full right not to be treated as animals."

—Melbourne "News Weekly," Aug. 27



"A Defence of Free Enterprise and the Profit Motive"

By Eric D. Butler. (Price, 7d post-free.)

This well produced booklet, issued by the Victorian League of Rights in association with the People's Union of New South Wales, should be read and studied by those who feel that they are not competent to defend free enterprise and the profit motive. Every supporter of free enterprise should have this excellent little booklet introduced to him. It has been enthusiastically accepted in business circles.

Dealing with the Profit Motive, Mr. Butler writes: "Under a system of genuine free enterprise, the operators of which are motivated by the necessity to make a financial profit, it is obvious that the amount of profit made is an economic calculator indicating to all producers exactly what is required and in what priority. When the consumer controls the policy of industry—in other words has genuine economic democracy—those operating industry will naturally have to develop the most efficient administration, or, of course, give way to those who can and will. By attacking the 'Profit Motive,' Free Enterprise, and the individual's right to use his money vote as he thinks fit, we attack the very basis of freedom and security for the individual."

Mr. Butler stresses the fact that it is the manipulation of the political system which is preventing the establishment of genuine economic democracy: "Those who oppose free enterprise governed by the profit motive, conveniently select certain abuses by Monopolies and use them to condemn free enterprise and to urge the necessity of more Government control. They are careful not to point out that practically all the abuses they mention are the result of Government policies."

The chapter entitled "The Menace of Government Control of Banking" is particularly appropriate at present.

After stressing the urgent necessity of limiting the powers of all Governments, Mr. Butler summarises his arguments in favour of the "Profit Motive": "The urge for individual Profit has been the mainspring of human progress. We must be realists and accept this fact. The very civilisation we have is a total Profit resulting from the efforts of countless millions in the past. When two individuals first learned that they could do more in association than they could do working as individuals, they created a Profit. The desire to increase and extend Profit has resulted in every invention, every improvement in production and distribution... The efficiency of the modern production system is the result of the individual urge for Profit in the past. The knowledge of how to do things has been a continuous process of passing down from one generation to another -- we term this the cultural heritage. In the physical sense, we are today investing the Profits from the past in the hope and belief that they shall yield us greater Profits in the future."

THERE IS A MOVEMENT IN YOUR STATE

Literature and Information relating to subjects dealt with in the "New Times" are obtainable from the following movements:—

The United Electors of Australia, 343 Little Collins St., Melbourne, Victoria.

The Douglas Social Credit Movement in Victoria, 1st Floor, The Block, Elizabeth St., Melbourne, Victoria.

The United Democrats, 17 Waymouth St., Adelaide, South Australia.

The Electoral Campaign, 101 Collins St., Hobart, Tasmania.

The D.S.C.A. of N.S.W. and The Electoral Campaign (N.S.W. Division), 3rd Floor, 296 Pitt St., Sydney, New South Wales.

The Electoral Campaign (Queensland), Room 14, 2nd Floor, 142 Adelaide St., Brisbane, Queensland.

Douglas Social Credit Movement of W.A.

"Awake"

By W. G. Wedd, M.L.C. (Price 2/1, post-free.)

This interesting book by Tasmania's fighting Independent in the Tasmanian Upper House has already had a large sale in Tasmania, where Mr. Wedd commands tremendous public support. We have a small stock of his book "Awake," which is a very powerful plea for Tasmanians to make real democracy function in Tasmania. The book is very readable and our regular readers will be interested to know that Mr. Wedd urges that Tasmania apply the system of Treasury Branches operating in Alberta, Canada. We also



Mr. W. WEDD,
Fighting Tasmanian

have a small quantity of Mr. Wedd's book, "It's the Least I Can Do," (Price, 2/1 post-free). Readers requiring both Mr. Wedd's books may have them for 3/-, post-free.

"Verdict On India"

By Beverley Nicholls. (Price, 10/8, post-free.)

In view of the present bloodshed in India as the British withdraw; this excellent book on India is particularly interesting. It is a splendid factual survey of the benefits British rule conferred upon the Indians. We know of no better book on this subject.

Where Do You Buy Your Books?

The "New Times" has much pleasure in announcing that special arrangements have been made for stocking books, which although of a general nature, will be of interest to readers of this journal. When desirous of buying books in future, even if a birthday or Christmas present for your children, drop us a line and let us know your requirements. We can help you. Get the habit of ordering your reading material through "New Times" Ltd. We specialise in social, political, economic, soil and health literature.

The following is a short list of a few of the books we have in stock at present. All prices include cost of postage:—

"I Planted Trees," by Baker, 16/11.

"Flight from the City," by Ralph Borsodi, 2/8.

"Build Your Own Home," by The Home Builders' Advisory, 10/5.

"Soil and Civilisation," by Elyne Mitchell, 4/8.

"Pay Dirt," by Rodale, 21/5.

"Ploughman's Folly," by Faulkner, 10/2.

"Reconstruction by Way of the Soil," by Wrench, 19/11.

Order from "New Times" Ltd., Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne.

Food Flood—But Not For Great Britain

(From Melbourne "Truth," Aug. 23, 1947.)

While Prime Minister Attlee is exhorting Britain to knuckle down to conditions far more severe than she suffered in war, and Australian citizens are going short on essential commodities in the happy belief that Food for Britain is being stepped up, huge cargoes of foodstuffs, including butter, are being shipped regularly from Melbourne to destinations oceans and continents away from Britain. "Truth" here discloses an amazing example of this incongruous state of affairs.

Simultaneously with Federal Minister for Commerce and Agriculture Pollard's announcement that the ban on cream, to be reimposed from September 1 was to enable export of from 3000 to 5000 more tons of butter to Britain "Truth" found 3000 cases of butter being loaded into the steamer Pemba at Station Pier, Port Melbourne, for Mombasa, East Africa.

The butter, in tins, was part of a large cargo of foodstuffs loaded into the ship since August 13. The cargo also included small goods, cereals, powdered milk, confectionery, and condiments.

