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FOURPENCE WEEKLY

Lang on Price Control

In view of the impending Prices Referendum, we reprint below an important extract from J. T. Lang's speech in the House of Representatives on December 3, 1947, dealing with the question of Price Control and summarising some of the main arguments against it.

The speech was delivered during the debate on the Defence (Transitional Provisions) Bill.

All the cost of the elaborate bureaucratic machinery must in the final result be loaded on to the cost of living. There is a dearth of labour in industry, because so much labour has been diverted to the work of the bureaucracy.

The maintenance of the bureaucratic army not only means higher taxation, but also imposes additional overhead on industry, owing to the constant necessity for filling in forms and halting the processes of production, while some bureaucrat makes up his mind.

Instead of getting on with the job of production, industry has to wait on priorities, and secure official sanctions, before making minor decisions, and go through a tortuous process of observing the highly complex set of regulations.

Prices control has become another instrument of taxation in a dual sense. It, has added to the burden of general taxation, by calling for the maintenance of an army of inspectors and experts.

It has also been used as an instrument of taxation, by imposing on industry a form of profit control.

Instead of encouraging industry to become more efficient, and thereby producing more, prices control has provided a premium on inefficiency, by stipulating profit margins, which must not be exceeded. This helps the inefficient industry, and penalises the efficient. That was shown in the *Daveney* case.

Another flagrant example of the abuses of this system can be seen in the working of the same type of official mind in the departmental war being waged on Ansett Airways Proprietary Limited. There, an attempt is being made to force an airline operator to increase the charges for his service, although he maintains he could reduce the cost of air travel to the public. Such action on the part of Ansett Airways Proprietary Limited would be contrary to the spirit of regimentation and totalitarian rule.

The Government's only excuse for the continuance of these controls is its own statement that the cost of living increased in the United States, when the

Office of Prices Administration Control was lifted.

But the truth is that while the Office of Prices Administration Control was operating, the workers of America were going without meat and essential goods.

When control by the Office of Prices Administration Control was lifted, they were able to get meat and the other goods they needed. The shortages in America have disappeared. Production has already caught up with demand. The workers in the United States of

OUR POLICY

1. The preservation of Australia's sovereignty as a part of the British Empire, and the exposure of all internal and external groups which attack that sovereignty.
2. The preservation and extension of genuine local government.
3. The preservation and strengthening of all Constitutional safeguards for the purpose of protecting fundamental individual rights.
4. The encouragement of all activities designed to bring Governments under more effective control by the electors.
5. The preservation and extension of genuine free, competitive enterprise and private ownership, and opposition to all Monopoly, whether it be "private" or State.
6. The support of a financial policy which will (a) permit free enterprise to make available to all individuals an increasing standard of living and greater leisure for cultural pursuits; (b) result in no further increase in the community's indebtedness and the sound business practice of gradually reducing existing debt.
7. Recognising that the basis of any sound economy is agriculture, the encouragement of agricultural policies which will ensure the preservation and building up of soil fertility by organic farming and gardening; and the prevention of soil erosion and the protection of forests and watersheds.

America are enjoying a far better standard of living than they ever had.

In introducing the bill, the Minister provided no valid justification for the continuance of these controls. They are not essential to a war effort in a war that is already won. They have no real connexion with the defence problems of the country.

They are not even achieving their avowed objective.

Prices control has resulted only in an aggravation of shortages, and the establishment of the black market.

The cost of living is an ascending spiral, despite the activities of prices control. In 1939 an apple cost a penny; today, it has become a 4d. apple. The cherries that were then bought at 4d. per lb. are today 2/ per lb. Mothers are paying 4d. and 5d. for oranges for their young children, although they are much inferior to those previously sold at fourpence for 1/.

Even such staple commodities as bread and milk are dearer, and threatening to become even more expensive.

Increased transport charges, sanctioned by the Prices Branch, clothing at twice its pre-war cost, and every item on the breakfast table testify to the failure of prices control.

Under the present system there is no incentive to produce more goods. Even when goods are produced they are often stacked in warehouses, awaiting a decision from the Prices Branch, before they can be placed on the market. The result is that the wealthy, who can afford black market prices, get the goods, while the poor, who cannot afford to go to the black market, go without.

The removal of prices control would do away with many of the present impediments to production. *The big monopolies flourish under prices control.* They squeeze out competitors.

Similarly, land sales control is another farce.

The cost of building is more than double that operating in 1939. How can prices of those houses be equitably held down to 1939 levels, when homes being built under present conditions are inferior in quality to, and cost twice as much as, those built then.

Rent control can be implemented by State governments, because the States have the machinery for on-the-spot decisions by local courts. The Commonwealth has no such machinery, but has to rely on the special Federal courts.

There is no justification for the continuance of Federal control.

THE POLICY BEHIND GANDHI

Any misapprehension which might be entertained in regard to the interests served by the late Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, by those unfamiliar with the Indian scene, must have been dispelled by the "B". B.C. in its really remarkable panegyric, absorbing the whole of the six o'clock News Bulletin of January 30, not to mention the oration by Mr. Attlee at 9.15.

