

THE NEW TIMES

Registered at the G.P.O., Melbourne, for transmission by Post as a Newspaper.

VOLUME 14, No. 15

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1948

FOURPENCE WEEKLY

Enthusiastic Anti-Prices Meeting in Melbourne

There were comparatively few vacant seats in the Assembly Hall, Melbourne, on Monday, April 5, when the Victorian League of Rights launched its anti-Prices Referendum Campaign. A marked feature of the meeting was the large number of businessmen present and their enthusiastic response to Mr. Eric Butler's hard-hitting address. Thunderous applause continued for some time after Mr. Butler finished speaking.

In opening the meeting, the Chairman of the League of Rights, Mr. W. J. Carruthers, apologised for the absence of the Tasmanian Independent M.L.C., Mr. W. G. Wedd, who had intended to be present if possible.

Mr. Carruthers then briefly outlined the objectives of the League, stressing the fact that history had shown that all Governments strive to increase their powers, and that the League was primarily concerned with the creating of a climate of opinion which would ensure that the individual's constitutional safeguards were protected and strengthened. The League sought to rally electors to unite on fundamental principles, which had been lost sight of in the party battles for power.

Subsidising Inefficiency

Introducing the first speaker, Mr. A. G. Hebblewhite, Administrator of the People's Union of N.S.W., Mr. Carruthers said that the League of Rights and its affiliated bodies in N.S.W., was now firmly established on an interstate basis.

In the course of a short address, Mr. Hebblewhite gave some alarming information concerning the effect of price control in industry. This information was gained at first hand by the People's Union in their large number of Sydney factory meetings. Mr. Hebblewhite stressed the fact that price control was subsidising inefficiency and was actually preventing any reduction in prices.

In introducing the main speaker, Mr. Eric Butler, Mr. Carruthers dealt briefly with his record on behalf of genuine democracy and the British way of life. He particularly stressed the importance of the series of excellent booklets produced for the League of Rights by Mr. Butler.

Principles of War

The main theme of Mr. Butler's address was that the community was at war with a ruthless enemy, and that this war could only be won by the correct application of the principles of warfare. He said that the first essential was to identify clearly the enemy and obtain a thorough understanding of his methods. *Then, and then only, was it possible for Australian electors to fight intelligently and effectively.* The League of Rights was providing an intelligence service, which was ruthlessly exposing the real enemies of the Australian people and their methods of warfare.

Mr. Butler said that the coming Referendum could not be correctly understood unless electors realised that it was merely the continuation of a totalitarian policy which was being imposed upon the community in various ways. He took his listeners over past history and exposed the international groups working to use all possible methods to destroy Constitutional safeguards and build up the Monopoly State. The Prices Referendum was a major attack upon State and local governments.

Mr. Butler's exposure of the real Communist menace was obviously a revelation to most of those present.

It was interesting to note that, in spite of the fact that Mr. Butler's address was entitled "Why the Communists Are Backing the Prices Referendum," those Communists present asked no questions.

Programme Outlined

After Mr. Butler's address, the Secretary of the League of Rights, Mr. John Johnstone, made an appeal to all those present to get behind the League and play an active role in the war outlined

by Mr. Butler. The financial response at the conclusion of the meeting was excellent.

The League of Rights has a big programme outlined for the Referendum fight, and will finance and address any meetings, which can be arranged. Those who desire to assist should contact the Secretary, League of Rights, 5th Floor, McEwan House, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

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.

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

"COMRADES" (Under The Skin)

By ERIC GROGAN

In the House of Representatives today the Minister for Post-war Reconstruction (Mr. Dedman) said: —

"Communists needed starvation and chaos in which to pursue their evil aim of revolution. Prosperity, especially for the worker, did not suit them at all."—(Melb. "Sun", 11-3-48)

Readers of this journal will no doubt agree 100% with such a statement, and Mr. Dedman, by expressing such views, has left no doubt that he clearly understands the position. Recent events in Europe have shown the technique used in such circumstances resulting in the seizing of power by Communists.

The "Comrades" in this country are quite aware that they have little or no chance of being returned as the Government at a State or Federal election, and their "Leaders" have sufficient brain-power to realise that constant butting of one's head against a brick wall will not achieve their objective. Ways and means must be found to overcome such an obstacle, and they have not far to seek when searching for "workers"—"dupes" and "stooges," to do the job for them.

It is now almost three years since the military war terminated, and in Australia a "Labour" Government has occupied the Treasury benches with overwhelming voting strength at Canberra. What steps have Mr. Dedman and his colleagues taken to guard against "starvation" and "chaos"?—steps that would bring to the worker "prosperity." Or, on the other hand, have their actions tended to foster conditions, which the "Big Shot" Communist requires to further his "Cause"?

Firstly, an all-powerful Central Government (Canberra) is essential if power is to be seized by Communists in Australia. If power were distributed between six States and a Federal Government the job of seizing control would be-

Modern Illiteracy

"The education we have so far succeeded in giving to the bulk of our citizens has produced a generation of mental slatterns . . . a great part of the nation subsists in an ignorance more barbarous than that of the dark ages, owing to this slatternly habit of illiterate reading. Words are understood in a wholly mistaken sense, statements of fact and opinion are misread and distorted in repetition . . ."—Dorothy L. Sayers: Preface to *The Mind of the Maker*.