But it was the butter over which watersiders became hostile in loading. They have been loading so much butter into so many ships headed for destinations other than Britain, that handling of that part of the Pemba's cargo for East African ports brought forth protests.

And "Truth" saw and heard enough to indicate that when two more ships reach Melbourne early next week, to lift foodstuffs, including butter, for non-British ports, satisfactory explanations why it is not destined for Britain may be required before it is loaded.

Watersiders, dock officials, and company employees are convinced that foodstuffs consigned from Melbourne to Singapore, India, and East Africa, are frequently transhipped at various ports, and that the bulk of them reach Palestine, Hong Kong or eastern black-markets.

They are the routes invariably taken by ships, which load in Melbourne with foodstuffs, including butter, not destined as food for Britain. For instance, the Denbighshire, which recently lifted a food cargo which spilled over the normal berth space at Port Melbourne, touched Singapore and India; and the Pemba's run to Mombasa includes Mauritius and Laurence Marques.

Cargoes For The Orient

One of the two vessels due to load next week will head for Singapore and other far Eastern ports, the other will go to India. The amount of food, including butter, now leaving Melbourne is colossal, and the amount not destined for Britain is staggering.

"Truth's" probe into the Pemba's butter cargo yielded a puzzle. From the Dairy Export Section of the Department of Commerce we were told that all exportable butter in Australia and New Zealand was owned by Britain and that not required by Britain was allocated by her for shipment to other countries.

It was hard to reconcile Britain's ability to allocate butter elsewhere with Minister Pollard's explanation of the renewed cream ban. It seems an amazing thing that ships are picking up butter and heading for out-of-the-way ports, while Australia is called upon to give up cream, so that Britain's butter shortage may be eased.

Maybe that conundrum is not altogether dissociated with the open dislike shown by shipping representatives when "Truth" had a look over foodstuffs piled high on Station and Princes Piers for shipment to overseas destinations other than Britain.

The Pemba is not an isolated case. These foodstuff shipments are becoming more frequent and they're taking away commodities that the Victorian housewife cannot obtain. She hasn't complained, because she thinks she is doing without so that Britain may be helped. Preserved fruits, cereals, rice, small good delicacies, condensed milk, and butter, top the list.

But the men on the waterfront who know what is being loaded, and that much of it is not going to Britain, are starting to complain bitterly. When an India-bound ship begins lifting another food cargo in Victoria dock next week, the Food for Britain campaign can expect an unexpected fillip by a demand that the food cargo is not to be transported for non-British consumption.

Butter To Mauritius

"I've just about had this ship," said secretary Ducrow, of the Australian Dairy Produce Board, when "Truth" quizzed where the Pemba butter was going.

"There have been half a dozen inquiries about it, and so far as I'm concerned it's going to Mauritius. The ship is booked for Mauritius and East African ports, including Mombasa, and the permit, which must be obtained from the Board, is for the butter to be discharged at Mauritius.

"The Federal Government has an agreement with the British Ministry of Food, under which allotments of Australian and New Zealand butter are supplied to other countries from Australia," he added.

Scope of the permit virtually ends when the butter leaves Melbourne, he admitted. It has no power over later transshipment from the destination quoted on the permit application, nor does it police the possibility of a cargo, or part of a cargo, being unloaded at a destination not stipulated on the permit.

Many men on Melbourne's waterfront claim that much of the food cargoes are unloaded at non-British ports and that only a percentage of vital foodstuffs shipped from Melbourne in the last seven months has gone to England.

Who Are The Consignors?

"Truth" watched the butter of the Pemba cargo loaded. Beehive and Cowgirl brands were prominent in it and consignors were the Westminster Trading Company Ltd., of 571 Little Bourke Melbourne.

This Company has nominal share capital of £10,000, divided into 10,000 shares of £1 each. Directors Messrs. Josef Francis Maier, of Caroline Street, South Yarra (6035 shares), and Peter Watkins (formerly Peter Weinfeld) of Broadway, Camberwell (2015 shares). Their original nationality was Austrian.

Only other shareholders are Neil Ewan "Wanliss, solicitor (500), Richard Desmond Kennedy (500), Ernest E. Gallia, of Launceston (400), Kurt Ortweiler, of Sydney (250), L. Fishmann (200), and Nora Eileen Smith (100).

By an agreement, dated March 11, 1946, the Westminster Trading Company agreed to divert to Westminster Chemical Company Pty. Ltd., all orders for export of chemicals, cosmetics, soaps, adhesive, fats and oils (other than foodstuffs), polishes and synthetics (other than foodstuffs), and to refrain from exporting them from Australia for five years.

The trading company holds 1498 of the 3000 shares in the chemical company. Josef Francis Maier and Peter Watkins hold one share each, and the remaining 1500 belong to Max Benno Segell, industrial chemist, of Wattle Valley Road, Camberwell. Last-named is of German origin.

Messrs. Maier and Watkins are also directors of Austral Trading Co. Pty. Ltd. The three organisations are substantial shippers of Australian products. Bulk of ex-Melbourne cargo in the Pemba including the foodstuffs, was shipped by Westminster Trading Company.

Bags-And Bags-Of Cement

Incidentally, Minister for Housing Barry may be interested to know that the cargos well down in the Pemba's forward hold, over which the foodstuffs were loaded, comprised layer on layer of bags of cement.



British Crisis

To the Editor

Sir, —I have heard quite a few people voice their opinions on the food position in Britain. Some people seem to think that the food position under the "British" Food Minister Strachey is played up a bit, so for the benefit of your readers I am sending on the information just received from England.

I have a brother who at present is living in Manchester. He was in the Forces all through the war, is a brick-layer by trade, is married and has one daughter aged 14 years. Since the end of the war we have been trying to get him out here but there seems to be a policy of frustration going on. There are three or four of his brothers who have promised him a home and as for a job well I don't think he would have much trouble.