We have probably heard most of the important news broadcasts in the last twenty-five years, and we cannot recall anything like it, either in length or content. Probably no one man, not being the head of a sovereign State, has cost directly or indirectly the British taxpayer more than has Mr. Gandhi; he was an African nuisance before he became the ostensible head of the so-called Indian National Congress, the puppet of the millionaire Tatas and Birlas and their friends in Wall and Pine St., New York; his activities have gone far to wreck the immense possibilities for India which were opening under the British Indian Governments of the nineteenth century, and have substituted the hundreds of thousands of murders (and the score is only beginning) which have marked the Socialist scuttles inaugurated by Sir Stafford Cripps and carried out by Lord Mountbatten.

But to the British public, to most of whom he is, if anything, a name, he is presented by "it's" official broadcasting agency as not merely a servant, but one of the greatest servants of the British Empire and people; the fact that he has been assassinated by a *Hindu*, not a Mohammedan, be it carefully noted, while in passing it is mentioned, is not elaborated as being, as it is, the logical consequence of his own actions against the background of Hindu mentality.

As we have tried to explain, no one can understand Indian agitators who has not grasped the effect of Lord Macaulay's Indian Universities on the glut of *vakils* and barristers, and their use of notoriety for professional advancement, and, bearing this in mind,

DISTORTION

When the University of Chicago acquired the publishing rights of the Encyclopedia Britannica there was much disappointment throughout the Empire. Now the London Daily Telegraph has directed attention to the article on Palestine in the current Britannica Year Book written by Rabbi Israel Goldstein, chairman of the World Zionist Federation. It contains such observations as that "British military forces turned Palestine into a police State. Military searches were conducted, curfews imposed, elementary civil rights were violated, some of the troops behaved with barbaric cruelty, Jewish property was destroyed, and thousands of Jews were placed in concentration camps."

—The *West Australian*, Jan. 17, 1948.

there is a sense in which Gandhi was a sincere man.

But only the "B".B.C. would pretend that he was anything but a very prac-



GANDHI

tical enemy of Great Britain and the friend and assistant of our deadliest foes. He died in the house of the Birlas, and he is canonised by the "B". B.C. ("Our country, always wrong").
The Social Creditor (Eng.), Feb. 7, 1948.

(From THE SOCIAL CREDITER (Eng.), Dec. 12 1947).

MODERN CULTURE AND ANCIENT MYSTERIES

On the face of it, the suggestion that a book of which the immediate thesis is that there is ground for belief that William Rufus and Thomas A'Beckett were voluntary sacrifices in a cult, which involved ritual murder, has an important bearing on contemporary politics might appear fantastic.

But in *The Arrow and the Sword* (Faber), Mr. Hugh Ross-Williamson covers ground, which anyone with a knowledge of the wickedness, which forms the hidden side of history, must consider contemplatively. The Mysteries, whether Eleusinian, Orphic, Druidic, Mithraic, or Gnostic, and possibly their modern counterpart, certain brands of Freemasonry, have been at the heart of High Policy for many centuries; and if not identical with sex perversion, have always had a thread of sex perversion, with its peculiar psychology, running through them.

The whole argument is far too tortuous to be summarised. The genealogy of Catharism, Templarism, Puritanism, and Whiggism, all demonstrably related and ancestral to our "Austerity" (Initiates excluded) is beyond question. We quoted recently Mr. Pemberton Billing's

The Problem Of Power

To what shall we turn? The problem can perhaps best be expressed in terms of Adlerian psychology. The vast majority of mankind are content to let things be, but their liberties are continually menaced by the few who are infected with the Napoleonic complex of the passion for power.

The problem of politics is to provide for these unbalanced people an outlet as innocuous as possible, and, as outlets go, moneymaking was a comparatively innocuous one. "No man," said Dr. Johnson with at least a half-truth, "can be more innocently employed than in making money."

Now it is naive to assume that you will cure these people of the love of power merely by stopping them from making money. **On the contrary, they only seek to acquire power in other, and perhaps more dangerous, ways.** The more the authority that is piled upon the State, the greater is the temptation to those people to capture the machinery of the State.

After all, the tyrannies and cruelties that have been practised in modern Europe by private enterprise are trivial in comparison with the tyrannies and cruelties that have been practised by statesmen. The question is whether in our passion to get rid of the rich we are not raising up for ourselves new and worse masters.

—Christopher Hollis, writing in *The Tablet* (Eng.), Sept. 27, 1947.

CABINET MAKERS WANTED

Good positions offering for cabinetmakers. Good wages and conditions, morning and afternoon tea, right beside railway station. Apply to Paton Furniture Pty. Ltd., 8 Stanley Terrace, Surrey Hills. Phone: WF7191.

ENGLISH MINERS WORSE OFF UNDER COAL BOARD

The coal owners, probably Britain's most backward and inefficient set of employers, left a badly equipped and badly organised industry, and a legacy of hatred throughout the coalfields. In spite of this, coal production had been somewhere near 250 million tons a year.

The Socialist argument was that by co-ordination and the creation of confidence and goodwill among the miners more production could be secured from those already in the industry, and sorely needed fresh labour could be attracted.

By all the theoretical rules a slow but steady increase in the production figures, at an economic price, was to be expected. It is important to understand why these hopes have been disappointed, because of the valuable warnings to be listened to before rushing into further "national" enterprises of this nature.

