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SIXPENCE WEEKLY

Peace Time Controls Cause High Prices and Low Production

Radio Talk by ERIC D. BUTLER Over 3CS Colac.

In his book, "The Problems of Leninism" Stalin writes, descriptively of "the pressure of taxation" being used to destroy the Russian farmers. It is time all Australian electors realised the fact that the present taxation policy in Australia bears little or no relation to obtaining finance for the legitimate purposes of Government; it is designed to produce certain economic results. We can best examine these results by a brief survey of what is happening on the primary, production front.

The Statistician's figures reveal that in 1947 Australia had the lowest number of sheep since 1924. There were 15,000,000 fewer sheep in Australia in 1947 than in 1939.

The decline in the number of dairy cows is particularly alarming. There was a decline of 196,000 between 1939 and 1947.

Butter production has decreased by approximately 60,000 tons since 1939. There was a decrease of 7,000 tons between 1946 and 1947, and many dairy farmers are still drastically reducing their herds or going out of dairying all together, because of high taxation and other controls.

Milk production in 1947 was approximately 128,000,000 gallons less than in 1939.

The number of beef cattle declined from 9,300,000 in 1945 to 9,200,000 in 1946. By 1947 the number had decreased still further, to 8,835,000.

The number of pigs decreased from 1,700,000 in 1944 to 1,250,000 in 1947.

In 1947 there were 2,500,000 acres less under crops than there was in 1939.

Surely these figures reveal the seriousness of the position confronting us.

Taxation and Controls

If the present policy of high taxation and other controls is continued, it is certain that we can look forward to permanent shortages, rationing, black-markets, and tens of thousands of officials attempting to police the rationing.

As some people appear to think that conditions would automatically improve if a new set of politicians were elected to Canberra, it is essential that we point out that, in Canada, where there has been a Liberal Government in office for twelve years, the Canadian people are having imposed upon them the same policies being imposed in this country.

In a speech in the Canadian Parliament on February 6 of this year, Mr. Pat Ashby, M.P. showed by official figures that all primary production in Canada has seriously declined. Mr. Ashby, who is a practical farmer, estimates that there has been a total loss of 2 billion dollars worth of Canadian livestock over the past three years—that is, during the first years of so-called peace.

British agriculture has, under the Socialist regime, also declined. When we see the same conditions being produced in all British countries by all types of Governments, it is obvious that all Governments are being used to implement a common policy.

Origin of Policy

This policy can be traced back to such institutions as the London School of Economics, the products of which hold key positions in the large bureaucracies in every country where Government has been progressively centralised. All the economic "advisers" preach a policy of more and more control.

They believe in taxation as an instrument of control.

Needless to say, most of them are openly declared Socialists. At this stage it is essential that we realise that so far from Socialism being in any way different from Communism, it is merely a slightly different road to the same objective being pursued by the Communists.

The Canadian Socialist journal, *People's Weekly*, in November, 1946, published the following: "Joseph Stalin . . . in a two-hour conversation in the Kremlin, told Morgan Phillips there were two roads to Socialism—the Russian way and the British way."

John Hladun, former Communist Party member, who was sent to Moscow for special training, and who wrote a series of articles entitled, "They Taught Me

Treason," has written: "In a Socialist economy, one control tends to cause another, until, as a logical result, the State controls and finally owns everything. Out and out Socialism cannot help developing into Communism . . . Socialism is a dangerous experiment—a forerunner of Communism" (Vide Hladun's paper, *The Worker*, January 26, 1948).

Now, in view of this obvious fact that Socialism, like Communism, leads to the Monopoly State, it is dangerously misleading for Mr. Casey to come back from Great Britain and announce that the Communists were being successfully dealt with by the British Government,

(Continued on page 2)

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.

Peacetime Controls Cause Low Production, High Prices

(Continued from page 1)

when that Government contains men such as Sir Stafford Cripps, who, only a few years ago, was demanding a united front between the Socialists and the Communists.

Barrier To Monopoly

Cripps is also on record as saying that he hoped to see the end of the British Empire in his time. As we said in our talk last week, the British Empire is a major barrier to the creation of a complete World Monopoly, which is the reason why it is being attacked by powerful international groups from within and without.

One of the major techniques of destroying our British democratic way of life from within is the delegation of Parliamentary responsibility to a bureaucracy, which governs by decrees and regulations. It is essential that we clearly understand this important aspect of the campaign of destruction being waged against us.

When we are told during the next few weeks up until the Referendum, that we are merely being asked to grant powers to our own elected representatives at Canberra, we should remember that it is not true that our elected representatives will be handling the increased powers. *Canberra already has too much power, so much so that government could not be carried on unless bureaucrats are given great powers.* If Members of Parliament cannot be personally responsible for all government from Canberra at present, it is surely obvious that it is folly to grant still further powers to Canberra—*powers which will have to be also delegated to the bureaucracy.*

More Bureaucrats

Although we were told during the war years that the number of bureaucrats would be reduced after the war, the fact must be faced that the number is actually increasing at an average rate of approximately 1500 per month.

If electors vote Yes on May 29, they are simply voting for a continuation of government by bureaucracy. *They are voting for the destruction of responsible government.*

It must be admitted, of course, that the present Labor Government did not initiate the policy of destroying responsible government by bureaucratic despotism. Long before the Labor Party came to office, the non-Labor Parties were delegating parliamentary responsibility to an expanding bureaucracy.

At present Mr. Menzies speaks of the evils of government by regulation, but it is interesting to recall many of his statements, made when he was Prime Minister. The *Sydney Daily Telegraph* of November 11, 1940, reports Mr. Menzies as saying: "I once made a speech on the dangers of government by regulation, but I have come to know better." In 1938

Mr. Menzies said: "Constitutional amendments have been far too frequently regarded as party matters" (vide *Sydney Morning Herald*, November 23, 1938).

Well may it be asked: Is Mr. Menzies merely opposing greater power for Canberra because he is Leader of the Opposition? Would he be asking for the same powers if he were holding the reins of government? We can best examine this question by examining another statement made by Mr. Menzies when he was Prime Minister.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* of August 20, 1941, published the following: "The Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies, in a speech to 300 business men who entertained him at a dinner at the Australia Hotel last night, expressed his conviction that the war-time controls now being exercised by the Federal Government would continue to operate after the war. . . . In the last two years you have seen the introduction of profits control and prices regulation. You have seen new departments lay their hands on private enterprise, and policies pursued which are designed to affect the cost of living and interest rates. I hope that none of you will imagine that these just and equitable things that have been done during the war will cease when peace has been won. They will not."

Not Party Issue

Mr. Chifley and his associates are certainly ensuring that the "just and equitable" things mentioned by Mr. Menzies are carried on.

During the war years Mr. Menzies also agreed with Mr. Chifley that there would have to be permanent high taxation after the war.

Bearing in mind all these facts, it can be seen that the coming Referendum has got nothing to do with party politics. A Government led by Mr. Menzies would in all probability be imposing the same basic policies being imposed by Mr. Chifley. *All modern Central Governments, irrespective of their labels, are merely instruments through which the generals of the growing bureaucratic "army of occupation," the economic "advisers," impose their policies of destruction.*

The famous pro-Communist, Professor Harold Laski, of the London School of Economics, once said that the people never agree to abolish their constitutional safeguards unless there is a great economic or political upheaval.