I had written asking him the position with regard to food, and what the people thought of the Jewish Problem in Palestine. He says: "The Jews have full sway in most things, including the Government. Things are going from bad to worse. We have been trying to save fuel through the summer for the winter and they have cut it down so that it is practically impossible to get a stock in. The food ration is impossible to live on by itself, people having to pay big prices for any little extra they can get. Here are the rations for a week for one person—with future cuts to come:

"Bacon, 2 oz.; bread, 1/- a 2-lb. loaf; tea, 2 oz.; sugar, ½ lb.; margarine, ¼ lb.; butter, 2 oz.; eggs, about 1 every 3 weeks; meat, fresh, 1/- worth; tinned, 4d; jam, 1 lb per person per month; cheese, 2 oz.

"There have been demonstrations against the Jews."

This in a Socialist country, with the people owning everything—even the Bank of England has been nationalised, as were the coalmines. Is it any wonder Montague Norman the recent Governor of the Bank of "England," when asked about nationalisation said he would welcome it.

It seems to me that what Douglas said is well known to the Controllers—that no earthly power short of a Military Revolution will reform the Banking System once it is nationalised . . .

—Yours etc.,

J. BROWITT.

Lakes Entrance.

THE BOOK OF THE MOMENT

"The Truth About Social Credit"

In the controversies now raging around the nationalisation of banking issue, can YOU clearly explain the Social Credit viewpoint? Can you show your friends why Social Credit is opposed to nationalisation of banking?

Mr. Eric Butler's "Truth About Social Credit" should be given the greatest possible circulation at present. It is simple, but sound. It deals with every question likely to be raised during the present banking battle. No Social Crediter should be without at least one copy of this valuable booklet at the present time.

Order now from "New Times," Ltd., Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne.

It's the same brand of cement which many ex-servicemen would use to build homes in which they could go without cream and butter and help Food for Britain—if they had the cement, and the homes, and the butter.

Populate or Perish?

Sir, —We are asked to accept millions from Europe on the grounds that this country is doomed unless we are prepared to agree to a large influx, of people from all parts of Europe.

It does not hold that a large population is necessarily an effective defence against aggression. A large population did not stop the Germans from advancing to within shelling distance of Moscow (eventually halted as a result of British aid). Nor did China's millions save her from the Japanese. India, with her teeming millions has been no match for the French, British and others in the past and will probably fall to Russia in the future. On the other hand, small nations have conquered vast territories while other small nations have maintained their frontiers for centuries.

Regarding the suggestion that we should emulate the U.S.A., this would be a national tragedy. Americans I have met have said the same thing.

Although they are pumped full of patriotic propaganda most Americans are neither fish nor fowl as far as being Americans is concerned. For instance, those from other parts say that New Yorkers are not Americans and the reason for this viewpoint is evident after a visit there. Nearly two million Jews live in New York alone and other tight bound communities are the Italians, Greeks, Chinese, Negroes and Japanese, with a minority population of people of Northern Europe descent. In all parts of the U.S.A. there is contempt for those not of the same race. One hears terms such as Polaks (Poles), Square heads (Scandinavians), Kikes (Jews), Greasers (Mexicans) and so on used in a sneering manner. Spread amongst all the different racial committees is the Jewish community, financially powerful and highly organised. They hold the real power in the United States as they do in Soviet Russia, another collection of races. It would no doubt suit certain world interests for us to suffer a peaceful invasion. The "New Australians" would have no cause to think of Britain and the Empire as we do and a separated Australia, divided internally by racial squabbles would be apple pie to our enemies.

No. We do not need population that badly. In fact, in the short life of Australia as a nation we have done well to have a population of nearly eight millions. Far better that we should first find homes for our own bursting population and at the same time wait for shipping, to bring out our own kind from Britain, than to suffer through a so-called melting-pot process, apparently very dear to some of our parliamentarians and their newly-arrived-from-Europe "advisers."

Yours, etc, C.G.L., Brisbane.

Now Out!

"THE REAL COMMUNIST MENACE"
by Eric D. Butler
Price 1/7d post-free

In view of the widespread interest in the Canadian Royal Commission's Report on Communist espionage and other activities, this booklet, the main portion of which is the most important section of the Canadian Report, should be given the greatest possible circulation.

Only a limited edition of this booklet has been published, so readers desirous of obtaining copies should order immediately. Order from "New Times" Ltd., Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne.



BASIC PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC FARMING

We print here under a notable address by the President of The Living Soil Association of Tasmania, Mr. Henry W. Shoobridge, given recently at Scottsdale, Tasmania: —

Scottsdale and the surrounding districts were blessed with virgin soil very rich in humus. For very many years bountiful crops have been harvested, for which no other fertiliser was needed. Today artificial fertilisers are needed in increasing quantities, the structure of the soil is changing, and many areas are not as fertile as they were.

Until comparatively recent years, the full value of humus was not appreciated. We did not know what it was, how it came to be in the soil, nor what its properties were. It is in order to help us to learn something about humus, that our Association has been started. The value of humus is one of the most important studies that a farmer can pursue. It holds the secret of the fertility of his soil, the health of the grasses, plants and trees; the health of all his farm stock, and even that of his family. Nor is this all, it is only humus that can protect his farm from droughts and hold the soil, to prevent erosion from wind or rain.

WORLD FAMOUS AUTHORITIES

We owe our knowledge of humus and fertility to the life work of many noted scientists. One of the most prominent in recent years has been Sir Albert Howard, particularly in regard to his work in India where he found out how to return plant and animal residues to the soil, in the form of compost. His Indore method (named after the district in which he worked), of preparing these residues has become world famous. Others to whom we owe much are Lady Eve Balfour, for her book "The Living Soil," Dr. Rayner for her work on forestry, and the mycorrhizal association of trees and plants; Sir Geo. Stapleton for his studies of pastures and rotational grazing; Mr. Friend Sykes, for his book "Humus and the Farmer," in which he shows how a derelict farm was brought back into full production. Sir Robert McCarrison, Dr. Lionel Picton and Dr. Scott Williamson show us how human health can be built up, so that man can resist most of the common diseases from which he suffers today. I. J. Rodale in his book "Pay Dirt" tells us of what is being done in America to restore humus to the soil, and Mr. van Vuren tells of what is being done in South Africa, in returning Town and Village wastes to the soil, in the form of Indore Compost, to build up fertility. These all stress the necessity and merits of the humus content of the soil. Mr. Selman Waksman, one of the world's most noted students of humus, in his book "Humus" describes its composition and properties and calls it "The world's greatest storehouse of wealth." I have enumerated some of the world famous authorities, so that we may realise the great importance of our subject.