The first surprise to the theorists was the fact that strikes against the new management occurred with the same monotonous regularity as they had against the old. The new flag brought little response, either from those in the industry or those to be attracted into it. The miners' attitude may be summed up in the words of one of the Grimethorpe Strike Leaders, who said: "Do you know the difference between the London Passenger Transport Board and the N.C.B.?—The N.C.B. carries more passengers."

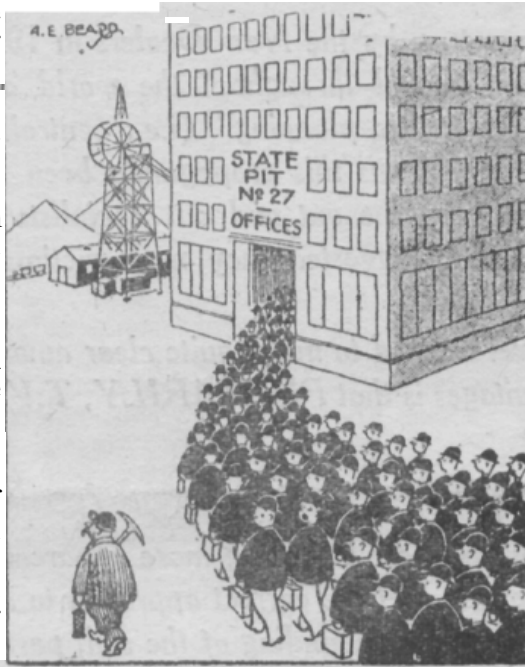
There we have the roots of the trouble. There is little argument that the man who does the dangerous and difficult task of hewing coal should have good wages and reasonable hours.

The problem is: How to give him these when all the passengers have to be looked after first. In the old days the mine-owners expected a profit and the landowners a royalty. After them came the miner. The Socialists for years have told the men that they would "take the owners off their back." They have done nothing of the sort, and the miners realise it.

Today the Lord Chancellor informed the House of Lords that the expenses of the Coal Board work out at 1/3 per ton. In the old days, including the profits and royalties, the expenses were 1/2 per ton. The new figure is rising, but that is not the whole story. The higher figure includes no allowance for the huge sums, which are, to have been, paid to the mine owners and the royalty owner. The miner still carries the "owners" on his back, but he also pays for a huge bureaucratic machine in addition.

The miner used to pay a quota towards the upkeep of Lord Dudley at Himley Hall. He now pays the whole sum, and a very much larger one, for Sir Ben Smith to live in the same mansion. The coalfields are alive with ex-brass hats and paid-off Trade Union leaders. Men who have never been worth £6 a week to any employer find themselves drawing several thousand a year tax free and provided with handsome residences and free motorcars in addition. In spite of the shortage of cars and petrol, over one thousand new cars have already been purchased by the N.C.B. Mansions all over the country are taken for their offices and for their residences.

Well may the miner lack the new spirit Comrades Laski and Shinwell have so often told us about. -Condensed from *London Tidings*. Dec. 13, 1947.



"Oh, that's George—he gets the coal." —From *The Recorder* (Lond.).

The British "Labour" Government

Britain has a "Labour" Government, and in its "Labour" Party practical men are at a discount. This is its composition in the Commons: —

Trade union officials.....	124
Publishers, journalists, and authors	48
Municipal politicians	45
Barristers and solicitors.....	41
Businessmen	41
Schoolmasters.....	34
Co-operative employees.....	12
Doctors and dentists.....	12
University teachers	10
Farmers	10
Army, Navy, Air Force officers . . .	5
Miscellaneous.....	5
Civil servants	3
Free Church ministers.....	3
Policeman	1

Mr. Spender and Constitutional Safeguards

Mr. Spender, M.H.R., at Canberra on 27 November, 1947: "I believe that the time has come when there should be written into the Constitution, not additional powers, but safeguards against the abuses of power by the Parliament. . . . I believe that the time has come to place safeguards in the Constitution in favour of the people."

What practical steps, if any, is Mr. Spender taking to ensure that the Party of which he is a member supports the desirable constitutional safeguards he mentions? Will the Liberal and Country Parties support the Initiative, Referendum and Recall?

REPORT FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

A meeting of the members of the United Democrats was held recently in the new rooms at 91 King William Street, Adelaide. The attendance was not large, but important subjects were enlarged upon by the President and discussed with a view to stimulating more effective action in 1948.

Mr. A. Munyard and Mr. C. D. Brock, who are both well informed about the important political action developments in and near Quebec, Canada, have agreed to hold themselves responsible for spreading such information and assisting and directing those who see any opportunity of fostering similar action groups here.

The suggestion that there should be regular meetings (say once a month) was well received, and the first of such meetings was held on Wednesday, 25th February 1948, at 8 p.m. in our rooms, 91 King William Street. The two purposes in view are that of deepening the understanding of Social Credit adherents of the principles involved and so increasing our efficiency and that of winning new students to the subjects covered by the term Social Credit.

The need for a special and immediate drive to increase the number of subscribers to Social Credit papers and to sell some very important recent and

expected booklets was stressed by the President.