In other words, the fabric of society must be first loosened in order that the people can be persuaded, under so-called emergency conditions, to hand over increased powers to their bureaucratic masters.

Our enemies create an intolerable situation, and then offer to save us if we will accept a situation that is barely tolerable. *The very essence of Socialism and Communism is the centralisation of power, irrespective of who does the centralising.*

Prices are soaring today, in spite of so-called Price Control, simply because those asking for permanent Price and Rent Control have deliberately pursued policies of high taxation and other controls which have created inflation.

If it is argued that those personally responsible for these policies have not imposed them deliberately, it is then obvious that they are so dangerously incompetent that the proposition that they be given increased powers be firmly rejected on May 29.

COMMUNISM AND FREEMASONRY

. . . Disraeli himself was under no illusion as to the organisational springs of the February revolutions of 1848, any more than he was as to the part played by the Jew-controlled Grand Orient Freemasonry seventy years before in starting the so-called French Revolution.

The fall of the reinstated monarchy in France on February 24 was the signal for risings all over Europe from Sicily to Denmark. Louis Philippe's abdication, which was followed by that of the Emperor of Austria, was precipitated out of the significantly trivial occurrence of the prohibition of a banquet of the National Guard.

A colonel was shot, and panic and chaos suddenly descended on Paris apparently from nowhere; just as a similar coup might have arisen, and no doubt was intended, if the French strikes last Autumn had attained the hold in the country for which the Jew-controlled Communist organizations all over the Continent were waiting.

"The French disturbance," writes Disraeli, "was not a great popular movement. It was a discontent which required nothing more for its solution than a

change of ministry; but the sovereign and his subjects were in a sudden confusion. *The secret societies are always vigilant and always prepared. They took society by surprise. . . .*

And then he adds: "The two characteristics of these confederations, which now cover Europe like a network, are war against property and hatred of the Semitic revelation. . . ." That is Disraeli's way of referring to Christianity.

"Alone the secret societies can disturb, but they cannot control Europe. Acting in unison with a great popular movement, they may destroy society, as they did at the end of the last century." For "popular movement" read Communism, or Nazism, or Socialism, which all, and equally, spell opportunity to the mind bent on Pure Destruction! . . .

—N. F. Webb, in *The Social Creditor*, (Eng.), Feb. 28, 1948.

COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN OUR UNIVERSITIES

We reprint below some revealing extracts from an article entitled "Revelations in Report" from the journal of the Melbourne Technical School, "Catalyst" of April 29, which provides clear evidence of Communist influence and activity in the Universities. For those unacquainted with student terms the S.R.C. is the Students' Representative Council of the School and NUAUS is the National Union of Australian University Students.

While S.R.C. were preparing to discuss their delegates' report on the NUAUS Congress at Somers, received in two parts, delegate George Myrants presented two further reports: "Additional Information" and a "Personal Report."

S.R.C. will consider the reports at a special meeting on Saturday morning, May 1. As the Council is a non-political body, the frank opinions in Mr. Myrants' personal report will undoubtedly arouse considerable discussion. . . .

Additional, information on NUAUS Second Annual Congress, January 18-28, 1948.

Facts excluded from reports, because the events, etc., mentioned hereunder occurred during time not taken up by official program:—

(1) Delegates from all Australian Universities attended. There were also several New Zealand representatives, and two from the United States.

(2) Recreation provided included: Tennis, table-tennis, swimming, library-reading-room, gramophone, dancing.

(3) *The Australian Communist Party is listed third from the top under "Donors to Congress Fund" (Congress Handbook).*

(4) *About 75 percent of books in the reading-room were on Russia or Communism. In addition, there were several newspapers printed in the Russian language.*

(5) *The Russian anthem was played over the reading-room amplifier on two occasions, while NCATCS was in session.*

Personal Report on NUAUS Second Annual Congress, January 18-28, 1948, in which I expound my personal views, and recommendations.

"I accuse NUAUS Council of being a political body. I further state that the Second Congress was merely a meeting place of Communists, under disguise. The Australian Communist Party, having been notified of this, was, in my opinion, approached to contribute to the Congress fund, not only financially but also (according to the handbook) "in a material way," by which I mean Communist literature.

"However, I do not claim that all students present were Communists; in fact, I do not think that politics were meant to come into the open. I am sure that the person who played the Russian Anthem must have been severely reprimanded, for the record was not heard again.

"Coming to the International Union of Students, Arcus was NUAUS delegate to Prague in 1946. He saw what went on and was so disgusted with procedure, etc., that he wrote a report in which he strongly recommended Australia to disaffiliate. Now, at this juncture, please note two strange facts:

(a) *Arcus' report was never published. It was reserved for the eyes of the*

NUAUS Council only, perhaps some of the University S.R.C.'s also.

(b) *The Council decided to disaffiliate by a majority of only one vote!*

"Late last year, Redrup went to Prague for Australia (disaffiliation comes into effect 12 months after decision is lodged). He found excuses for the Eastern bloc formed at the meeting and in his report urged Australia to reaffiliate (which I now hear they did)."

"At the Congress, university students were extremely interested in the formation of a Federation of Australian Students. Why? *I believe because as the Communists now have sufficient control of universities they now wish to influence other tertiary institutions as well, although there were two or three who really had the welfare of other students at heart. . . .*

"I wish to point out that I believe every person is entitled to his or her individual political views, but a student organization should exclude politics from its policy."

(Sgd.) G. MYRANTS (1948
S.R.C. Delegate to NUAUS
Congress).

Eric Butler Starts Victorian Meetings

On Monday, May 3, Mr. Eric Butler opened his Victorian country tour with an excellent meeting at Horsham. In spite of wet weather and the opening of Health Week at the local Town Hall, approximately 70 people were present to hear Mr. Butler on the Referendum. He received an excellent hearing. Those present took anti-Referendum literature away to distribute. Book sales were good. In our next issue we expect to have reports of Mr. Butler's meetings at Woonielang, Red Cliffs, Mildura, and Donald.

N.Z. AND ALBERTA

Since 1935 New Zealand has had a so-called Labour (*i.e.*, Financier-Socialist) Government. When this Government came into power, largely by the support of Social Crediters given on the basis of promises every one of which has been broken, the National Debt was £277,433,000. It is now £634,751,000, or practically that of Great Britain in 1914. The population of New Zealand, however, is 1,600,000, as compared with about 45,000,000 in Great Britain in 1914.

In the same period, under a Social Credit Administration, the Provincial Debt of Alberta has been reduced by \$40,000,000, and the orthodox financial credit of the Province raised from the lowest to the highest of any Province of the Dominion.

—*The Social Creditor* (Eng.), April 24.

Prices Officials Acted Like "Con. Men" in Mallee Roots Case

From "Victorian Countryman," April 30.

Methods of Canberra price control system with its army of bureaucrats came under fire in the Federal Parliament last week when Mr. Winton Turnbull, M.H.R., gave some particulars of recent court cases in the Mallee.

Prices investigators had been doing things in his electorate "which any decent Australian would disapprove, said Mr. Turnbull

Two Prices investigators had "grossly misrepresented" themselves in efforts to charge farmers with black marketing in mallee roots, he said. The investigators, William Timms and Louis Lipshutt, had acted like "confidence men."