THE SOURCE OF HUMUS

Now that we are assured that humus is necessary, we must find out how it can be supplied and maintained in our own soil. There is one source, and one source only, from which humus can be supplied, and that is, from plant and animal residues, returned to the soil. However, these residues are not humus, but the material from which it is made. When these residues are returned to the soil, the bacteria, fungi, enzymes, and earthworms, in co-operation with other soil life, start work at once on the decay, decomposition, fermentation and transformations which are necessary for the formation of humus.

It is quite some job, too! Dr. Picton, in his book, "Thoughts on Feeding," tells us that the mathematicians have calculated that the area of the surface of soil particled in a cubic foot of fine loam is equal to an acre. The job of the soil life is to coat all these particles with humus; by this coating they are bound together into the crumb structure, which is such a feature in virgin soil, and should be continually maintained. This keeps the soil friable and allows air and water to enter and be retained. It is the perfect physical standard by which we can judge a fertile soil. It allows the rain to enter the soil, instead of running over the surface; an acre of humus filled soil should be able to receive 1 to 1½ inches of rain without any running off. This coating of humus on the soil particles provides the nourishment where it is readily available for tiny root hairs of plants, and for the mycelium of the mycorrhizal association of the fungi. It also allows the air to enter, for the worms and aerobic bacteria to breathe and from which they can take the nitrogen, and pass it on to the plants.

THE RULE OF RETURN

This is nature's plan for fertility, working always on the principle of return, so that there may be no loss. Natural laws work in a complete circle, which is described as the cycle of nature. The rain falling on the earth, being taken by the rivers to the sea, from which it is drawn up by the sun into the clouds, to fall again as rain, is one instance. The decay of plant and animal residues in the soil, while being prepared by the soil life for plant food, this again, in the form of grasses and plants used by the animals, then the food for man, from plants and animals; all residues returned again to the soil to complete the cycle. The same laws of return hold good in the higher spheres of life, with love and goodwill, able to overcome all evil, by this same power of transformation.

Our concern now is the cycle of nature in the physical sphere, the return of all possible plant and animal residues to the soil. We are in part responsible for this portion of the cycle; and this is where most failure has appeared. We have object lessons in history, both ancient and modern. Parts of Asia, Africa and Europe, have been depleted of their soil humus, and reverted to arid desert land. Persia, Arabia, Asia Minor and parts of Africa are outstanding ancient instances. In later times we have the American "Dust Bowl" and in South Africa and Australia erosion is playing havoc with once fertile land. There is evidence, too, in New Zealand, and even nearer home in Tasmania we are losing fertility from many areas. Most of this loss of once fertile country has been caused by the failure to return all possible plant and animal residues to the soil, while fertility remained. A clear statement of the havoc being wrought all over the world is given in a book by Messrs. Jacks and White, "The Rape of the Earth."

TRUSTEES OF "THE SPECK"

Tasmania is not a large country, it is even sometimes referred to as "The Speck," but we have considerable areas of

fertile soil, of which we are the trustees, during our lifetime. We must therefore see that it is looked after properly, and its fertility guarded against drought and erosion. The soil must never be regarded as a mine, from which only a limited quantity of mineral can be taken. The soil, as we know it, is a living entity; the home of a vast population, who must be fed and cared for, so that they are ready and fit for the exceedingly important work that they must do. If we only realised how we depend on their work, not only for the verdant pastures and bountiful crops, but also for the health and power to resist disease, of all the plants we grow, and the livestock that we run on our farms; we would be more careful to see that all residues possible are returned to the soil.

MATERIALS FOR COMPOST

Whether we are in charge of a small farm or garden, or of a large estate, our object is to grow strong, healthy plants. This is impossible unless we return all the plant and animal residues that we can, so that humus can be supplied.

Plant residues consist of all weeds, cuttings and pruning, leaves, pine needles, pea and potato haulms, grass, straw, in fact all vegetable wastes that are very often burnt. Blackberry vines, gorse and briers cut into lengths easy to handle are excellent material for the bottom layer of a compost heap. Saw dust is good, too, but is best used for bedding, or in a yard, or even laid on the earth or road to weather, before putting in the heap. Seaweed is also very valuable material, also waterweed or water hyacinth. The greater variety the better, and it is a good idea to mix the material available at any one time, before putting on the heap.

Animal residues consist of horse, cow, pig or poultry manure, house scraps and sanitary matter, all possible urine and liquid manure, wool dags, feathers or hair, even dead animals and fish offal and slaughter house refuse; these will all be decomposed quickly and without offensive smell or fly nuisance, in a properly built compost heap.

Mixed residues in large quantities should be available in all towns and cities, garbage from households and from industries and shops; all animal and vegetable wastes should be saved, instead of being destroyed. These should be prepared by the city authorities in their own composting yards, as is being done in some cities in England and South Africa. Another method is to pulverise the wastes and make them available for the farmers to compost on their own farms.

HOW TO BUILD A COMPOST HEAP

The method of building a compost heap on the Indore method is very simple. The greater variety of material, the better the compost will be. Mix the plant residues together and moisten till as wet as a squeezed out sponge; put the roughest plant residues in the bottom layer. It must be on bare earth, about 6 inches thick, followed by 2 inches of horse or cow manure, or 1 inch of pig or poultry manure. Then a sprinkle of earth and ashes with a little ground limestone or slaked lime. Repeat these layers till the heap is four feet high. The material must be stacked lightly and not trodden in; if a large stack, build it in sections, to avoid walking on it.