PERVERSION

"The people of God operate with atheists; the most skilful accumulators of property ally themselves with communists; the peculiar and chosen race touch the hand of all the scum and low castes of Europe. And all this because they wish to destroy that Christianity that owes them even its name, whose tyranny they can no longer endure."—*Life of Lord George Bentinck*, Benjamin Disraeli.

come more difficult. In this direction, Mr. Dedman and those who share his views (including Dr. Evatt) have been very busy with their efforts to centralise power and destroy State Governments.

The next shot in this campaign will be the Prices Referendum in May of this year. **An all-powerful Central Government is a major portion of the Communist Plan for Australia!**

Mr. Dedman said that "chaos" was essential to the Communist aim. Could any right-thinking person in this country honestly state that we are suffering chaotic conditions now, with worse to come? One is faced on all sides with the answer: "Sorry, we have no stocks of so-and-so, and are not expecting any for months," or "We will take your order—delivery in 12 to 18 months"!

There must be a reason for an Australia-wide shortage of Australian products. It is the duty of Governments (State or Federal) to discover the **cause and remove it or them.**

Any Australian Government, which fails to act accordingly can only be classified as a "stooge" for Communists. Continued conditions of shortages are rapidly leading us to a state of "chaos."

Industrial unrest is playing a major

role in achieving "chaos" and "starvation." Ninety percent of such unrest can be traced to a question of wages (purchasing power). The worker today is being led further away from the corner—the corner where "prosperity" is always just around.

Australian Governments, by accident, design, or ignorance, are responsible for such a set of circumstances, and are playing the Communist game to the fullest extent.

Many organisations are today advocating the banning of the Communist Party. Such action is in line with **Communist Policy**, as banning of "Parties" and political faiths will eventually lead to the **banning of all political groups and "Parties" whose policies are in opposition to the Government.** If a member of the Communist Party or any other person is suspected of carrying on activities which could be regarded as treasonable, then let him or her be charged, and, if found guilty, punished as provided by laws governing such cases. The Canadian Spy Trials, for example. You have the choice of the ideals of "British Justice" or the "Law of the Jungle" (Communist).

The obvious way of defeating those who desire Revolution is to destroy the conditions, which breed Revolutionaries.

Could it be said that Messrs. Chifley, Dedman, Menzies, Fadden, Hollway, &c., are destroying such conditions, or are they spreading fertiliser on the soil of discontent?

If Communists and their **Policies** are directed from sources outside this country, who directs the **Policies and actions** of "Socialists"?

It would require examination under a powerful microscope to determine the difference between the two.

S.C. Secretariat Examination

Diploma of Associate

The following overseas Candidates satisfied the Examiners at the 1947 Examination: -

AUSTRALIA

Bernard Henry Alford.
Charles Harold Allen.
Francis Richard Bell.
James Andrew Lannen.
Kenneth Bell Macdonald.
Arthur John Munyard.
Leonard Victor Turner.
John Gibson Weller.

NEW ZEALAND

Fredrick Allen.
Frank Stanley Ayres.
Edward Browne.
Gordon E. Turbitt Carder.
Harold Heaton.
Cuthbert Fraser Holt.
Thomas Ronald Huston.
Philip Anthony Hutt.
Donald Neil Irving.
Harry Jeffries.
Ernest Moss.

CANADA

Roy Harvey Ashby.
(Signed) B. M. PALMER,
Director of Lectures and Studies.

The paper for Australia and New Zealand was as follows: —

(Candidates must attempt to answer all the questions.)

(1) "The episodic conception of the

history of this past hundred years is quite untenable."—C. H. Douglas, from *The Brief for the Prosecution*, page 62.

(a) What is "the episodic conception"? Give an account of this idea in your own words.

(b) Discuss the current view that "Socialism and 'planning' is the legitimate inheritor of political and economic liberalism." (op. cit. p. 47.)

(2) What meaning do you attach to the statement that "we live in a scientific age"?

(3) What is *credit* as distinct from *money*?

(4) The Australian elections of the Autumn of 1946:

State clearly what you think might have been your answers to the questions below in October 1946, and, separately, your answers now: —

(a) What issues were raised?
(b) To what extent, in your opinion, were they settled?

(c) How do your answers to (a) and (b) affect your own attitude to participation in elections of the kind held?

(d) What is "an election"?

Putting The Promoters Of War Into The Ring

In "The Scotsman" of March 8 under the heading of "The Middle East: Russia, the U.S., and Palestine" a correspondent whose letters will be familiar to our readers, W. L. Richardson, remarks ". . . it is not too safe to assume that 'Soviet' policies are necessarily made at the Kremlin, or, for that matter, inside Soviet territory at all . . . The supreme lesson . . . to be learnt from these fateful years . . . is that on certain matters of the highest policy the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. have acted in the highest accord."

In pursuit of this thesis, the letter proceeds: "From the point of view of the ultimate goal, it does not seem that the successful outcome of war, in the military sense, matters very much."

This statement will clearly bear a great deal of elaboration. What is probably meant by it, and what is certainly true, is that the promoter of prize fights is careful to see that so long as there is a fight, and it is a big fight, his profits will be a handsome solace to him for any catastrophe which may overtake one or both of the contestants. In fact, if both contestants are nearly killed, the affair will be nearly perfect.