"These investigators went to farmers who were not interested in mallee root trading and tried to make criminals out of them," said Mr. Turnbull.

"They had been travelling through his electorate trying to buy mallee roots. According to a newspaper report of court proceedings against Stanley Edwin Kay, of Kayville, Timms had said in evidence that he told Kay he was conducting a woodyard at Coburg, Melbourne, and urgently needed mallee roots. Kay had not sold any roots for five years, and was unwilling to sell any to Timms, who persuaded him to do so.

"When Kay found he had quoted a price above the fixed rate he did not send the roots."

Mr. Turnbull said that in this and other cases Timms was guilty of gross misrepresentation, and the Government should see that Prices inspectors did not tell lies in an attempt to persuade people to break the law.

In another case, he said, Timms and Lipshutt drank with a farmer in a hotel for 45 minutes, and then charged him with a prices offence.

Mr. Turnbull asked whether the inspectors were acting on their own initiative or whether the Government approved the methods to which they stooped.

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INDIVIDUAL OR CENTRALISED SOVEREIGNTY

At the risk of wearying our readers, we again emphasise that the coming Prices Referendum is merely one further step to the complete (National) Socialist State, and it is following the pattern of all moves to totalitarianism — greater and greater centralisation of power.

And while they are demanding further powers at Canberra, they are in the process of handing over the national powers with which they were entrusted at Federation to international "authorities" over which not even a child of average intelligence imagines we exercise the slightest genuine control.

Every move which is being made in the arena of international politics is detrimental to the maintenance of the British Commonwealth—a Commonwealth of Nations which is the finest example of international amity and unity this world has ever known, an evolving experiment, which has achieved incredible success.

Now the success of that experiment could very nearly be expressed as a ratio to the measure of local self-government, which was developed throughout the Empire. But in spite of this, which appears to us to be obvious and elementary, it is the last approach, which the "United" Nations Organisation and other international "authorities" appear to be considering.

Now, you can either consider that the corruption of our tradition is an accident, or you believe, as we do, that it is the result of a policy—a policy which can manifest itself in various forms and which has been successful in corrupting everything from our cultural pursuits to our national institutions.

We consider it our duty to ruthlessly expose this policy in order that the focus of sovereignty may once again be restored to the individual.

One immediate aspect of that policy is the coming Referendum, which is a part of the policy to strip the individual of his sovereignty and vest it in an institution, which is merely the headquarters of the group who exercise the supreme power in the Supreme State. Those who retain their love of traditional British liberty will vote "No" on May 29.

Where Is Our Shipping?

The Government has decided to spend £500,000 in converting the privately owned *Cameronia* into a migrant ship, and a further £1,000,000 on the burnt-out *Bermuda Monarch* for the same purpose. Would it be too much to ask what became of the ships previously used for passenger traffic? And what has become of all our warships, &c? Or are they, perhaps, too busy carting our food, &c., to countries other than Britain? —H.G.

SOCIAL CREDIT SECRETARIAT

(Lectures and Studies Section.)
ASSOCIATE EXAMINATION.

The next Examination for the Diploma of Associate will be held in March, 1949.

The books set for special study this year is: —*Social Credit* and *The Realistic Position of the Church of England*, by C. H. Douglas.

Students wishing to take the Examination can obtain fuller particulars from Miss G. Marsden (Representative in Australia), 6 Harden road, Artarmon, N.S.W.

Business As Lightning Conductor

Just as it has long been recognised that there are combative and competitive instincts in men, which it is a great achievement to deflect from war and destruction into competitive and acquisitive commercial activities even when they are of the cut-throat order, so it will be increasingly and painfully realised that there will be great loss, and not gain, if acquisitive and unscrupulous tycoons are successfully shut out of competitive commerce and are compelled to transfer their instincts and activities to political activity.

They are much less dangerous cheating the public over what they sell them than cheating them by becoming their political leaders with false promises.

Humanity has much more to fear from human wickedness in politics than from human wickedness in commerce.

This is one of the main reasons why a good society is one in which the powers of Governments are carefully circumscribed, jealously watched by public opinion and divided between many hands. —*The Tablet*, Feb. 7, 1948.

The New Diplomacy

"According to this file [U.S. State Department Secret File on Palestine] since September 15, 1938, each time a promise had been made to American Jewry regarding Palestine, the State Department promptly sent messages to the Arab rulers discounting it and reassuring them, in effect, that, regardless of what was promised publicly to the Jews, nothing would be done to change the situation in Palestine."—*Behind the Silken Curtain*, Hartley C. Crum.

Our English contemporary, *The Social Crediter*, comments: Notice the date—just after Mr. Chamberlain had apparently averted the war, and the "American" Jews were foaming with fury.

The Work State

"The formidable judgment industrialism has to face is that of reason, which demands that the increase and specification of labour be justified by benefits somewhere actually realised and integrated in individuals. Someone must live better for having produced or enjoyed these possessions. And he would not live better, even granting that the possessions were in themselves advantages, if these advantages were bought at too high a price and removed other greater opportunities or benefits. The belle must not sit so long prinking before the glass as to miss the party, and man must not work so hard and burden himself with so many cares as to have no breath or interest left for things free and intellectual."—*Reason in Society*, George Santayana.

MODERN SCIENCE

"Modern science has swung a good deal from the blind materialism of earlier days. Its greater—and therefore humbler—followers admit that there is much beyond their realm and ken."

—Dr. Fred Philby.

REFERENDUM TRAP FOR WAGE-EARNERS

By J. T. LANG in Sydney "Century" (April 16).

The Referendum to be decided by the people of Australia next month is not as simple as it appears on the surface. The Government is asking for an amendment of the Constitution. That involves a permanent alteration in our law-making machinery. Once passed, it can only be changed by another Referendum.

The real danger is that a constitutional amendment is not simply a question of applying the ordinary meaning to the words proposed to be inserted in the Constitution. The simplest clauses have caused the greatest legal arguments.

Once the constitutional lawyers and the Judges start trying to define the meaning they think should be given to the words, the final result is very often just the reverse that the ordinary citizen would give to the same words. It has already been shown how the defence powers have been stretched to cover price-fixing of birdseed. According to the lawyers, the war is not yet over. Everyone else is satisfied that the war finished when the armistice was signed in Tokyo Bay. But not the High Court.

High Court Decision

According to the High Court, the use of the defence powers extends over the post-war period as well as over the war. No ordinary citizen would reach such a conclusion from a literal reading of the particular clause in the Constitution.

Having seen how previous clauses have been interpreted by the lawyers, it is most essential to examine closely any proposal to extend the Constitution—especially when such proposals emanate from a Government that has shown itself to be hungry for extraordinary powers.

The Government first set out that it wanted to control two things only prices and rents. At the present time, both rents and prices can be controlled by the States. If the Commonwealth is given power over rents and prices, jurisdiction will pass from the States to the Commonwealth. That means passing over control permanently to Canberra, with its huge army of Prices Inspectors and its cumbersome bureaucratic machinery.

"Including Charges"

But when the Bill came before Parliament last November, it was found for the first time that the lawyers had been at work. They were not satisfied to stop at "rents and prices." They had added another point: "rent and prices, including charges."