When finished, cover with a light layer of earth and make holes from the top to the bottom with a bar or stake, work them, about and withdraw to leave a hole for air to enter. To protect from rain or hot sun, cover with straw or a few branches to make sure the air holes are not stopped, and then Hessian or bags. Nowadays iron is out of the question.

During the first few weeks the temperature will rise to 150 or 160 degrees Fahr., which will kill weed seeds and diseased tissue. The minimum size of a heap should be 10 ft. by 12 ft; for smaller quantities, as in a garden, a box is better. The description of the New Zealand Compost Box 4 ft. square and 3 ft. high is very suitable. Descriptions for building this will be found in our pamphlet, "Compost Why and How," and is published in many descriptive books on compost.

TURNING THE HEAP

After building the heap it is left for four weeks to ferment and then turned. While doing this, place material from the sides into the middle, and see that the moisture is correct, that is, like a squeezed out sponge.

It is then left for another four weeks, when it should be turned again, and left in a heap for a further four weeks when it should be finished compost, like sweet smelling forest soil, ready to apply to the ground. It is a good plan to screen it so that any material not fully decomposed may be put into the next heap. Compost made in this way is more valuable than stable manure, because the residues are partly prepared for plant food by the soil life in the compost heap. There is no doubt that this is the best and quickest way of preparing the residues for return to the soil; and I would strongly advise everyone to at least test this out in the home garden, orchard or small paddock, so that they may prove its benefits for their own satisfaction.

LARGER-SCALE METHODS

For larger areas other methods must be used, such as rotational grazing with different classes of stock as recommended by Sir George Stapleton and Mr. Friend Sykes in their books, "The Way of the Land," and "Humus and the Farmer," and working on some ley system of farming, in which green crops are ploughed in or straw turned into the land. We must find out the best way in each individual case. However we decide to do it, there is no possible doubt that we must return all available residues to the soil for the food of the soil life and for the preparation of humus. We must not be dismayed by the quantities required. In India and other Eastern countries, many thousands of tons of compost are used in the tea and coffee plantations every year.

They have even found it necessary to keep bullocks to supply the animal manure. In South Africa, the municipalities have, under the guidance of the Agricultural Department, made many thousands of tons from town and village wastes, including sanitary matter, to make up for the shortage of fertilisers.

In Rhodesia, Major Moubray says that growers of citrus fruits and vegetables for dehydration and sugar cane are making hundreds of thousands of tons of compost every year.

They are enthusiastic about the results obtained. In all these places they are using all the residues available, and we must do the same. Nothing that can be returned to the soil should be burnt. The soil life must be fed, so that it can feed us. MIXED FARMING ESSENTIAL The outstanding fact seems to be that the farmer must not be a specialist, and concentrate only on one line of produce.

By making wheat their only crop, farmers have been the means of destroying many thousands of acres of fertile land. This was the case in ancient times, in growing the food for Rome, and the same mistake is being made today. It would not be so bad if the straw was returned, but animal residues seem necessary for complete fertilisation. As the tea and coffee planters in India found it necessary to

Keep bullocks for the sake of their manure and

(Continued on page 7)

Basic Principles Of Organic Farming

(Continued from Page 6)

found them profitable; it seems that we will have to follow their example, where we are now specialising on one product, apples and pears, small fruit, potatoes or grain. To fully maintain the fertility of our farms we must find some plan for keeping animals profitably, horses, sheep, cattle, pigs or poultry, we must make our choice. Then by practising rotational grazing, the best quality humus can be built up in the soil.

TOWN AND COUNTRY WASTES

In New Zealand, The Auckland and Suburban Drainage League have made an exhaustive study of the return of residue to the soil, especially town and city wastes. They are asking that a Royal Commission may be appointed to find out the best way that this can be done. The objects specified are to save their soil from erosion, to maintain its fertility, and to improve the health of plants, animals and man, by building up their powers of resistance to disease by the production of more nutritious food. They have issued a most informative pamphlet, "The Utilisation of Town and Country Wastes, Garbage and Sewage." It is well worth studying.

The subject of health is vital to us all and the truly nutritious value of the food we grow on our farms and in our gardens and orchards can only be assured with the help of the unseen workers in the soil. If they are kept strong and healthy, we need have no fear that they will strike. Plants grown with organic manures only have wonderful powers of resistance to diseases and to the attacks of many of our present pests. The animals fed on produce grown in this way also have better health, and are able to resist disease, too; contagious abortion and mastitis are among other diseases mentioned. More than half the common diseases of animals and also those of man are caused by faults in feeding with food of poor nutritious value and can be prevented, if the complete cycle of nature is obeyed in the growing of food. There is a wide field of study open for us here. Let us start at once with our own gardens and help to build up the resistance to disease in our own children; then extend the knowledge thus gained through our Parents and Friends' Associations, and, plots in school gardens. We suggest that these test plots be called "Mother Earth Inquiry Centres," because Mother Earth will always give us a true and unbiased answer to all our questions.

CHEMICAL FERTILISERS

I have not so far mentioned so-called inorganic or chemical fertilisers, because I believe that we have yet much to learn about their effect on the soil life. There is no doubt that some of them have a toxic effect, poisoning both bacteria and worms. Then the three main chemicals needed for plant life and growth are Nitrogen, Phosphates and Potash; the N.P.K. formula in artificial manures. We know that large quantities of these elements are available from natural sources if the conditions are favourable. The root nodule bacteria of legumes have the power of enabling peas, beans, lucerne, lupins and clovers to use the nitrogen from the air in the soil. Mr. H. A. J. Pittman, B.A., B.Sc.Agr. (Hons.), Dip. Ed. of Victoria, says, in a paper entitled "Bacteria and Soil Fertility," "that a well nodulated crop of edible New Zealand Blue Lupin may add nitrogen as protein, to the ground at the end of the season, when ploughed in, or grazed off, and the residues ploughed in, equivalent in nitrogen content to 6½ cwt. of Sulphate of Ammonia (worth at today's prices of £18/10/- per ton, £6 per acre)."