British Coalminers Disillusioned

After he had addressed a Sydney luncheon club on the subject of coal, Mr. John Webb, who until recently was on the staff of the University of Wales, was asked whether he considered nationalisation of coalmines was the solution of the coalminer problem.

He replied that, whilst it was too early as yet to pass judgment on the experiment in Britain, the results there had been rather unexpected. For *one thing, production costs per ton had increased very considerably.*

Government reports, said Mr. Webb, were to the effect that the nationalisation of the coalmining industry was a success, but he placed more value on the reaction of the miners themselves.

Their reaction was one of surprise and disillusionment. *Working conditions had not improved. On top of that the miners were now subjected to continual inspection by various government officials.*

The miners resented the constant "snooping," and were very annoyed at the waste of manpower since the mines were nationalised.

Whereas, before nationalisation, said Mr. Webb, there would be two or three official cars at the pithead, there were now 20 or 30. *This was just one instance of the waste of manpower.* It seemed to him that no system that necessitated bureaucracy could succeed.

Mr. Webb was recently appointed to the Sydney Technical College staff to arrange classes in coalmining management. He is also on the Standing Committee to report on N.S.W. coal resources.

—The New Era, March 25.

But if we analyse this situation, it would appear that *both* gladiators must really be serving the primary interest of the promoter. We know beyond peradventure that prizefighters have no quarrel with each other, neither do they like fighting. They are doing something, which is essentially irrational — insane. Without the promoter, and his interests, there would be no fight.

For the first time in history mankind has an opportunity to get the promoter into the ring. Signs are not wanting that the New York Jews are seriously alarmed at the turn events are taking in Palestine. If war starts there, they will, for the first time, be in it.

The British Honduras and Falkland Islands episodes are attempts to shift the locus, and have evidently failed.

If the British manage to draw out of Palestine (and we shall see every effort to upset the present decision to that effect), the Jews will have to find an

THIS IS HOW YOUR MONEY GOES DOWN THE DRAIN

The following is the text of an advertisement inserted in the Hobart "Voice" for March 27th, on the coming Prices Referendum: —

The State Social Services Department formerly administered unemployment and sickness benefits in conjunction with their other functions, and could still give the same very efficient service today with the addition of six or eight to the present staff of about 20, making a total of not more than 28 or 30 on the payroll in that department.

In 1944, when the Commonwealth Act was passed, the Canberra octopus insisted upon setting up its own department in all States to take over the administration of unemployment and sickness benefits. It has now established a network of offices throughout the States. **In Tasmania there is a staff of nearly 100 to do what six or eight additional State officers did in the past, and could easily do now.**

The staff administering old-age pensions, widows' pensions, and child endowment is separate and additional, and would probably amount to another 90 or 100 on the payroll—making about 200 all told.

This is only one of the things for which you have to pay so much out of your wages every week.

The cost in Tasmania alone for the Commonwealth to administer unemployment and sickness benefits **could not be**

less than 40,000 a year for salaries, plus thousands more for offices and other expenses. The State could have done the same job for you at a cost of about £4,000 a year. Just think of it—about £1,000 a week of your money ruthlessly squandered! In proportion to the population, the total waste in Australia would be about £10/12,000,000 a year, and that in only one department.

Under State administration before 1944, applicants frequently got relief within 24 hours. It seldom took more than seven days to deal with a case. Everything was dealt with and decided on the spot.

Nowadays applicants frequently have to wait at least three weeks, sometimes longer. Special cases have to be referred to Canberra for the final decision.

Do you want the same sort of thing to happen again as regards Price Control and other things when the giant Canberra octopus takes them over for all time?

Vote "NO" on 29th May and keep controls in Tasmania where you can watch them.

Zionist Intelligence Service

It has been arranged that the brother of Dr. Elliott Wershof, the President of the Zionist Organisation in Edmonton, Alberta, is to be employed in the Office of the Canadian High Commissioner in London (England).

This will enable intimate information on the political situation in Alberta to be available to those concerned to manipulate it, without delay. —The Social Creditor (Eng.), Mar. 27.

army, and call it the Jewish Army, because U.N. won't. That will be the most hopeful development of the past thousand years, and the first justifiable war of modern times will, we hope, be fought to a finish ("unconditional surrender"), since it is clear that nothing else will discourage the Promoters and their jackals.

May we repeat, we are under no delusion that wisdom was born with us. If the ostensible Leaders of this country cannot see that the only beneficiary of a national war is an international power it is not because much intelligence is required—it is because they are traitors. And, if they cannot see that an international power is potentially the weakest of all powers, they are incompetent traitors.

Wernher Sombart, an able Jew, wrote that "Wars are the Jews' harvests." Rotation of crops is a feature of sound husbandry.

—The Social Creditor (Eng.), Mar. 20.

THE NEW TIMES

Established 1935

Published every Friday by New Times Limited, McEwan House, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, C.I.

Postal Address: Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne. Telephone: MU2834.

Vol. 14

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1948

No. 15

PRICE CONTROL SUBSIDISES INEFFICIENCY

One of the aspects of Price Control, which is carefully avoided by its proponents, is the fact that Price Control in industry means Profit Control, and consequently results in the subsidising of inefficiency in industry.