Why this extension to "charges"? These words were not included at the instance of the politician. They were imported into the proposal by a very astute constitutional lawyer. They would provide unlimited scope for argument as to their meaning, and as to just how far the Commonwealth could go.

In explanation, the Minister for Labor and National Services, Mr. Holloway, sought to pin the term down to mean

charges for rents and prices, but in relation to which the terms rents and prices are not ordinarily used. He instanced charges for hairdressing, and charges for board and lodging. He said they would also cover charges for the use of money, or interest.

So even the Minister was nebulous in his definition. But if adopted into the

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Constitution, it would no longer be a question of what Mr. Holloway believed the term "charges" meant, but what the High Court considered it involved.

Interpretation

As in the past, the meaning given by one High Court would be altogether different to that given by a succeeding High Court. It would all depend upon who was on the High Court.

The extension would not give power solely to Labor, or so-called Labor Governments, but would also give the same power to a Liberal, a Country Party, or any other kind of Government. They would have the right to place their own interpretation on the term, subject to acceptance or rejection by the then High Court.

Beware This Trap

Already some of the leading constitutional lawyers have expressed the opinion that the term "including other charges" would be wide enough to cover charges made by an employee to an employer, or in other words "wages." If that interpretation is correct, it would be possible for an anti-Labor Government to fix wages by legislation.

That is the very danger that the Labor Movement has always feared. It was the reason why the Bruce-Page Government

was defeated with its arbitration proposals. If a Government proposed to fix prices how natural it would be for it to want to peg wages.

The Liberal Party lawyers believe that the term is wide enough to cover wages. What would happen, then, if those law-wanted to peg wages? Wouldn't they have every reason to try out the powers inserted by a Labor Government?

What applies under such circumstances would also apply in the case of a reactionary Labor Government. After all, it was the Curtin and Chifley Governments that enforced wage-fixing.

So wage earners are cautioned to beware of the Referendum trap. There is far more in it than meets the eye on casual reading. A Government like the present Chifley Government, that did not scruple to introduce industrial conscription, would not hesitate about using wage-pegging powers.

STING IN MARSHALL "AID" TO BRITAIN

"Washington, May 9

"Britain has promised to deposit in a special account the sterling equivalent of every dollar received under the Marshall Plan, in the form of a grant.

"This is recorded in a letter of intent delivered by Britain to the Economic Co-operation Administration.

"The deposits will be available for administrative expenses incurred by the U.S. in Britain under the Economic Co-operation Act, or for other purposes agreed between the two Governments . . ."—*The Age*, Melbourne, May 10.

We fully expected such a move in the war of economic aggression being waged against Great Britain.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NOTES

To All Readers Of "The New Times" In Adelaide

Members of The United Democrats are assisting the staff of The League of Rights in sending out Vote "No" Referendum leaflets through the post (app. 203,000). Manpower is desperately needed for this big job, so if you have any spare time between the hours of 8.30 a.m. and 9.30 p.m., please drop in and lend a hand.

United Democrat Leaflet

A leaflet directly sponsored by the United Democrats is in the course of preparation explaining the Social Credit alternative to governmental price control. Every member is asked to take a share in distributing this leaflet in places where it may be effective in swinging Referendum votes to the "No" side, and in educating electors on the true position regarding the financial swindle, as it works through a faulty prices-income structure.

The next regular meeting of the United Democrats will be postponed from May 26 to Wednesday, June 2, on account of the Referendum activities in which we will be engaged.

THE VERY NEW DEMOCRACY

By FOOTLE

My newspaper is an arid affair, but it has become a settled habit, and sometimes by its very aridity provides me with an unexpected oasis of surprise information. Thus I read today in 30-point caps: "Japan is citadel of Democracy;" as a prelude to profound utterances by General MacArthur, commencing: "Japan today is a land of relative calm and purposeful effort in turbulent and confused surroundings. That it is so reflects great credit on the stamina, resiliency, and determination of its people."

I think the general does the Japanese less than justice. It is only a matter of months since they were simply a horde of sub-human, banzai shouting, cannibalistic morons, and to have converted themselves into a "citadel of democracy"—whatever that is—is an achievement which should give the slow-moving Westerners pause, if not catalepsy.

When we think of the centuries of pain and misery endured by Europe in its search for democracy, the slow and bloody transfer of power from absolute monarchs to absolute rascals, this startling transformation mentioned by the general must command our respect—or something. Mind you, I wouldn't go so far as to request a royal commission to discover how it was done, at any rate not before General MacArthur had provided us with a definition of what he understands by "democracy."

There's nearly always a catch in this label business. My idea of democracy mightn't be yours, just as your idea of "Reds" mightn't be mine. And, of course, there are lots of people with no political ideas at all, save to avoid being fined for not voting for someone they'd scarcely heard of in support of a policy not understood and possibly not even mentioned. These form the great majority and are normally regarded as comprising our "Democracy." But they could hardly be described as inhabiting a "Citadel of Democracy," nor even a "City of Beautiful Nonsense" - being deficient in beauty - nor yet a Tower of Babel, since all speak the same language—the language of dehydrated slogans.

I find the idea of a citadel hard to get into the picture. It is suggestive of bastions and crenellations and all the paraphernalia of chivalry. It does not—at any rate to me—suggest a place where the price of eggs is fixed to the nearest thirty-second of a penny or where birdseed is analysed into five hundred-odd categories for retail purposes. Who would want a citadel to protect these things?

Perhaps—galling thought after nine hundred years of struggle—we haven't got democracy after all. There are many who think we haven't! Yet, how can you tell unless you know what democracy is? "But of course," you will say, "everybody knows that." It is "government of the people by some people for other people." Still, there are odd folk as, for instance, the late G. K. Chesterton, who might demur. His definition is: "A democracy means a state where the citizens first desire something and then get it," or, "Where this is deflected by the disadvantages of representation, it means that

the citizens desire a thing and tell the representatives to get it. The representatives, in order to get it at all, must have some control over detail; but the design must come from popular desire."

Naturally, if you had a state of affairs like that you would, if necessary for its defence, gird your domain about with citadels' like sausages around a Christmas turkey. But I doubt if that is the kind of democracy achieved by Japan.

There are other features in the general's report, which puzzle me. This remark, for instance. "Japan is now fully oriented in the fundamentals of democratic government."

Probably it is easy for Orientals to become oriented in an occidental sense, but I wish people wouldn't use such language. They remind me of a perverse poet I read about who "never used one syllable where two or three would do." I know that military parlance is apt to run to floweriness at times. Thus a soldier never sets a map; he orients it. That is quite clear, however, as the verb

"to orient" has in that case what I was taught to call "active voice." But in this Japanese business I don't know whether it has active or passive voice. To put the matter bluntly, did the Nips fall for democracy or were they pushed?

I feel just as sceptical about the calm and purposeful effort. I've seen prisoners at work with all the outward appearance of calm and purpose. And when it comes to Japs, their countenances appear to me to register about the same amount of emotion as you find in the faces of those wooden figures you throw balls at at carnival time. Wouldn't it be just too bad if all the time they were fully oriented in the fundamentals of skulduggery?

Incidentally, I am not at all clear who is providing the "turbulent and confused surroundings," because I don't know what sized canvas the general is using for his picture. Whether the turbulence and confusion are being provided by the older democracies or the younger "Reds," why is it that the same censorship of undesirable news does not obtain there as here?