Here is a field in which every interested person who has faith in Social Credit can and must fulfill his or her responsibility in making Social Credit thoroughly and widely known. In other words, the truth about who are our enemies and how they can be outwitted will be spread thoroughly only by Social Credit writers and workers.

The seriousness of the developing situation should stir all Social Creditors to do their utmost without further delay.

Expanding activities cannot take place without some increase in income. Please drop in and discuss ways and means of making your contribution either to the funds or to the work to be done. There is plenty of scope for those who want action for 1948.

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T. V. A.

The Press reports of heavy floods in U.S.A. last week revealed the significant fact that T.V.A.'s chain of gigantic dams was unable to hold back the floodwaters in the Tennessee Valley.

The Tennessee Valley Authority, set up by the New Dealers in 1933, has been continuously and increasingly boomed throughout the world as a shining example of "scientific" and "democratic planning" (i.e., centralised control of human activity), and so successful has this propaganda been that it is looked upon with approval not only by the out and out Socialists but by many who would be horrified if it was suggested they were victims of Socialist propaganda.

One thing this propaganda has never seemed to make quite clear amongst the claims for T.V.A.'s numerous advantages is that PRIMARILY, T.V.A. was set up as a flood-control scheme.

IN THIS IT HAS FAILED.

As the long-term results of such schemes are becoming more apparent to the unprejudiced observer it is being realised that the correct approach to such a problem is to PREVENT floods by correct husbanding of the soil, particularly in the field of adequate afforestation.

And it is also being realised that this can best be achieved by decentralised planning by individuals. That is coming closer to genuine democracy.

Quite apart from that, however, T.V.A. is a racket. We have dealt previously with the control it has captured over the lives of the people of the Tennessee Valley, at financial expense, which has been astronomical, of the whole people of the United States.

We quote the following from a recent issue of an English contemporary journal:

"In an article entitled 'The Hidden Red Ink in T.V.A.'s Books' in the Reader's Digest for December, 1947 (American Edition—omitted from British [and Australian] reprint), a periodical which has printed much favourable propaganda for T.V.A., Mr. John T. Flynn, amongst other damning evidence, points out that if T.V.A.'s accounts were kept as a commercial power company's accounts are (by law) kept, it would show a deficit of 130 million dollars where it claims a profit on power sales. Exactly what the amount of profit claimed amounts to, is not clear, because the accounts are not sufficiently intelligible and mix up fertiliser production, agriculture, forestry and other activities with power sales."

The evidence is coming to the surface now and the Australian electors must be made aware of the deadly nature of such schemes before they, too, succumb completely as conscripted tools of some similar Authority.

THE HIGHER LAW

It is a paradox that at a time when this country is beset with many fears, the most fearful of all is something of which this country is generally unaware. It is the fact that while this country is traditionally democratic, the prevailing teaching of its political and legal philosophers is essentially anti-democratic and totalitarian.

This is so because this teaching denies three essential elements of democracy and thereby affirms three essential elements of totalitarianism. It denies that there is a moral law, which is inherent in human nature and which is therefore immutable and to which all man-made laws to be valid must conform.

It denies that by virtue of this law man possesses certain rights, which are inherent and inalienable, and therefore superior to the authority of the state. It denies that the purpose of government is to secure these inherent and inalienable rights.

It asserts that because there are no immutable principles of human conduct, there is no ultimate standard of justice, and the lawmaker is responsible to nothing but his own unfettered will. It asserts that since there are no natural rights, all man's rights come to him from the state, and what the state grants the state may take away. It asserts that since man possesses no natural inherent rights, the purpose of man is to serve the state.

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*The above is from *The Higher Law*, an address delivered before the Conference of Federal Judges of the Ninth Circuit, at San Francisco, September 3, 1946, by Harold R. McKinnon, and published by The Gillick Press, Berkeley, California.*

The French Revolution, And After

Anyone who doubts that we are suffering from a long-term policy of which the French Revolution was a modern episode has only to consider the constant reappearance of expedients which favour it, under widely different names—a device which is used for the purpose of defeating the lessons of such history as cannot be suppressed. The French Encyclopaedists were the ancestors of the Fabians and P.E.P.; the present House of Commons bears a close resemblance to the Constituent Assembly, which prepared the way for the Commune; and on a large canvas, U.N.O., is merely the League of Nations which made the Second World War inevitable.

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*"French institutions, which have rapidly led to a state of disorder and impotence, are the outcome, pure and simple, of intellectual planning. Deprived of all genuine foundation, their inherent vices have been aggravated still more by that inadequacy of public opinion which is the real evil from which our country is suffering." - *The Causes of Political Unrest in France*, Baron Humbert Michaud, XIX Century.*

—The Social Crediter (Eng.), Dec. 20, 1947.

CAN THE LIBERAL AND COUNTRY PARTIES DEFEAT THE SOCIALIST MENACE?

A Vital Question For All Genuine Anti-Socialists

To be produced shortly as a booklet by the Victorian Social Credit Action Group, we are publishing extracts from this valuable essay on our "Conservatives" and the Socialist threat: —

Events of the past few years have convinced an increasing number of Australian electors that the centralisation of all political, economic, and financial power at Canberra would result in the complete regimentation of the individual.

The real essence of Socialism is the centralisation of all power into the hands of a few Planners. Socialism in practice means the Monopoly State. Irrespective of the label applied to it, it is Monopoly that threatens our civilisation.