If, for example, one firm can convince the Price Department that its article will cost, say £10, while a more efficient firm produces it for £8, the result is that, on a similar profit margin, the firm with higher costs makes a greater profit.

In the Daveney case, which was before the High Court last year, Commonwealth Price Control methods were clearly demonstrated.

It was shown in evidence before the Court that when, through efficient production and sales promotion, the net profits of Miss Daveney Pty. Ltd., chocolate manufacturers, rose, prices officers advised the principals of the firm that they must either adjust their prices, which were already within the ceilings approved by the Prices Branch, or reduce their output, so that the net profit margin would fall back to that of previous years.

The Commissioner's officers suggest that the appellant should voluntarily reduce its profit margin BY REDUCING ITS TURNOVER BY 20 PERCENT. Here was an attempt to use Price Control as a direct means of stifling production. As the firm in question would not agree to this, the Prices Commission was then forced to issue instructions to reduce maximum wholesale prices on various lines.

Price Control aids monopoly, creates Black Markets, deliberately restricts production, and subsidises inefficiency, thus keeping prices high.

Vole NO on May 29.

WORDS AND DEFINITION

But the Idols of the Market place are the most troublesome of all: idols which have crept into the understanding through the alliances of words and names. For men believe that their reason governs words; but it is also true that words react on the understanding; and this it is that has rendered philosophy and the sciences sophistical and inactive.

Now words, being commonly framed and applied according to the capacity of

the vulgar, follow those lines of division which are most obvious to the vulgar understanding. And whenever an understanding of greater acuteness or a more diligent observation would alter those lines to suit the true divisions of nature, words stand in the way and resist the change. Whence it comes to pass that the high and formal discussions of learned men end oftentimes in disputes about words and names; with which (according to the use and wisdom of the mathematicians) it would be more prudent to begin, and so by means of definitions reduce them to order. **Francis Bacon.**

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The Concealment Of Facts

". . . The notion that two such highly placed persons as a King and an Archbishop should have been members of a heretical movement, and one with such pagan affiliations, will certainly come as a jolt to many readers. Some of them will probably dislike the idea for the general reason that its concealment until now implies a very successful conspiracy in the past to hide the facts. If this thesis is true, they will feel, then both we and the historians have been very effectually hoaxed - and English people in particular are perhaps inclined to resent the supposition that they could be the victims of a highly skilled plan to put them off the scent. There have been, in my opinion, several such successful conspiracies in history and literature. We should not rule them out of court because to admit them as successful means to acknowledge that we have been misled by a sustained and astute co-operative effort in planned intelligence. I am labouring this point that we moderns and especially modern Englishmen should not impatiently brush aside a somewhat esoteric account of historic incidents out of the pride which will not admit that men in the past have made us believe for a long time what they wanted us to believe. . . ."—Canon V. A. Demant. (Preface to Mr. H. Ross Williamson's *The Arrow and the Sword.*)

Price Control And The Tobacco Industry

I say to the committee and to the country, here is an actual example of the operation of price control applied to an industry and having the effect of destroying it.

Price control has damned this industry. During the last seven years the Government has exercised all the powers with respect to the tobacco industry that it now seeks to apply to every industry in this country if the prices referendum be carried.

In respect of the tobacco industry, it has exercised uninhibited powers, and it has destroyed the industry, and has thus helped to put this country "in the cart" with respect to our dollar problem, but not satisfied with its ineptitude in applying price control to one industry, it now seeks to apply price control to all industries.

An examination of the control exercised by this Government over the tobacco industry reveals a sorry state of affairs.

I challenge honorable members to mention any other industry that has thus been brought to its knees during the term of office of this Government when it has been armed with every control and authority it could imaginably possess. —Mr. McEwen, House of Representatives, Feb. 19.

Responsibility for political comment in this issue is taken by John Weller, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

Lang on World Government

While not necessarily agreeing with everything Mr. J. T. Lang has to say, we are publishing some extensive extracts from his speech in the House of Representatives on March 3, 1948, to which he brought a refreshing note of realism. The debate was on the International Conference on Trade and Employment.

This International Trade Organisation is national suicide. Under it we are no longer a self-governing nation. We forfeit our sovereign powers, we surrender our economic independence, we abandon our fiscal autonomy, and we no longer have the right to decide the degrees between free trade and protection.

Summing it up, we become a minor satellite in a system dominated by the major powers of this world.

This Parliament will no longer have the right to determine a tariff policy. It will no longer have the right to negotiate on tariff matters as a free agent. It will become subservient entirely to an outside body.

This International Trade Organisation is part of a major plan. Another integral part of the plan is the International Monetary Fund, and another is the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Then there are all the subsidiaries that are supposed to fit into the master jigsaw that is known as the United Nations.

The New Supermen

The master plan is the concoction of the new rulers of mankind—the professors, the bookworm economists, and the upper-crust bureaucracy. It is a bastion of the idea of a super-state to be created in this world to be conducted by supermen.

These supermen gather in Geneva, Brussels, Washington, or Havana, and they plan the destiny of the world. On paper, all is perfection. There is not a single flaw in the design.