At all events, that happy state of affairs, in the words of General MacArthur, "reflects great credit on the stamina, resiliency, and determination of its people." Much the same things have been said, of course, of the inhabitants of Britain as a substitute for nourishment. All of which seems to add up to the conclusion that if you can't fool all of the people all the time, you can fool them for as long as matters for the job in hand.

A Local Knight Again Misleads

(A letter to the Editor from Bruce H. Brown)

Sir, —From ten to fifteen years ago Sir Herbert Gepp was made a prominent figure in the public life of Australia. His utterances, which were more or less frequent, received extensive publicity, and he was frequently quoted as an authority on subjects connected with living and living conditions. Many of us thought he received that prominence because of his active connection with the Metal Monopoly, and said things favourable to the interests of that Monopoly. He was one of those who told us in December 1934, that "1934 was the best year since the depression, and that we had again reached a condition of prosperity."

In a contribution to a country newspaper on the 29th December, 1934, I called attention to this and pointed out that only an irresponsible person would suggest that the depression had passed, in the light of the fact that "poverty still stalked the land; hospitals are still overcrowded; maternal mortality is still alarmingly high; our natural increase of population is still alarmingly low; slums still blotted the landscape; serious traffic problems are still awaiting attention; pot holes still remain on most of our roads; the condition of our footpaths is still a disgrace to the municipalities; lack of bridges still impedes traffic to and from the city; country towns are still in darkness at night; good food and useful materials are still being destroyed while people starve; hundreds of thousands of our compatriots are still unemployed; the railway gauges are still broken; huge sums of money are still being spent on war measures even while

the spenders preach peace; suffering is still endured in country areas because of the absence of means to summon medical aid; sanctimonious preachers still prate of the need for a change of heart to people who have no change of clothing; clowns still talk and even write of everyone having a merry Christmas as if storekeepers handed over goods without money, or as if the stomach is filled and life sustained by sentiment; wheat growers are still in distress; and the men very learned in the science of economies' still keep the people hypnotised about money."

That was more than thirteen years ago, and on the very day on which I wrote it the Melbourne *Argus* declared editorially that "one of Australia's principal problems is that the world cannot eat all that its food purveyors—including Australia—would fain sell it."

(Continued on page 9)

BRITONS NEVER WILL BE SLAVES—UNLESS?

By M.L.

Mr. Churchill has said that he would not preside over the liquidation of the British Empire. It is hardly likely that Mr. Churchill would have made such a statement unless he foresaw the possibility that someone might be asked to do so. Yet the same Mr. Churchill gave the British people, as he promised, "blood, toil, tears, and sweat"

His son Randolph has said: "Britain was the junior partner . . . and we are being bailed out by the head of the family on extremely hard and disadvantageous terms."

The start in the process of liquidation, or "bailing out," was made during, and at the conclusion of, the 1914-18 phase of the war, which is called "Great." Then, as now, it was not important who won the war, but who won the peace. For that purpose, of course, it is necessary to refrain from indulging in war for as long as is decently possible. That being achieved, the peace is already won.

Almost before the end of hostilities the U.S.A. demanded payment of Britain's War-debt. That debt represented 50% of the gold then in existence.

"The first concern of Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Norman was to visit Washington for the purpose of establishing by agreement the terms which were to govern the service of the colossal debt. . . . The terms agreed were onerous in the extreme (e.g., eight times as heavy as those imposed on Italy), but in fairness to the Americans it must be stated that they were apparently surprised that they were accepted. The debts owing by other belligerent nations were settled on much easier terms. Mr. Balfour had previously stated officially that Great Britain would only ask from her allies such financial payments as would meet the demands of her own creditors, i.e., the United States. The result was to make the United States the only and very large beneficiary of the 1914-1918 phase of the war (see Hansard, Dec. 15, 1930), and to leave all the other 'victorious' combatants heavy losers."

The prosperity of the first two years after the war gave place to industrial chaos and economic upheaval, brought about by the deflationary policy ushered in by outside transatlantic interests. Taxation in Great Britain jumped from £3/11/4 in 1914 to £65/10/6 in 1945. In the same period the standard of living fell from the highest in the world to the lowest, except in Russia.

"Heavy taxation, calling in of bankers' overdrafts and restriction of trade credits by large industrialists to their small trade clients produced immediate results. Workers were discharged, unemployment rose steeply, reaching three millions in Great Britain and ten millions in the United States, where the same policy, with, however, much lower taxation, was instituted. In Great Britain, the policy was pursued for a much longer period. Suicides doubled in Scotland and rose 67% over the rest of the Kingdom during the deflationary

period of about nine years. Bankruptcies increased by 700%.

"In the United States, however, the policy was completely reversed in six months, and that country entered upon the greatest wave of industrial activity and material prosperity ever known in history, a wave which continued till October, 1929."¹

There has for years been a belittling of Great Britain by certain influential interests in the U.S.A.

It was plainly pointed out in the *San Francisco Chronicle* of April 29, 1946, that "The Three Great Powers" means nothing. There are only two: "ourselves and Russia." So Britain, from being once Great, has become not even third rate.

It is reported that General MacArthur's H.Q. permits some fantastic anti-British criticism, while any queries regarding Uncle Sam's mode of life are strictly taboo.

However, the U.S.A., according to Mr. Ben Cohen, adviser to Mr. Marshall, should permit Britain to share in any aid-for-Europe schemes. More recent press reports attribute to Mr. Walter Lippmann, "more experienced in international affairs than either Mr. Truman or Mr. Marshall," the statement that the "great liquidation" will require "sacrifice, discipline, and political audacity on a scale and in a degree which no free people in all history ever had to show."

In Egypt it is reported that bitter anti-British feeling is rife. "In Palestine," says Mr. Kahn, "the Jews do not believe that the British Empire should be preserved; they believe the British should be driven into the sea and the issue left to the Jews and the Arabs. The British want to keep the Holy Land for a possible base for attacking Russia! . . ."

"It was in the same year [1939] that Colonel (now Lord) Nathan said that if Zion falls, the British Empire falls with it. The change of Government in 1940 was, apparently, a Zionist triumph: The Jewish Chronicle's comment is significant: . . . 'all the new Labour Cabinet Ministers have time and again supported the Zionist point of view.'²

"In 1938 a flood of abuse was directed against Mr. Chamberlain for attempting to avoid war. When, in 1939, we did de-

(Continued on page 8)

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Britons Never Will Be Slaves- Unless?

(Continued from page 7)

clare war on Germany, we were promptly informed that all supplies were strictly business, and we stripped ourselves of £2,000,000,000 of overseas investments to buy inferior material, including practically useless aeroplanes."³

At the conclusion of the "hot" war, Lend-lease was abruptly terminated. A loan for Great Britain, to tide her over her difficulties, was graciously offered. It was doubtless assumed that as a matter of course no one would notice that the loan and the difficulties originated in the same place, or that the grave difficulties might give place to graver ones.

However, Lord Teviot, speaking on the Economic Position in the House of Lords, on February 6, 1946, says: "I believe the view is widely held in America that we did not pay up on the Baldwin debt agreement after the last war. We must do everything we can to see to it that the Americans know the exact truth of that matter. I propose to tell it here and now in very plain terms. *We did not pay up, for the simple reason that the Americans would not let us pay up.* The United States, as your Lordships are aware, was a highly protectionist country before 1914. The war was hardly over when Congress began to add more bricks to a tariff wall which was already extravagantly high!"