Now, while there is little doubt that the policy of Monopoly being imposed by the Chifley Government is forcing many electors to become opponents of this Government, it is extremely dangerous for electors to believe that the election of a Government led by Mr. Menzies would automatically result in genuine anti-Socialist—i.e., anti-Monopoly—policies. The present Federal non-Labour Parties were in office for many years before the war.

The very fact that the Socialist and Communist menace has reached such (grave proportions in Australia is self-evident proof that the non-Labour Parties failed dismally in the past to solve fundamental economic and political problems.

Failure to solve these problems drove many well-meaning people into the arms of the Socialists and Communists, who boldly proclaimed that, given the opportunity, they could and would solve these problems.

As Socialist and Communist propaganda has only made such dangerous progress because of the failures of the non-Labour Parties, intelligent electors must carefully examine what evidence there is, if any, that these Parties, if elected to form another Federal Government, would pursue policies designed to permit the individual to obtain an increasing standard of living and greater independence. For example what *practical steps* would Mr. Menzies and his colleagues take to reverse the present Federal Government's drive towards greater centralisation? As Mr. Menzies has played a dominant role in formulating the policies of the present Federal Liberal Party, this question can only be answered by a careful examination of Mr. Menzies' record.

Not only does the record of Mr. Menzies show that before the war he failed to advance any constructive proposals to correct the economic problems which the Socialists and Communists exploited; it also reveals that he has been guilty of advocating that very centralisation which is the first step towards the Monopoly or Socialist State. It is true, of course, that Mr. Menzies now says that he is no longer in favour of centralisation. Speaking on the Constitution Alteration (Rents and Prices) Bill 1947 at Canberra on 27th November 1947, he said:

"I say quite plainly that there are speeches of mine to be found in which I have advocated a system in which there would be greater centralisation of power with an effective decentralisation of function. But the events of the last few years have changed all this. I say quite plainly that the present trends of Government and of Labour Socialist policy in Australia are such that I would view with horror the prospect of concentrating all power in this Parliament."

Mr. Menzies is now horrified at the results of the very thing he advocated! It is interesting to have his admission of a "change of heart," but it is disturbing to the intelligent elector to know that a man of the capacity of Mr. Menzies should have been the instrument of Socialist policy for so many years. In his speech mentioned above, Mr. Menzies also made the following significant remark:

"... the true Socialist programme of action has now been discovered." Does this mean that Mr. Menzies has been so naive that he has only recently understood the real Socialist menace? There has never been anything obscure about the real nature of Socialism. The sponsors of this booklet have been analysing it for years.

The belated admission by Mr. Menzies that he has at last "discovered" the "true Socialist programme of action" prompts the reasonable question: Has Mr. Menzies really grasped the basic nature of the Socialist menace, or only a portion of it? If Mr. Menzies and his colleagues are now prepared to face up to the real Socialist menace they will earn the warm gratitude of most Australians. However, there are some people who assert that Mr. Menzies' recent conversion to anti-centralisation is shrewdly based upon the belief that verbal opposition to centralisation from now until the next elections will prove a great vote winner. They point out that Mr. Menzies was an advocate of State rights while a Member of the Victorian Parliament, but that he found it convenient to change to an advocacy of centralisation when he became a Member of the Federal Parliament. If this assessment of Mr. Menzies is correct, it supports the great Lord Acton's statement that "Power tends to corrupt."

At the Constitutional Conference in 1934, Victoria was represented by Mr. Menzies, at that time Acting Premier. Speaking of the Financial Agreement of 1927, Mr. Menzies said that it "was obtained at the point of the pistol" and had weakened the position of the States.

In other words, Mr. Menzies was a supporter of State sovereignties while a Member of the Victorian Parliament, became an advocate of greater powers for Canberra when he became a Member of the Federal Government, and now apparently is trying to convince electors that he is back to where he started from. This record has been obviously based upon expediency and not upon fundamental principles. Something more than this is required to defeat the real Socialist menace.

The following are a few selected examples of Mr. Menzies' advocacy of centralisation: He supported the Referendum conducted by the Lyons Government in 1937. As late as 1946 he advocated a Yes vote on the Social Services Referendum conducted by the Chifley Government. The increased powers granted to the Federal Government as a result of this Referendum being carried, have been used to push on with the Socialist policy of centralising control of the medical system.

Speaking in the Federal Parliament on November 22, 1938, Mr. Menzies expressed himself in favour of "giving complete industrial power to the Commonwealth of Australia." In an article in the Melbourne "Herald" of April 7, 1943, he wrote:

"... the whole condition upon which people shall be allowed to operate for reward is that they should fully accept a very high measure of industrial, financial, and social responsibility and increasing community direction. There is also need for some clarification on my attitude to Constitutional reform: I have for years advocated full industrial powers for the Commonwealth. I am a strong supporter of National control of education."

The above comment should warm the heart of any good Socialist, particularly the use of the term "increasing community direction." This is the type of abstract jargon loved by all Socialists and Communists. The Chifley Government also believes in National control of "education." Real education only takes place when there is local, decentralised control and consequent diversity. Centralised control of "education" is a fundamental part of Socialist policy.