Theoretically, the world can be controlled according to the plan by a super-bureaucracy manned by supermen. These supermen are above the State. They are servants of the new internationale. That Internationale offers one inducement that the other internationales overlooked in previous undertakings. **It provides jobs for which salaries are paid in dollar currency free of tax.**

This International Trade Organisation is typical of the new internationalism. It will create a new army of international bureaucrats. It will have its own director-general. He will have his deputy director-generals. It will have an annual conference.

Supra-National Power

In addition, it will have a permanent executive board.

It will have the right to establish all kinds of commissions. Also, it will have a tariff committee and a general administrative staff.

This is what article 85 of the agreement states—

The responsibilities of the Director-General and of the Staff shall be exclusively international in character. In the

discharge of their duties they will not seek or receive instructions from any government, or from any authority external to the Organisation.

Therefore, if Dr. Coombs takes a position with this organisation, **he will no longer be an Australian.** He will be an internationalist of the new order. He will no longer be subject to the direction of the Australian Government. That is the theory of the new economic order; but how does it work out in practice? Already the world has returned to the dark ages of power politics, and is in the midst of a new war, namely, the struggle to survive yet another economic cataclysm. The world is still divided between the "haves" and the "have nots."

The International Trade Organisation proposed to be established **will merely perpetuate the present system;** it will not replace it with another system designed to eliminate the conflict between the "haves" and the "have nots."

Major Powers

Already it has been demonstrated that the major powers think only in terms of economic, military, and political strengths.

If a major power like Russia disagrees with any part of the new order it simply "walks out"; and, unless the other major powers play the game to suit the minority, the minority will not play at all. That is what has already happened to the United Nations, and its assembly, and it will happen to the International Trade Organisation.

Soviet Russia has no intention of becoming a member.

How is it possible to organise international trade without Russia? That country dominates more than half of Europe, and a large segment of Asia. How can the elaborate machine proposed to be created function when the countries which comprise almost one-third of the world's population do not belong to it?

Example of France

Is there any guarantee that the other major powers will observe the rules if they disagree with the decisions reached by the organisation proposed to be created? That organisation is to be complementary to the International Monetary Fund.

What happened when France decided to devalue the franc? **Under the terms of the Bretton Woods Agreement, France should have approached the International Monetary Fund with its proposal; but what did it do?** It simply made its own decision, without consulting the international body.

In a time of crisis, France took the only possible course open to it to safeguard itself. It could not afford to wait for the internationalists, but took prompt

action and then informed the International Monetary Fund of what it had done. Of course, the International Monetary Fund could not do anything about it then. . . .

. . . Whilst the United Nations cannot discipline any major power or force it to accept its decisions, **it can be used to coerce the smaller nations.** The smaller nations are regarded as the "have nots." **No suggestion is made that they should become equal partners in the venture,** and that is why so much "monkey business" has gone on in regard to voting powers every time an attempt has been made to draft a charter.

Voting Set-up

That is why one group supports the application of "Formula A" whilst another supports the application of "Formula B."

If "Formula A" were applied Australia would receive a voting power of 1.4 percent—just a little higher than the percentage to be given to Albania and Austria, and a little less than that to be given to Italy.

If "Formula B" were applied, Australia would be allowed a voting power of 2.8 percent, which is less than that proposed to be allowed to Sweden, Denmark, India, or Switzerland.

Why should this country hand over its sovereign powers to a body of internationalists, when we know that the major powers will dictate to it the rules which it is to follow and the decisions which it is to reach?

Australia can only remain a self-governing country while it retains the right to determine its own economic policy.

If we accept the charter of the proposed International Trade Organisation,

(Continued on page 6)

Paton Furniture Pty. Ltd.

*Makers and Retailers
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Specialising in the manufacture of only superior articles, we offer direct to the public bedroom and dining-room suites, also a wide range of occasional pieces at reasonable prices.

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Rly. Station). WF7191

LANG ON WORLD GOVERNMENT

(Continued from page 5)

we hand over both those powers to an outside body.

Under the Commonwealth Constitution, the Parliament has been charged with the responsibility of determining duties of Customs and excise. It cannot delegate those responsibilities to any international body, any more than it can delegate its powers to the State Parliaments of Australia. Australia's tariff is a bastion of national defence.

Tariff Principle

At the beginning of the century the existence of the tariff and the White Australia policy saved us from becoming a coolie country and enabled us to build up secondary industries, which, in turn, became the nucleus of our national defence. . . .

. . . If we surrender any part of our control over tariffs, we lose the means of national defence.

In considering the International Trade Organisation, we must not accept what the Minister for Postwar Reconstruction (Mr. Dedman) has done at either of the conferences, whether at Geneva or in Havana, the playground of American millionaires, as representing the full extent of our commitments; it represents only the beginning.

When the confidence man begins to entice the "suckers" he does not disclose his full hand or reveal the whole of his purpose. **That is why it is necessary to pierce the camouflage of these 120,000 words and discover the real meaning in terms of the cost to this country.** The final objective of this agreement is international "free" trade. Despite all the wordy reservations, that is the avowed purpose.

The presumption is that a tariff is a barrier to world trade, as set out in Article 1 of the charter. Therefore, our preferences and internal price subsidies become forms of trade discrimination, and must also be eliminated. I submit that the question of preference should not be viewed solely from the point of view of Empire preference. There were substantial reasons why such preference should have operated in the past.