When we remember that the mycorrhizal association gives grasses, grains, fruit trees and numerous other non-leguminous plants, the same power of using the nitrogen from the air in the soil when conditions are favourable, we see what vast supplies of nitrogen are available, if we obey the right rules in the cycle of nature.

Sir Stanton Hicks, Prof. of Physiology and Pharmacology at the Adelaide University, says in an article on the

utilisation of sewage, "It is an accepted Agricultural principle for action that superphosphate, which is a soluble form of phosphate, be added to the soil of pastures or agricultural land to replace phosphate which is removed in the bones, etc., of stock, or the edible products of the soil.

"At the present moment such superphosphate is obtained from limited and decreasing world stocks, which were originally built up by animal agencies. Other sources of phosphate are less rich, and not economically valuable. Our present method of bringing at great cost such superphosphate to the soil, while at the same time being utterly spendthrift of our own human phosphate wastes, must therefore, either be brought to a standstill, or we must accept ultimate regression in the productivity of our soil." Though human nightsoil is the richest in phosphate, much can also be saved by returning other residues to the soil.

The potash can also be largely replaced by the encouraging of deep-rooted pasture plants, which bring potash up from the subsoil. Then the use of deep-rooted weeds, seaweed and ashes in the compost heap helps with the supply. Then we must not forget the industrious earthworm, whose casts contain supplies of potash brought up from their deep burrows.

Where we need the help of our scientists, and the officers of the Agricultural Department is in determining which of the chemical manures are free from any toxic effect on the life of the soil, and therefore safe to use. If it is found necessary to use any of the elements in other than natural channels, the problem before our manure makers, and advisers for their use, is to find ways of producing them, which will build up, and not destroy the soil life; which work with and not against natural processes.

Major Moubray, of Rhodesia, has found that ground phosphate rock added to his compost heap, increases both the phosphate and nitrogen content of available plant, food.

ENRICHING SOIL FERTILITY

Therefore, our conclusion must be, that as trustees of our country's largest storehouse of wealth, we must give more heed to the humus content of our soil. This means feeding and caring for our soil life, the unseen underground workers in the soil, who produce humus, and can alone, maintain the fertility of our farms. To do this, we must find some appropriate way of returning all possible plant and animal residues to the soil.

The soil life will then, not only provide for the fertility, but will also build up such healthy resistance to disease in plants and animals, that they may provide the food necessary for the summit of all creation, mankind. Such food will sustain us in robust health, so that we, too, can resist disease and enjoy the beauty and happiness of this most wonderful world; especially this home land of ours, Tasmania.

The Family Farm

"Before the war, when the dumping of foreign grain on British markets was driving mixed farmers out of business, an urgent attempt was made to solve this problem of avoiding capital depreciation. Beef and dual-purpose cattle gave place to heavy milkers; mixed holdings were equipped with elaborate machinery; stocks of highly proteinated foodstuffs were bought from overseas. If this was free trade policy in action, its results were certainly disastrous. In order to pay the cost of transformation, and after that to make his transformed holding financially secure, the new dairyman was forced to regard his cows as engines of production. Nature, swift to penalize abuses, visited the herd with milk fever, contagious abortion, and mastitis.

So much at least is clear, since it has never been disputed that these diseases increased when mixed farming was abandoned, and began to wane directly a balance was resumed.

While, during those years between the wars, a fleeting benefit may have been enjoyed by the purveyors of quack medicines, farmers themselves were groaning under an additional weight of debt.

CAN WE PREVENT DISEASE?

Most diseases in animals, crops, and orchards can be eliminated by ensuring that the soil is properly treated.

The evidence collated and presented here by various authorities may come as a shock to those who have been led to believe that man, aided by chemists and Government Departments, must spend a lot of his time in waging a full-scale war against disease.

In his "Agricultural Testament," Sir Albert Howard writes:

"More than 50 years have passed since the modern work on diseases of plants began. What has been the general result of all this study of vegetable pathology? Has it provided anything of permanent value to agriculture? Is the game worth the candle? Must agricultural science go on discovering more and more new pests and devising more and more poison sprays to destroy them, or is there any alternative method of dealing with the situation? Why is there so much of this disease . . . Can the cultivators of the East, for example, teach us anything about diseases and their control?"

Howard then proceeds to tell of his work as Imperial Economic Botanist to the Government of India:

"In order to give my crops every chance of being attacked by parasites, nothing was done in the way of prevention; no insecticides and fungicides were used; no diseased material was ever destroyed. As my understanding of Indian agriculture progressed, and as my practice improved, a marked diminution of disease occurred . . . By 1910 I had learnt how to grow healthy crops, practically free from disease, without the slightest help from mycologists, entomologists, bacteriologists, agricultural chemists, statisticians, clearing houses of information, artificial manures, spraying machines, insecticides, fungicides, germicides, and all other expensive paraphernalia of the modern Experiment Station."

Disease In Oxen

Dealing with how his oxen fed on food from composted soil reacted to disease, Howard writes:

"I was naturally intensely interested in watching the reaction of these well-chosen and well-fed oxen to diseases like rinderpest, septicaemia, and foot and mouth diseases which frequently devastated the countryside. None of my animals were segregated; none were inoculated; they frequently came in contact with diseased stock. As my small farmyard at Pusa was only separated by a low hedge from one of the large cattle-sheds on the Pusa estate, in which outbreaks of foot and mouth disease often occurred, I have several times seen my oxen rubbing noses with foot and mouth cases. Nothing happened. The healthy, well-fed animals reacted to this disease exactly as suitable varieties of crops, when properly grown, did to insects and fungous pests—no infection took place."

Benefits Of Compost

In his book, "This Plot of Earth," the famous English writer, Mr. H. J. Massingham, states:

"I will give a few examples collected from outside my own garden of the benefits conferred by compost upon soil and plant and beast and man alike.