During the Canberra debates on Bank Nationalisation late in 1947, Members of the non-Labor Parties rightly stressed the fact that the Chifley Government was introducing highly controversial legislation in face of widespread opposition from electors, and that no mandate for this legislation had been sought at the 1946 Federal Elections. But Mr. Menzies himself has placed it on record that he does not consider it the function of a Member of Parliament to *represent* his electors. The following extract is from his book, "The Forgotten People":

"In recent years a great many people calling themselves democrats have discovered and practised the art of what is called 'pressure politics,' the 'pressure' taking the form of hundreds, and in some cases I can remember thousands, of stereotyped letters signed and sent to

(Continued on page 6)

As an example of the excellent work being done by the Victorian League of Rights training class, we reprint below one of the competent essays written by one of the class members, Miss Margaret Fahey: —

The philosophy underlining what we term our British way of life can readily be identified with the Christian philosophy.

Christ placed all emphasis upon the human soul—the individual self. He taught that the Kingdom of Heaven is within you, and that the Father is in the kingdom. From this we get the idea that the end of man, while unknown, is something towards which most rapid progress is made by the free expansion of individuality. It postulates the maximum amount of personal responsibility, and our British institutions were evolved in accordance with the belief that the individual can, in his own way, by voluntary association with his fellows, work out his own destiny. It is this type of organisation we have in mind when we speak of democratic government.

By experience in their long fight for individual freedom and independence, the Anglo-Saxons learned that when the government is close to the people the more effectively it can be controlled, thus ensuring the greatest possible decentralisation of power.

The opposite to this is the centralised or totalitarian form of government, the real meaning of which is that one man, or a small group of men, are in an exclusive position to impose their policy upon the entire community.

Since every organisation has a policy

Can Libs. Defeat Socialism

(Continued from page 5)

individual members of Parliament, on some particular topic, by their constituents The hope is that the member of Parliament will be sufficiently spineless to abandon his own reasoned convictions for fear of losing his seat in Parliament. . . .

"It is notorious that many electors believe that the function of their member of Parliament is to ascertain, if he can, what a majority of his electors desire, and then plump for it in Parliament. A more stupid and humiliating conception of the junction of a member of Parliament can hardly be imagined

"The true function of a member of Parliament is to serve his electors not only with his vote, but with his intelligence. If some problem arises in Parliament about which he has knowledge and to which he has devoted his best thought, how absurd it would be — indeed how dangerous it would, be — if he should allow his considered conclusion to be upset by a temporary clamour of thousands of people" This is exactly what Mr. Chifley and his colleagues said during the debates on bank nationalisation. They made it clear that they were not going to allow their conclusions to be upset by the "temporary clamour" of the electors.

(To Be Continued.)

and every policy springs from a philosophy, it is well for us to examine the philosophy behind the idea of centralised government. It can, I think, be readily seen that it is anti-Christian in that it denies the divine attributes of man and visualises individuals as raw material to be planned. It conceives of a fixed ideal of what the world should be as opposed to the Christian idea of organic growth. From experience in our own country, we find that the more centralised government becomes the greater is the tendency to look upon it as an end in itself, and to proceed more and more with the passing of restrictive legislation, all of which is designed to deprive the individual of the rights previously secured to him under British Common Law.

I hope that I have made it quite clear that, according to our Christian and British tradition, the true purpose of our political institutions is that they should safeguard the genuine rights of the individual—that they should help, not meddle.

Even with decentralised government, the political vote has definite limitations. Since the essence of civilised society is diversity, we see that it is impossible for all to agree by a majority decision on matters of personal requirements, and this brings us to the matter of the economic vote.

Now the true function of the economic system is that it should provide the community with goods and services as, where, and when required, and it is the duty of responsible government to insure that rules are laid down under which the economic system may fulfill its function with the least restriction. When we speak of the economic vote we mean that the availability of goods and services is conditioned only by the amount of money in the possession of the individual. Money has been in the past the most flexible voting system ever devised, enabling the voter to change his policy and hold an election every five minutes.

For instance, if I need a new hat, there is no need for me to consult anyone about the matter, nor should it be decided by the political vote the type of hat I should wear. All I need do, if I have sufficient money in my pocket, is to walk into a shop and ask for a number of hats to be shown to me. If not satisfied with any of them, I may walk out, thereby withholding my vote. I may then walk into any number of shops until I find a hat, which suits me. The money that I hand over the counter in exchange for my hat is my economic vote.

It is a very serious matter that since the centralisation of power in Canberra the political vote has been used to destroy the economic vote. The reduction of individual purchasing power by high taxation and the deliberate restriction of production in accordance with

"planned economy" ideas are being used to destroy the economic vote.

So-called "Social Security" schemes which are used as a pretext for imposing more taxation are another way in which the men controlling our centralised government usurp the right of the individual to use his money—in other words his economic vote—as he himself thinks fit.

In conclusion, I should like to quote a paragraph from an English paper, which I read last weekend:

"Almost the highest attribute of man is 'judgment,' the exercise of choice. Far more than learning, it moulds the character and shapes the abilities, and there is no more conclusive proof of the essentially satanic origin and nature of Socialism than its insidious and all-pervasive attack on the powers of judgment and choice. We believe that it is far more this frustration of judgment than the positive hardship of the present tyranny which is sapping the manhood of the nation. Judgment is a faculty requiring constant exercise: it is being killed by strangulation.