When Germany was flooding the world's markets prior to its wars of aggression, would it have been sound economic policy to admit German goods into this country under the same conditions as British goods were admitted?

Would it have been sound policy for Australia to help Germany to prepare for its wars by building up German heavy industries, chemical industries, and perhaps aircraft industries?

Is there any reason why similar conditions should not prevail in the future? May not this country in the future de-

sire to enter into trade agreements with some other country in the Pacific as part and parcel of a major defence scheme?

Under this agreement, that would not be possible; **we should be committed to extending to our political and national enemies the most-favoured-nation treatment, irrespective of all considerations of political realism,**

Control of Internal Economy

Article 17 commits us to the ultimate destruction of the Australian tariff wall. If we refuse, we shall be opposed by a combination of other nations, which will have the backing of the International Trade Organisation in the adoption of what will amount to economic sanctions. **It would suit the major powers to reduce Australia to the status of a non-manufacturing country.**

Eric Butler Speaks At Melbourne University

Arising out of his Assembly Hall Address on Monday, April 5, Mr. Butler received an invitation to give a lunch-hour address to Melbourne University students on Thursday, April 8. The title of his address was "Threats to Our Liberties." Mr. Butler is to be invited to speak again next year.

Article 18 directly interferes with the taxing authority of this Parliament.

This Parliament could not levy taxes on imported motorcars, films, or other commodities unless similar taxes were levied on the Australian product. Conversely, it would appear that no bounty could be paid to an Australian product that would give that product any advantage, in its own natural market, over the imported article.

How is it possible to eliminate discrimination unless there is in existence some super body that can legislate for uniform wages, hours, living conditions, and costs throughout the world? Where is that authority?

Who is going to force the Americans to accept Australian pounds instead of American dollars? Otherwise, the elimination of discrimination becomes in itself a form of discrimination against ourselves. Does this Government believe that it will ever be able to go without some form of quantitative restrictions unless some form of international exchange is devised? If such a system were devised it could have no relation to gold, to dollars, to pounds, or to any other national currency. It would have to be worldwide.

Proposed Safeguards

Even the safeguards proposed in Article 21 will not help to maintain a stable international system. Those safeguards must, in their turn, be subject to the determination of the controlling body, and that is the negation of national autonomy.

The International Trade Organisation would not be prepared to allow a member to make its own decisions as to the extent such restrictions might be necessary to safeguard its balance of payments. If it did there would be chaos.

In any case, there is provision for a complete review of the position at the end of two years, so that two years is the full extent of any latitude that may be expected.

There is also to be a general rule that there must be no discrimination between nations. Therefore, if Australia decides to restrict the importation of American motorcars, it must also restrict the importation of British motorcars.

That rule has, under the Anglo-American loan agreement, already seriously affected Australia's exports to Great Britain. It has even affected Australian books. There is provision in Article 23 for making the decision of the organisation paramount after a certain date in cases where exemptions may have been granted.

Thus, while the document makes provision for a length of rope, it would not be very long before Australia would find itself, in effect, dangling at the end of the rope.

Subsidies

The provision regarding subsidies cuts right across the interests of Australian primary producers. How could the sugar industry survive during a world glut without a fixed home-consumption price? How could it stand competition on the Australian market from sugar grown by coloured labour?

Why, the existing sugar interests could grow sugar in the South Pacific with coloured labour, and thus eliminate the use of Australian labour altogether, with the result that vast areas of Queensland would be depopulated, and a vital factor in Australia's defence would be destroyed. It would be most difficult for Australia to substantiate its case for home-consumption prices before an international body consisting mostly of hostile interests. If there should be a world glut, what will be our position in regard to butter, wheat, sugar, and other commodities, which are at present

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IS DIGGING NECESSARY?

Mr. F. C. King, who is head gardener at Levens Hall, in South Westmorland (England), bases his conclusions on a close study of the processes of nature and on 25 years experience as a practical and successful gardener; he is gifted with exceptional powers of observation and uncompromising honesty and a capacity, rare among the members of his craft, of expressing his conclusions in vigorous and compelling style.

The following is taken from his booklet, "Is Digging Necessary?":

In submitting this question, "Is Digging Necessary?" I have a specific purpose, which I hope will be dispassionately examined by professional horticulturalists and enthusiastic amateurs who are interested in the subject of the soil. To suggest that it is possible to crop a garden without the aid of the spade is to evoke criticism from all quarters; I cheerfully accept the risk of being accused of taking a retrograde step in introducing the subject, and in relating my experiences I hope to justify my claims regarding its value.

In putting the case for resting the spade before readers I hope that my practical experiences of the working of this system will be of some assistance to many who are tempted to try it out. There is little of literature available on this subject, and the only book that I have read which attempts its teaching is "Plowman's Folly," written by Edward Faulkner, and this is chiefly of value to American husbandmen, for whom it was written.

My own interest in this subject was aroused many years ago in a quite accidental manner; walking through a wood which at the time was carpeted with wild garlic, I was surprised to find a clump of this wilding with its foliage infested with aphid; I could never recall seeing green fly on the leaves of this plant with the exception of some which were yellowing prematurely as a result of drought. As those I was interested in were growing in a dell where the soil was very moist and rich, it struck me as very unusual for this infestation to occur; an examination of the soil suggested a possible reason, for this had recently been disturbed, and I wondered if I had stumbled upon a clue for the better cultivation of some garden crop.