"Specialization in reverse could be studied in the east of England, where climate was held to favour a savage concentration on growing crops for sale. At the worst time, round Cambridge in particular, livestock was wholly excluded from the farms; lupins and mustard being ploughed in as substitutes for yard manure. Here, too, penalties came to fit the crime; faster erosion, sourness, a general weakening, of texture. When war broke out, and economic arguments were powerless in face of national danger, both east and west resumed a system of mixed farming. The debt, incurred by pseudo-scientific theory and free trade policy, remained; and now it must be added to the wartime overdraft of husbandry for quick returns.

"Confronted by this problem, the majority of farmers are in favour of the smaller unit; and they would support any process which created, gradually and naturally, more holdings which the owner or occupier worked with his family and occasional part-time labour. Certainly a process

Mr. Chambers, for instance, of the Cheshire Joint Board Institution for Mental Deficiency, Cranage Hall, declared that he had cured celery of leaf miner, strawberries of yellow-edge, cordon apples of mealy bug and American blight by the use of compost alone. In Barbados, sugar caries, once fed by humus and farmed by peasants, were then cultivated on artificials and big business lines. The result was that the canes began to lose the power of vegetative reproduction from the circulation of protein being interrupted. A plan for restoring the old methods by means of mixed farming, animal husbandry, co-operative marketing and a Peasants' Loan Bank were reported in the "Times" of December 1942.

"Dr. J. W. Scarff reported in September, 1942, that 500 Tamil coolies employed by the Singapore Health Department were granted allotments of 40 acres on condition that they composted and used for themselves the fruit and vegetables grown. All sales were forbidden. At the end of a year, there was a surprising improvement in stamina and health and sickness was swept away.

Rhodesian Examples

"In Rhodesia, witchweed is the main obstacle to maize growing and no satisfactory insect control has been found. But as compost is applied to an infested field and maize is then grown, hardly a plant of witchweed is to be seen. Dr. Nicol says: 'The reason for this astonishingly complete control is not known, but since compost is the product of millions of micro-organisms acting on plant and animal residues, the control of witchweed by means of compost has every right to be included amongst biological methods' . . .

"The 'Rhodesian Herald' of September 4, 1942, reported that potatoes dressed with five tons of compost per acre for eelworm were completely rid of it in the second year."

Sweet Soil Or Sulphur

A doctor writing in the "American Eagle," of Estero, Florida, in July 1940, said:

"I was taken to a farm recently to treat a sick friend, and as we drove through various orchards, my friend, a citrus grower, began talking about citrus groves. He pointed out the various ones that were fertilized with chemicals, how polluted the leaves were. Then he showed me extinct groves that had perished by certain diseases. 'What disease,' I asked him, and he candidly replied, 'stupidity; but they don't learn,' he said 'for after thirty years, they still pour on the sulphur, brimstone and fire. . . They burn up everything around the plants; not even bacteria can live, far less earthworms. Look at my grove, the leaves are clean, the ground is 'dirty,' sure; it is full (Continued on page 8.)

would begin at once as low but inevitable return to agricultural health. Just as bad methods accelerate decline from year to year, so the steady farmer makes his holding more immune to pest and tempest every day he works it. The benefits of land diffusion would be varied; they would be cumulative also . . .

"If farms were divided so that families could work them, saving would be free to operate in harmony with another natural instinct; the instinct which men have to improve their goods for the use of future generations. While specialization and enlargement have either helped decay or proved at least quite powerless to prevent it, small mixed farms have been the first to weather the depression. This is not surprising. They exist in answer to a soil varying from clay to sand, a climate incalculable but seldom harsh, and a national love of independence." - The English "Tablet," April 26, 1947

Can We Prevent Disease?

(Continued from Page 7)

of trash, humus, grass, leaves, all sorts of junk, but the earth is full of bacteria and earthworms. It is moist, mellow and lovely to handle. My fruit is sweet and beautiful. I don't have to spray anything.'

Healthy Apples

Writing in the *Memphis (America) "Press-Scimitar"* of May 20, 1944, a Rev. Robert W. Jones says:

"Sir Albert Howard claims that the use of humus in agricultural practice will reduce the bug menace (including the cotton boll weevil) to an insignificant minimum. I have had experiences, which support his thesis. I have been a small mulcher from away back . . . Last year, for example, I dried about twelve bushels of apples from two trees that have not been sprayed in 15 years. I don't claim that I did not have a bug in a bushel, but I can truthfully say that there were not many defective apples on the trees. For the past five years the trees have been mulched with orchard grass. No spraying, no fertiliser, no bugs, but excellent apples."

Foot And Mouth Disease

Lord Portsmouth once tried to get the Government Veterinary Authority in Great Britain to conduct an experiment on foot and mouth diseases along his lines:

"His idea was that instead of adopting the slaughter policy, they should prohibit any movement of stock from the island (of Wight), and let the disease take its course, carefully noting the farms that escaped and comparing the system of farming in practice there, with that on the farms to which the disease spread. The 'vets' threw up their hands in horror and said: 'Do you suggest that half Europe is badly farmed?' 'Yes,' said Lord Portsmouth, 'just that.'

"They then drew his attention to a large wall map. It covered the Continent from the Baltic to the Mediterranean, and from the Atlantic to Russia. It was studded with small flags, each flag representing a confirmed outbreak of foot and mouth disease. Lord Portsmouth told me that he looked from this map to the 'vets' in astonishment. 'Doesn't that map show you something?' he asked. 'Only,' was the reply, 'that the disease is very prevalent.'

"Lord Portsmouth then told me that he had an intimate knowledge of some parts of southern Europe . . . He said that from his personal knowledge of the farming methods undertaken in this mountain area, he was able to notice that very often the flags stuck into the map stopped where traditional peasant farming began. He pointed this out to these authorities. . . . I asked him what reply was made to this, and he said: 'Oh! They just thought I was mad!': (From Eve Balfour's "Living Soil.")