The remaining two Great Powers, though diametrically opposed, have much in common: eliminate the small unit—the individual, the autonomous group or nation—the "small" Empire. "*Both Lenin and Stalin have declared that 'the prolonged existence of the Soviet republic*

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side by side with the imperialist states is unthinkable, and in the end either one or the other will be victorious. . . . 'What is the result? What has been the big idea, these past many years, if it is not the dissolution of the British Empire. . . .'"

The Washington Post has published an article suggesting the States take over "Britain" as mandated territory, using American police to keep order: "dissident elements would not be tolerated."

"We are confident that one of the most effective steps to detonate with the minimum harm to the innocent, the explosion which threatens the world, would be to force a revelation of the negotiations by Rufus Isaacs (Lord Reading) prior to the entry of the United States into the First World War.

"The downfall of Great Britain was woven into those negotiations; the lamentable state of the Indian sub-continent is directly connected with the appointment of Isaacs as Viceroy, and the fundamental policy is, not merely to transfer the effective control of the British Empire to New York, but to make the British people fight the wars which will ensure their own destruction."

"Can it be that the fall of the British Empire is a bookkeeping transaction?"

LEAGUE OF RIGHTS COMMENTS ON LIBERAL PARTY BULLETIN

The following significant Branch Bulletin was issued by the Victorian Liberal Party on March 3, 1948:

"Other Movements and Organisations.

"Various movements have arisen from matters such as a Referendum, and also from proposals to nationalise the banks. These movements maintain that they are non-political, and have arisen for the express purpose of handling the problem of the moment, e.g., Bank Nationalisation.

"The view of the Liberal Party is that the only effective answer to the various actions of the Socialist Labor Government is the Liberal Party which is organised for that purpose. Amongst alleged freedom movements, the Liberal Party is the only effective freedom insurer. Therefore, members of the Party should not assist these movements in any manner, but confine their activities to one good cause.

"By lending their support and name to other movements, they establish such movements on an unduly firm foundation and are likely to perpetuate these mushroom concerns, thus diverting support and energy from our own Party."
—Signed. J. V. McConnell."

Asked to comment upon this Bulletin, Mr. John R. Johnstone, Secretary of the Victorian League of Rights, states: "For some time it has been obvious that the controllers of the Victorian Liberal Party regard with apprehension the growing strength of the Non-Party League of Rights. This Bulletin issued by the Liberal Party casts doubts on the integrity of the controllers of this Party.

. . . . For instance, there are two carefully propagated ideas in connection with the Loan The first of these is that the Loan is either inevitable or advantageous The second and skilfully suggested idea is that the United States is annoyed that we have 'gone red.' On this it may be helpful to state my opinion at once. Not only do I believe that every covert assistance has been given by the most powerful forces in America to ensure the return of a Socialist Government in this country, but I think I know exactly why that assistance has been given, and *subsequently to its success*, a loan has been forced on us. The primary preoccupation of the United States for years past has been Russia: as a result of the most careful investigation of such people as Joseph Davies and other less publicised insiders, their inner ring of officials is satisfied that *the Russian industrial system is the most inefficient the world has ever seen; and that a Socialist economy and the Bretton Woods Bank and Gold Standard-Dollar will make foreclosure on this loan a mathematical certainty in less than ten years.*"—C. H. Douglas, *Contemporary Gibbonish.*

1. C. H. Douglas, *Brief for the Prosecution.*
2. W. L. Richardson, from *The Social Creditor* (Eng.).
3. *The Social Creditor* (Eng.).
4. Norman Jaques, M.P., from *The Social Creditor* (Eng.).
5. *The Social Creditor* (Eng.).

The Victorian League of Rights has made it clear time and time again that it does not exist to stand candidates of any description for Parliament; its primary purpose is to ensure that there is such a well-informed climate of public opinion on certain fundamental issues — responsible government effective constitutional safeguards, genuine free enterprise, etc. — in order that the threat of the complete Monopoly State can be defeated.

"If Liberals are genuine in their protestations that they are an anti-monopolistic Party, they should have no fears about the growing activities of the League of Rights. Rather they should welcome them.

"It is arrogant nonsense for the Liberal Party to say that 'the Liberal Party is the only effective freedom insurer.' It is effective constitutions, which guarantee individual freedoms and rights, not Parties. All genuine supporters of genuine freedom and individual rights should therefore unite to protect and strengthen constitutional safeguards. So far from doing this, the Liberal Party of Australia under the leadership of Mr. R. G. Menzies has, on more than one occasion, supported policies designed to weaken the Federal Constitution.

"For example, what about the advocacy of a Yes vote on Social Services by Mr. Menzies at the last Referendum? The League of Rights, together with its interstate affiliations, is building up an organisation which is determined to ensure that irrespective of the label of the Government, it shall not impose Monopolistic policies upon the community."

A Local Knight Again Misleads

(Continued from page 6)

Can you believe that a responsible journalist would allow himself to write such rubbish in a world containing millions of unemployed and millions more barely subsisting? Yet that was the sort of thing to which in those days Sir Herbert lent his name.

Strangely enough, and also on the same date, the Melbourne Age said editorially, "That there should be appalling poverty in a time of unprecedented plenty, pierces the heart like a sword."

Shortly afterwards, Sir Herbert was one of a group of "experts" who contributed special articles for the *Financial and Trade Supplement* issued by the Melbourne Herald on the eve of the Science Congress, which opened in Melbourne on 16th January, 1935.

It is interesting to note the names of the more familiarly known "experts" who thus contributed to that further attempt to hypnotise the community into thinking about anything but the real cause of their troubles—F. W. Eggleston, A. C. Davidson, E. H. Wreford, H. W. Clapp, and F. H. Stewart.

Since then, the names have been changed to Sir Frederic Eggleston, Sir Alfred Davidson, Sir Ernest Wreford, Sir Harold Clapp, and Sir Frederick Stewart!

They appear to have been knighted because of the service they had given to the international controllers of financial policy in maintaining the entirely unwarranted atmosphere of mystery about money.

All of them openly sponsored the continuance of a system whose inevitable results are mainly poverty, misery, crime, disease, suicides, bankruptcy, death, war, and general human degradation.

Not one of them was qualified to speak for the middle and working classes, the real sufferers under the arrangements they then sponsored.

On the 27th January, 1935, the Right Honourable J. A. Lyons, who was then Prime Minister of Australia, had a special audience with His Holiness the Pope. Mr. Lyons spoke to His Holiness of arousing the world to a consciousness of the need for the proper distribution of production and for increased consumption. The blame for worldwide malnutrition was placed upon the tariffs on foodstuffs. That is to say, the people of Australia were underfed because the tariff was keeping the food out, while the people of other countries were underfed because the tariff was keeping the food in!

At that time I offered this comment: "Unless we are ready to face the facts, we are only humbugging ourselves and everybody else when we speak as Mr. Lyons is reported to have spoken in Rome. There are only two means of increasing consumption—more money or more war—and if we do not take control of money, then the financiers will see that we get war."