In the spring of 1920 I decided to try planting about a couple of thousand autumn sown onion plants in relatively firm ground, without digging, and see if this would give me a satisfactory crop. I was not concerned as to immunity to aphid, as this crop is not subject to attacks of this pest; rather I wanted to see particularly whether sound bulbs of onions could be produced with less labour than had previously been expended on

this crop. I was agreeably surprised with the result of this experiment. In reality it was a dual experiment, for it was then that I first tried out a system of weed control and with such gratifying results that I still continue to practice this method when it is required to obtain long-keeping bulbs.

A few years later I decided that it was time I tried this technique out on other

TRANSMUTATION

"Every event in nature has its inception in the alteration of substance or change of action that preceded it. Spring is born of autumn; today's roses are nourished by the fragments of last year's leaves; the liquid burble of a wren outside your door is only the energy of yesterday's insects whose crushed and digested bodies are transmuted into song and joy, into flight and avian activity."

—Gilbert Klingel in *Inagua*.

subjects, particularly in relation to aphid control. I had found it of immense benefit to a clump of *Lilium Henryii*, for in undisturbed soil spikes, which reached a height of eight or nine feet, have been obtained annually for over 20 years.

Some few standard Victoria Plums grouped conveniently near together suggested suitable subjects for my experiments, for they were regularly infested with green fly, while bullfinches consistently destroyed the buds during February of each year. Two trees were chosen for experimentation; they stood opposite each other and about six yards apart. For some years after planting the soil beneath all the plum trees had been regularly dug in the autumn, and I decided that the soil beneath one should not in future be dug but that compost should be applied to the surface of the undug soil; the other, standing on the edge of a vegetable plot, was manured and dug in the best traditional manner.

When the experiment had been running for five years there were unmistakable signs that the tree growing in undug soil was making far better progress than was its opposite number; by this time there were no signs of damage to the buds by bullfinches and little evidence of the presence of green fly. At the end

of 10 years the difference was remarkable; the growth of one was vigorous while the other was stunted. Had both trees made equal growth, then the branches would have become interwoven, but despite the closeness of the branches relatively little aphid affected the one while the other was smothered with fly. Even when the branches almost touched there was still no appreciable migration from one to the other; for the last two years the treatment has been the same for all trees; no digging has been undertaken and hard woody compost only has been applied to the undug surface. Already the once stunted tree has vastly improved and the bullfinches have ceased to destroy its winter buds, although during this last year the number of these birds has greatly increased; these and many goldfinches now find sanctuary in the garden where once they were ruthlessly destroyed.

For the past six years pears and apples have been treated in a similar manner to the plums, with excellent results.

In the case of apples, the purpose was to see if a control could be found for "Woolly Aphis," which in the past had covered the branches and the stems with a mantle of cotton wool. Confirmation of the value of this treatment was soon in evidence for the branches and trunks of these most ancient trees were quickly cleansed of their disfigurement. No spraying of any kind had taken place during the course of the experiment, and in the case of the apple trees the surrounding soil was left undug and a coating of raw sawdust applied in the autumn of each year.

The only pear tree that could be experimented upon was a standard, which had some years previously reached the stage when further annual growth had ceased and all the tips of the shoots ended in a cluster of fruit spurs. By the end of five years, however, the new growth at the top of the tree had reached a height of six feet, was bearing fruit regularly, and was not troubled with aphid.

By the simple expedient of not disturbing the soil around the roots I had rid these trees of some of the worst pests that afflict fruit trees and at the same time considerably increased vigour and healthy growth generally.

While such good results were being obtained in these gardens, another interesting experiment was being carried out though not for the same purpose; nevertheless the result of this carefully conducted trial at one of our well-known research stations did not surprise me and, incidentally, vindicated my belief in the virtue of an undisturbed soil in the cul-

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LANG ON WORLD GOVERNMENT

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being directly subsidised, or in regard to which a home-consumption price has been fixed? Are we going to sacrifice those industries? What possible benefits can we obtain from such a policy? **In every instance, the final judgment in marginal cases will remain with an external body.** I shudder to think what is going to happen if ever the International Court has to decide the meaning of some of the clauses and the reservations. We shall not be able to help ourselves even though we had an army of lawyers abroad.

This Government has abdicated its responsibility. It is prepared to hand over control of vital elements in our economic defences to some body or bodies sitting at Geneva, in Havana, or perhaps in Paragonia. We are to have commodity control councils handling our wheat, our wool, our sugar, and our dried fruits. Voting power on those bodies will be in accordance with "Formula A" or "Formula B." Whichever it is, we shall have no further say in what is going to happen to our products once the commodity council gets its hands on them. We shall be completely at the mercy of the big trading powers.

The International Trade Organisation

RUSSIAN AND AMERICAN HIGH POLICY

Whether our rulers are really becoming more contemptuous of the ruled, or whether events are taking the finish off their style, we do not know. But the character of President Truman's speech to the Congress and Senate, at almost the same hour that the Masonic United States of Europe was tied up and handed over the counter with rather less ceremony than accompanies the fixing of a County Rate, suggests that "either in war, or under threat of war," a fresh batch of insults is to be added to our present injuries.