" 'Shopping,' for the love of which women used to be gently derided, was an outlet for this vital instinct. Observe the queues of weary women waiting for what the shopkeeper deigns to give them.

"They are starved of choice."

This Tax Business

Everyone should ponder the little tale told in a recent issue of our good contemporary *Time and Tide* of the business man and the surgeon who wanted to charge him £600 for a difficult and successful operation. "I will pay you," said the businessman, "but you realise that I must earn £13,000 to get it." The surgeon indicated that he was sorry, but this was no affair of his. "I suppose you pay surtax," said the businessman; "how much will you, in fact, get for yourself?" The surgeon took a pencil and worked it out, looking even longer in the face, as he found he would get £27. So they settled the matter as between friends, the businessman giving the surgeon a case of whisky.

It is a story with a profound moral, for everywhere in Europe this that I call "the flight from the fisc" is going on, the realisation that if human activities are translated into money terms they can be taxed and the money intercepted, but that Governments are powerless if friends serve one another friendly turns.

The well-off man of tomorrow will make a very small income, but he will have hosts of friends, one inviting him to stay in his hotel or eat in his restaurant, and another lending him a car, while he does something for them.

I remember hearing the ethics of this being discussed last year by lawyers at the Thomas More Society, and Lord Jowitt told of his experience as Attorney-General, arguing a tax case in the Lords, where one of the Law Lords asked him if he agreed that "a man is not bound so to arrange his affairs as to attract the minimum taxation to himself"; an accepted proposition.

—*The Tablet* (Eng.), Sept. 20, 1947.



THE FALLACY OF FALLOWING

By W. E. RIGBY,

(From ORGANIC FARMING DIGEST, Jan-Mar., 1948).

Reports in the Press and by statisticians advise that Australia is to have a record wheat harvest this year. If one is seeking to learn, it is quite easy to do so from failures, but it is by no means so easy to learn from success.

One lesson most farmers eventually learn, is that when they try to repeat or "double up" on a successful crop, the following season something intervenes to make a failure of this; either the crop fails, or is poor, or prices collapse.

For some years wheat production has been at a low ebb over Australia generally. Factors contributing to the present good harvest are: —Serious droughts followed by fairly good season, idle wheat lands—in some instances idle for many years—and discontinuance of fallowing over large areas during the war period.

Droughts develop a latent growing quality, or "life," in the soil. The same applies to idle land, where man has temporarily ceased to exploit the soil, and Nature starts her own rebuilding or, shall we say, "renewing the soil." Fallowing generally leads in the end to complete destruction of soil, the better the fallow is maintained the more complete and quicker will be the destruction. The only thing resembling fallow land in Nature is a desert.

A good farmer observes the laws of Nature; always submits to these, and in the end succeeds in his co-operation with Nature, growing what he will and upholding the laws for his own benefit. As soon as he transgresses, Nature assumes her authority and goes to work on the farm in her own way.

The apparent advantages from fallowing wheat lands are: —Conservation of moisture within the soil, reduction of weed growth, and some restoration of soil fertility, chiefly through abstaining from soil exploitation. These advantages are offset entirely if fallowing is persisted in, first by the loss of humus and finally by erosion.

The loss of humus from fallowed land is insidious and often not noticeable. When soils are turned up, the surfaces of these newly turned soils contain inert minerals in varying degrees of fineness, ranging from stones and pebbles down to finest particles of clay; intermixed with vegetation in different stages of decomposition, from whole plants down to humus.

Stones and whole plants are fairly stable against wind and rain, but the finest particles and the most advanced humus are at the mercy of the elements. Humus when dried on the surface of

soil becomes "feather" light, and some is lifted with every breeze to join the atmosphere. After a strong wind, this life of the soil is removed to a depth of as much as half an inch. Repeated workings of the soil bring up a new supply of humus, which is at the mercy of winds, mixing the impoverished surface with the body of the soil.

Most farmers have seen the liquid vitality running off the land during heavy rain, and if they are "fallowing adherents" they proceed to break the surface before compacting takes place. If they have good memories they will probably remember that a nice fresh breeze is usually blowing, which came with the fine break after the rain, and so another valuable supply of soil life goes on its way somewhere else.

It is time to remember the ills of bad seasons when our good seasons arrive, for now we can set about building the soil for stability in all seasons. Over the whole world, Nature proceeds with her soil building simply and easily by using the vegetation, which is on the spot. Man can accelerate this work by producing crops directly for this purpose, and follow Nature's example by having the land always growing something. Let us remember that Nature never fallows. It is usually cheaper to break and sow land to this end than to maintain a clean fallow.

There are two general methods of inexpensive soil building which progressively build the whole soil, reducing the incidence of disease and the need for fertilisers as well as the hazard of poor or failing crops.

The first is by the use of mature vegetation, such as straw, old weed growth, or a cereal crop grown specially for the purpose (incidentally, our modern wheat harvesters leave all the straw for this purpose), working this hard vegetation into the surface of the soil, thereby improving its physical condition and making it ready to grow.