The so-called "scientific" approach to agriculture has failed. Far too often, the "scientific" approach to problems

is very misleading, as the problem is not studied as a whole. The specialist in every field of human activity tends to become narrow without any understanding of where his work may be leading. This is particularly true in relationship to the subject of diseases in plants and animals. The specialists merely take the short view and attack every new disease with new and more powerful chemicals, etc. This narrow, specialist approach completely obscures the fact that every new counter to a particular disease usually creates more problems by further upsetting the balance of nature, which in turn leads to further diseases. If man works in har-

mony with nature, there are few diseases connected with agriculture. But if man is going to ignore the causes of disease, then more and more "scientific" organisation will be required to cope with disease. The end of this procedure can only result in the complete domination of the individual agriculturist by organisation.

The individual agriculturist can only defeat the menace of control by organisation by working in harmony with nature instead of trying to exploit her. Properly nourished soil will produce disease-free plants and animals. And disease-free plants and animals will produce healthy human beings.

BRITAIN'S PEDIGREE STOCK Result Of Significant Factors

By L. F. EASTERBROOK

[This article is not only for those engaged or interested in stockbreeding. Here a well-known English agricultural writer gives interesting topical references to his special subject, but also indicates the basis and some of the important characteristics of British agriculture at its best—harmoniously diverse, mixed and balanced, largely self-sufficient, mostly on a small scale, and conducted by men who put quality first and never scorn their tradition or their instinct: an expression of the genuine British character and way of life in tune with reality. No wonder the Arch-Planners and their tools strive to pervert or destroy it! —Ed.,

Britain's premier farming event, the Royal Show, opened for the first time since World War II in July of this year. The venue was Lincoln, capital of England's richest farming county.

Able to cater for pretty well every type of overseas buyer, we in Britain, at our last great National Show, at Windsor in 1939, had on exhibition four breeds of farm horses, 22 breeds of cattle, 23 breeds of sheep and 11 breeds of pigs.

Experience and Diversity

These are not meaningless varieties to tickle the fancies of connoisseurs of stockbreeding; they are breeds and types designed through many generations of trial and error to answer a variety of practical purposes. The Welsh Mountain sheep, for example, would die of indigestion on England's rich Midland pastures; England's Downs breeds would starve in the Welsh hills and none but the well-fleeced sturdy sheep of the Romney Marshes could stand the rigors of the district that gave this famous breed their name.

This is one of the reasons why not only Australia but every country in the civilised world turns to Britain from time to time for pedigree livestock. We, in Britain, have the variety to suit all purposes. This is because we have such a variety of soil and climate in this small island of ours.

It is said, even, that you need never go out of Yorkshire to learn how to farm, because Yorkshire contains every type of soil known in northwestern Europe. Therefore, it has every type of farming.

At Shoeburyness, in Essex, the aver-

age rainfall is 18in. a year. Only 250 miles away, at Seathwaite, in Cumberland, the rainfall averages 130in. There is an infinity of variation in between.

Human Factor Important

These changes are reflected in our human stock, too. The East Anglian has a very different temperament from the Devonian or the men of Somerset or Gloucestershire, and those from the Midland counties are quite different from their cousins born in Northumberland or Cumberland.

Even those in the adjoining counties of Yorkshire and Lancashire are of distinct type.

If this is true of our men and women who move about and eat so much of the same sort of food, how much more must it be true of our livestock, with the breeds selected to thrive in certain localities, and far more dependent upon local food.

Another and most important factor in the unique position which Britain's bloodstock enjoys is the fact that we did happen to be the pioneers in selecting and perfecting their types, and we have been carrying on that process for 200 years, ever since Robert Bakewell, of Dishley Grange, Leicestershire, began his work with Longhorn cattle and what he called the "New Leicester" sheep.

Foundations in the Past

In common with other countries, we now go in for line breeding, progeny testing, recording and other devices to procure the survival of the most useful or suitable types.

It is useful, but it is more than doubtful if it is producing such sound results as the life work of generations of men

with a gift for selecting the right animals for mating, and again selecting the best from those results. The more we know of the laws of Mendel and inheritance the better we realise how difficult it is to work by rule-of-thumb in these matters, and the more we can admire the skill of those ancestors of ours in laying so surely the foundations of the greater part of the world's pedigree livestock.

Those 18th and 19th century landowners who lived on their estates and devoted their lives to farming were the patrons of the art of stockbreeding.

What people such as the Duke of Chandos did for the finer arts, the Bakewells, Ellmans, Bates, Collings and a host of others did for farm bloodstock. That is another reason why, over so wide a field, Britain can still offer the best in the way of foundation stock.

The Climate an Asset

But there are other factors, too. Britain's climate, for example. It is notorious, and we in Britain curse it just as much as visitors to our island who dare not set forth, even on a sunny morning in summer, without a waterproof.

But is it our greatest agricultural asset? Its equability and its dispersal of rainfall over all the months of the year give us our grass and pastures, the best in the world with the possible exception of New Zealand.

Now grass is the best of all foods for animals. Together with the limestone that underlies so much of it, it gives them strength and constitution and they start off in life with sound, well-made bodies.

Instinct and Tradition

Last but not least, we can claim without being boastful that managing animals and caring for them is an instinct of the British race. We are not saints, and you can find cases of cruelty to animals in Britain, as in any other country—usually from ignorance. But the average Englishman who has any dealings with animals knows how to handle them and treats them well—and not only on the farms. It is well known that the miner will go without meat himself to keep his whippet properly fed—not so directly from humanitarian reasons, perhaps, as on account of the pride he takes in his dog.

On the pedigree farms we have the finest stockmen in the world, inheriting their skill and understanding from their fathers and grandfathers who have followed the same calling and handed down their knowledge.

But it is neither smug nor untrue to say that we, in Britain, treat our animals well because we have a gift for understanding them and we know that right treatment gives the best results.

These are possibly some of the reasons why the New South Wales Stud Stock Delegation which visited Britain recently to buy pedigree farm stock were kind enough to say before they left that they were impressed with much of what they saw and pleased with what they had bought. They certainly took away some very good stuff. —"The Farmer and Settler."

TEXTIT

[Regd.]

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