I have mentioned these things because Sir Herbert Gepp has again put in an appearance as a public adviser. On the

3rd May, 1948, he spoke to the Royal Empire Society in Melbourne, and the next morning was reported in the Melbourne Argus as having said that "only a miraculous change of heart throughout the world could prevent the ominous continuation of three 'cold wars' with Communist forces to control the Mediterranean, Atlantic, and Pacific coasts, and that such a miracle was almost beyond hope because deep and active religious beliefs were insufficiently widespread."

It is reasonable to suppose that when Sir Herbert referred last week to a change of heart he did not mean that to be taken in the literal sense, because a change of heart would make no difference whatever to the living conditions of the people, or to the fact that they would die if they could not get access to sufficient food.

What he meant to say was that there must be a miraculous change in personal attitudes, but as a personal attitude is governed by the extent of mental understanding, it is clear that a change of attitude could come about only by some irresponsible person misleading the mob or by an extension of understanding of

simple realities. It is the latter that needs attention, but as on earlier occasions, was not referred to by Sir Herbert.

It has been pointed out previously in the columns of *The New Times* that if we had a change in the mental attitude of the few people who control the international financial policy, living conditions could be made immeasurably better for the millions upon millions of other people without any change whatever in their hearts or their attitudes.

On the other hand, however, if the multitudes who have no say in the formulation of financial policy became saints over night, there would be no alteration whatever in the pitiful conditions which have been imposed upon the people of the world so long as the few who control financial policy remain as they are and are allowed to continue to exercise that control.

More than one hundred years ago Balzac, the French novelist, said that the "final battle for Christianity would be over the money problem. Till that is solved," he said, "there can be no universal application of Christianity." Will someone kindly bring this truth to the personal notice of Sir Herbert Gepp. Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H. BROWN.

189 Hotham Street,
East Melbourne, C.2.

Alien Passports Conspiracy In Great Britain Flourishing

Two passport officials and three other men were at Bow Street yesterday remanded until today accused of conspiring with others unknown to make false statements to obtain passports for aliens. They were:

Idel Weingarten, a Pole, whose address was given as Brixton Prison; Frank Richard Getgood, of Castle Hill Close, New Addington, Surrey, and William Robert Barrett, of Bravington Road, Maida Hill, both examiners in the Passport Office; James Prior, labourer, Balmain Street, Glasgow; and Albert Edward Brown, temporary postman, Crown Street, Glasgow.

Mr. H. A. K. Morgan, prosecuting, alleged that the result of the conspiracy was that numerous aliens were wandering about the Continent and elsewhere with British passports to which they were not entitled. The traffic in them was discovered as a result of inquiries by Scotland Yard. Weingarten was the central figure in the alleged conspiracy. He arrived by air from New York on December 4, 1947, and was detained for currency offences. He had a British pass-

port and a birth certificate in the name of George Stokes. The part played by Prior and Brown was to borrow birth certificates and identity cards at £1 each from friends and acquaintances in Glasgow. Both certificates and cards were later returned.

Mr. Morgan alleged that Weingarten obtained three passports, and two Poles went with him to visit relatives at a displaced persons' camp near Frankfurt. From there the Poles flew to Canada, and were later sent back. One of the men had said he paid Weingarten £120. With the assistance of Getgood and Barrett Weingarten obtained about 30 passports in all.

Mr. Morgan had stated that Getgood said he had no reason to be suspicious of Stokes's (Weingarten's) gifts, and was surprised and alarmed when he heard passports were received for aliens.

Mr. Morgan also stated that a Czech woman in London paid Weingarten £200 to obtain a British passport so that her fiancé in Czechoslovakia could come to England.

—*The Times*, March 6, 1948.

HOW TO VOTE NO

ON MAY 29

Place the number 1 in the square opposite the word NO on the ballot paper, and the number 2 in the square opposite the word YES.

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

"New Times," May 14, 1948 — Page 9

INTENSIVE GARDENING IN P.O.W. CAMP

The following interesting and informative article is taken from the pages of "The Malayan Agricultural Journal" for January 1947. We suggest that Professor Leeper and his associates who are so opposed to any criticism of artificial fertilisers might consider following the lead given by this official journal, published by the Department of Agriculture, Malaya. The article is written by F. C. Cooke, canning officer and formerly camp compost officer, P.O.W. camp Changi

As the rations of the prisoners of war slowly and steadily deteriorated, the need for growing additional vegetables to supplement the meagre rations became increasingly obvious, and it was not long before small garden plots were being cultivated by a few individual enthusiasts on behalf of the units to which they belonged.

Frequent changes of quarters, indifference and lack of support, successive alterations in camp boundaries, the arrival and departure of fresh drafts, the general feeling of unsettlement arising from unquenchable optimism, and, in general, a lack of knowledge of the requirements of tropical gardening and a lack of appreciation of the deficiencies of a diet based on polished rice were the principal factors which operated against the full success of these early efforts.

Need for Green Vegetables

A wide range of products was cultivated. Many, yielding inadequate crops, though providing pleasant adjuncts to an unattractive diet, were most generally grown, and the supreme importance of concentrating on the high vitamin-bearing green-leaf vegetables was appreciated only by the few. Instead, tasty calorie-yielding tubers such as artichokes and sweet potatoes, watery gourds such as cucumbers and pumpkins, attractive foods such as tomatoes and ladies' fingers, and the more difficult crops, maize and ground-nuts, herbs and spices, were mostly grown.

Only the more knowledgeable and long-sighted, in those early days, appreciated the urgent need for leaf vegetables such as spinach, *Basella rubra*, amaranth, *Amaranthus gangeticus*, and kangkong, *Ipomoea reptans*, and the leaves of tapioca and sweet potato and of the privet-like shrub "chekur manis," *Sauropus androgynus*. While these are of little use in supplying calories, they are rich in essential vitamins, particularly those belonging to the vitamin B complex.

The situation steadily deteriorated and culminated in serious outbreaks of

beri-beri and riboflavinosis, characterised by sore mouths, intestinal disturbances, and severe scrotal dermatitis. Finally, the Camp Administration decided to appoint a dietician to calculate

ARISTOCRACY

'Aristocracy' has been made into a bogey like 'Fascism.' It does not, and should never have connoted mere influence by wealth; it does not mean the 'dead-eyed alien lords', or the scions of well-paunched grocers who have succeeded by the genius of misplaced organisation in rotting the stomachs of the populace.

Aristocracy simply means the power of quality.

The parents who rear a family of healthy, happy and useful children are aristocrats; the craftsman who will not do shoddy work, and spreads his example to others; the shopkeeper who honourably serves his neighbourhood; the fine ploughman and miner are all aristocrats in their sphere, just as much as the duke who devotes his life to the service of those for whom he is responsible, and lives in a wider sense for his country.

—Viscount Lynton in *Alternative to Death*.

and adjust the rations so as to provide a properly balanced diet. This task was allotted to Major J. Burgess, F.M.S.V.F., a member of the Malayan Medical Service, and at the same time Captain A. de K. Frampton, S.S.V.F., of the Department of Agriculture, was placed in charge of camp gardens.