Secondly by growing and returning to the soil a green manure crop to increase fertility. Those areas incapable of grow-

ing a legume (if such exist) can use the green crop of the cereal

It must be remembered that the greater proportion of solid matter of all vegetation comes from the atmosphere; up to 95% of some legumes is gathered from this source.

Paradoxical as it may seem, it is cheaper and easier to build soil progressively while taking our harvest than to obtain harvests without regard to the soil's needs.

The farmer who looks only to yields from harvesting works harder, under unsatisfactory conditions, and finally ends in debt. In fact, he pays twice, while the farmer who builds as he goes finds his work easier and more satisfying, at the same time he receives ample financial payment, and in truth gets paid twice.

D.D.T. Found In Pasture Butter

Warnings on dangers in excessive use of D.D.T. were given in the United States and Sydney.

The U.S. Congress has found out that the wartime insect killer D.D.T. shows up in meat, milk, and butter of cows fed on crops dusted with D.D.T., cables The Sunday Sun's special representative in Washington.

Dr. P. N. Annand, chief of the Entomology Bureau, has reported that "astonishing amounts" had been found to have accumulated in the fat of animals feeding on crops dusted with D.D.T.

He warned that too much D.D.T. might poison the soil, and said it had permitted some pests to increase because it killed parasites that preyed on them.

N.S.W. Government Entomologist T. McCarthy said that a note of warning against the excessive use of D.D.T. was desirable.

"Growers are using D.D.T. extensively, both here and in U.S.A., but we have not recommended its use on plants or crops likely to be eaten by human beings or animals, simply because we require more knowledge of its accumulative action," added Mr. McCarthy.

"Care is taken to see that, where excessive doses have been used, the plants or crops affected do not reach the markets." —Sydney Sun.

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.

Thomas Lamont

Mr. Thomas Lamont, the financier, who died on February 2, left approximately £3,300,000 to educational and charitable institutions, including £1,700,000 to Harvard University. The residue of his estate, the total value of which is not disclosed, is left in trust for his widow. —Melbourne *Argus*, Feb. 12, 1948.

Died. Thomas William Lamont, 77, financier, philanthropist, chairman of the board of J. P. Morgan & Co.; after long illness; in Boca Grande, Fla. Brilliant, quiet-spoken Tom Lamont worked his way through Harvard, rose to a Morgan partnership at 41. Once a reporter (New York *Tribune*, 1893-94), he continued to be fascinated by printer's ink, lost heavily in four years as owner of the New York *Evening Post*, backed the *Saturday Review of Literature* for 14 years, wrote one book of his own (*My Boyhood in a Parsonage*). Following World War I he shuttled about the world trying to put the financial pieces together (Dawes and Young plans), knew and advised the worlds powerful (Clemenceau, Lloyd George). He made a pile of money (reportedly \$500,000 in 1931), gave piles of it away, epitomised the U.S. ideal of the public-spirited tycoon.

—*Time* (U.S.A.), Feb. 16.

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Page 8 — "New Times," February 27, 1948

CUTTING HIS WATER OFF!

When a Rosalie resident informed the City Council that a water pipe in his garden was leaking, he was told to get a plumber himself, as the council could not obtain one.

Within an hour, however, the council was able to find an employee with sufficient time to serve an official notice on the resident ordering him to have the leak fixed within a week on penalty, of having the water supply cut off. —Brisbane *Telegraph*, Jan. 30.

High Praise for Eric Butler

The following letter from the Mayor of Warrnambool, Mr. J. B. Dwyer, appeared in the *Warrnambool Standard* of February 14:

"I wish to express my appreciation of the splendid address given by Mr. E. D. Butler in Warrnambool on Thursday night. I have had the pleasure of hearing most of the leading orators of Australia during the past 25 years — excluding the late W. A. Holman — but I must admit that Mr. Butler was the equal of any of them.

"For over an hour and a half on a warm night he held the complete attention of his audience. My only regret is that there were not more young men present to hear and study the methods of such an accomplished orator."

All readers of *The New Times* are urged to assist in planning a series of meetings for Mr. Butler to address before the coming Referendum. The spoken word is most convincing. Every effort must be made to get Mr. Butler to address as many meetings as possible over the next few months.

Those who can arrange meetings are urged to contact Mr. Butler, c/- Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne, IMMEDIATELY.

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(NOTE: This advertisement was deleted from the issue of January 23rd.)

"SAVING DOLLARS"

One of the many curious features of these very curious times is the almost complete lack of discrimination exhibited by the general public in regard to the sayings of Cabinet Ministers and others. Sir Stafford Cripps, speaking on January 15, said the abolition of the basic petrol ration was saving enough dollars to buy all the raw cotton to clothe the population, or all the timber to house them.

Nobody seems to inquire why they are not clothed and housed, or why we have to buy cotton from America with dollars, or timber. No one seems to be struck by the fact that the present administration is claiming immensely greater exports than ever before, while insisting that we live on our exports, and insisting that we must live worse than ever in our history.

Is it contempt, which prompts these statements, or are our administrators just victims of *dementia praecox*?

—*The Social Creditor* (Eng.), Jan. 24, 1948.

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.

Nesta Webster's Books

We have just received a small quantity of three of Mrs. Nesta Webster's books from Great Britain:

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