It must be painfully obvious that Mark Twain's story of the country doctor whose practice was to give all his patients a dose, which would produce blind staggers, because he knew a remedy for blind staggers although it left a broken leg, is a faithful presentation of our State Political Hospital, and you can't go to an alternative practitioner.

Perhaps the only grain of consolation to be derived from the situation is that, for the moment, we are fairly certain that "threat of war" is more in the minds of the political quacks than its reality. But there is little doubt that, to use the American expression, we are living on borrowed time, and that a situation is being constructed which will leave us mentally, morally, and physically bankrupt.

It would be no compliment to our readers to elaborate the fact that the fundamental nature of "Russian" and "American" High Policy, monotheistic centralisation, is identical, and that if they are not dictated from the same source, it is only because they do not need to be. But it may not be super-

Printed by Academy Printing and Publishing Co., 95 Brunswick St., Fitzroy for New Times Ltd., McEwan House, Melbourne, on whose authority these articles appear.

is the baby of the bureaucrats. It has never had the endorsement of the Labour movement. It is alien to Labour thinking. It is totally opposed to Labour doctrine. The Labour movement in Australia has always believed that Australian standards can be improved only under a policy of protection.

That policy must be initiated and implemented by an Australian government. The agreement represents a repudiation of that basic Labour doctrine. Labour has always been protectionist. The agreement will make the present Government a free-trade government.

Its logical outcome is the abandonment of the White Australia policy, and that, too, is anathema to all sound Labour men. [Extension of time granted.] I trust that members of the Government, when they endorse this strange, fantastic document, are fully aware of the pitfalls ahead.

I trust that they realise they are embarking upon a programme of national self-destruction. I trust that before they allow the Minister to go a step farther they will consider the entire question in an Australian perspective.

There is still time to abandon this sorry project. As Australians, that is the only course we can and must take.

fluous to point out that there is one alternative, and one practical alternative only, while Time remains, and that is the British Empire, of which the fundamental link is *cultural*. And if that is realised, it will also be realised that the Empire of the Spirit and the Dominion of the Atom Bomb cannot co-exist.

—*The Social Crediter* (Eng.), Mar. 27.

GANDHI AND SMUTS IN STH. AFRICA

Practically every visitor to these shores who does not come with some special interest to exploit, is struck by the sullen apathy of the general population. Words, written or spoken, are just sales talk for another gold brick.

The News-Film for January, in recording the assassination of Gandhi, refers to him as "the loftiest soul in Asia, the greatest spiritual force of the last two thousand years." This is A.D. 1948.

Is it really necessary to look further for the explanation of the apathy of a population, which is fed on this kind of stuff? We are more than ever convinced that if Gandhi had not contacted Smuts in South Africa, and conveniently transferred his activities to an arena in which they served the ends of Wall Street, instead of hindering them, he would have remained amongst the millions of Hindus whose one consuming ambition is to argue before an audience, whether in Court or "Conference." Which aspect of Ghandi is of vital interest to the British?

IS DIGGING NECESSARY

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tivation of fruit trees; what did amaze me, however, was the fact that the experimenter completely failed to observe that it is not the richness of the soil that confers immunity to plants but rather the unity which prevails within the soil whenever this remains undisturbed.

For the benefit of those who did not read an account of this trial, briefly, the details are as follows: It was noticed that plants of wild strawberries growing in the hedgerow at this research station were never attacked by aphids, but when ever runners from the plants in the hedge established themselves in the cultivated soil they were promptly infested. I understand the object of the trial was for the express purpose of proving that artificial manures applied to cultivated soil in no way are responsible for the spread of pests as organic gardeners have repeatedly stated to be the case. The trial was conducted in a wood where wild strawberries had formed a colony. A plot of ground, well stocked with native plants, was marked off and divided into two equal parts; one half was left in a natural state, while the other had all the vegetation cleared off and was later dug and planted with runners taken off the near by plants. The soil in each case must be calculated as being physically and chemically similar. During the migratory period of the aphids, May and June, all the runners planted in the dug plot were smothered with green fly, but the plants growing in the undisturbed soil remained immune. In the opinion of the research worker this trial proved that artificial manures are not responsible for the spread of pests, as the soil in both test plots was identical; pests can appear without the use of artificials in the case of relatively virgin soil. The amazing thing to the research worker was the fact that runners from the parent plants growing in the undug soil remained immune, while those which established themselves in the soil which had been specially dug became infested.

(To be continued)

The interests in which General Smuts has laboured may be gathered from the comment of Mr. H. C. Armstrong in his informative *Grey Steel: J. C. Smuts, a Study in Arrogance* that he left his native country in 1916 "in a volley of curses" and arrived in the U.S.A. "in a whirlwind of applause."

We look forward confidently to a panegyric from the "B."B.C. when and if General Smuts should prove to be mortal, that he was the greatest statesman since Julius Caesar, a military genius by comparison with whom Napoleon was a fumbling amateur, and a tireless labourer in the interests of the British Empire, and its transfer to suitable ownership.

—*The Social Crediter* (Eng.), Mar. 20.