Preventing Disease

So long as supplies were available, the host of diseases covered by the term "avitaminosis" was thereafter kept under partial control by vegetables produced in the gardens, and the bulk purchase of groundnuts, tauge (sprouted beans), soya beans, and rice polishings from outside, but, by the end of 1943, these com-

modities were no longer available, and a further severe outbreak of deficiency diseases once more occurred.

The production of leaf vegetables was accordingly stepped up, and the Camp Administration issued a general order for every scrap of land within the encircling wire to be cultivated under unit arrangements. Subsequently the need for producing calorie-bearing foods became of almost equal importance, as food supplies from outside continued to diminish.

By September 1944, the original ration of 50 gm. leaf vegetables per man per day had been raised to 180 gm., and a peak of 300 gm. was finally reached in November. Thereafter, production remained at about this figure for the remaining period of imprisonment.

The new outbreak of disease, which started in May, 1944, continued until October, when, as a result of the extra intake of green vegetables, there was a sudden decrease in the number of fresh cases, and thereafter these deficiency diseases ceased to be of major importance as a cause of ill-health.

The Fly Menace

During 1944-45, the prisoners, in numbers varying between four and twelve thousand, were closely concentrated inside and around the walls of Changi gaol, and there was not very much land available for cultivation. The soil, too, was so very poor that the order to cultivate would have been quite ineffective without the application of some form of manure. The gardeners, in desperation, were quite prepared to dig in human excreta, poultry droppings, raw kitchen waste, and lalang *Imperata arundinacea* (a coarse tall grass), and, in fact, did so.

The Camp Hygiene Officer, Major C. Gunther, A.I.F., naturally objected, and a compromise was reached by the appointment of a Camp Compost Officer, whose first duty was the prevention of unhygienic practices, and whose second duty was to organise the production of compost at various centres under controlled conditions.

It is well known that flies are attracted by rotting material and lay their eggs the moment they alight. Furthermore, the subsoil provides a perfect medium for fly-breeding, so that when infected waste is buried, the eggs hatch out; there is ample food and it is cool, dark, and moist, and the resulting larvae can move freely up through the loose earth to the surface to pupate and take to flight.

The danger of allowing flies to breed in this way could not be too strongly emphasised in view of the congested con-

(Continued on page 12)

IS DIGGING NECESSARY?

By F. C. KING

We continue with extracts from Mr. King's informative booklet, "Is Digging Necessary?"

As already explained, inverting the soil, as we must do when digging, transplants living organisms to a lower level than the one they naturally occupy if the soil remains undug. Physical and biological changes take place, the import of which we cannot readily assess. As with many members of the medical profession who study disease rather than health, so biologists would appear to be concerned solely with questions other than the health of the living structures they study, seeking for some means of destroying all those forms of life for which they have not as yet discovered a use in the scheme of things: this is but another of those questions to which we must find the correct answer in our search for the wisdom or otherwise of repeated digging.

If we recognise life in the soil, we should endeavour to understand precisely what might be the true function this life is intended by nature to undertake and it is to be appreciated that only the healthy organism can perform the best work and health may well be a condition of environment as of diet.

I have passed over the question of weeds because the control of these under this system is automatic and effective: indeed the time may come when we have to consider digging or forking a piece of ground for the express purpose of securing a crop of weeds as grist to the compost mill. By the use of sawdust I have demonstrated on many occasions that we can afford to grow a heavy crop of weeds one year without any fear of a recurrence of this crop in succeeding years. Not only are weeds effectively controlled by the use of sawdust, but the land is appreciably enriched by this substance, although not until it returns to humus and from humus to dust; a healthy and abundant population of earthworms would make short work of a covering of sawdust.

In conclusion and by way of summing up of the several conditions to be observed if we would make a success of this system of resting the spade, I submit the following suggestions:—

Never attempt to put this practice into operation until there is available a sufficient supply of the right kind of compost at the right time of the year, although in certain circumstances raw sawdust which has previously been spread out thinly on the surface of the ground can take the place of compost. Following the lifting of a crop of potatoes affords an opportunity for introducing this system with the maximum chances of success. In these gardens main crop potatoes are planted during late March or very early April in order that lifting of the crop can commence early August; this defeats the blight, for the haum of the matured potato offers very little attraction for the propagation of this mould. After lifting the crop some preliminary leveling of the surface may be called for, and in certain instances, which the indi-

vidual can best determine, firming of the ground may also be necessary before applying the compost or sawdust.

Actually saw dust should always be preceded by compost for a year or two in order that the population of the particular species of bacteria responsible for the decomposition of cellulose matter may be increased. Although at first crops growing under a covering of sawdust may appear to suffer from lack of nitrogen, this apparent lack soon disappears; indeed, I have, with much success, grown lettuces and carrots on beds covered to a depth of six inches with sawdust. In my experience, however, it has always been impossible to obtain either respectable lettuces or carrots if even a small quantity of raw sawdust is mixed with the surface soil, but when seeds of either have been sown on top of the sawdust, excellent results have followed; no annual weeds will grow in such a bed, so that much tiresome labour is saved in this way.

If it is decided to apply compost, see that this contains a high proportion of prunings or other hard woody substances; later composts may with advantage contain sawdust as well as prunings. Indeed, the compost must be as varied in composition as circumstances permit, for it must provide a diet to cover a wide variety of subjects. Never look upon compost as a plant food, for in this respect it has little direct value; it is to the end product of its digestion by soil organisms that we must look for its value, since the seemingly dead substances we use in making a compost must go much further on the road to death before they can nourish plant life. When these substances reach that formless condition we call humus, then they commence to be of actual value as plant food.

Test the value of the compost by regularly counting the number of earthworm casts to be found throughout the year where this has been applied to the surface in accordance with the laws of Nature. By the time the casts are tumbling over each other, then will real fertility be returning to the soil, and, indeed, the number of earthworms will determine the number of slugs to be found on a given plot of ground; where the abundant casts produce naturally the more neutral chemical condition of the soil, the number of slugs, which prefer an acid condition, will decrease. The earthworm and the slug are both capable of movement, and will always seek the soil conditions which best suit them. Just as many plants hate lime, so do many slugs hate to stay amongst the calcium-impregnated casts of the worm. In firm soils, plants develop their natural rooting system, and will only provide themselves with the necessary quantity of anchorage roots for their own stability, but under these conditions they can be expected to produce all the surface fibrous feeding roots they require for the absorption of nutritive salts.

In the firm soil there is no lack of oxygen, for this life-giving gas easily penetrates down to the subsoil by way of the tunnels of the earthworm. Make conditions right for fungi and you have conditions right for everything else that lives in the soil. If your share of organic substance is small, then do not use this extravagantly by over-oxygenating the soil; so long as oxygen is always present all will be well with the health of the plant. Because a little oxygen is needed to support all life does not mean that the more there is available the better are the conditions. As no two things can reasonably be expected to occupy the same space at the same time, an excess of one means a shortage of another; this in no way implies balance, but rather the reverse. When thinking of the perfect surface of the earth, think of the natural floor of the woodland; this at all times of the year is ready to receive either seeds or seedlings. Not so the dug surface of the garden; if this digging operation is performed in the autumn, a wet spring can delay further operations until sun and drying winds rectify the results of digging.

Compare the surface of a garden which has been dug during the autumn, following weeks of rain in the spring, with the surface to be found in the nearby wood which had received the same amount of rain; there you find no immediate impediment to further operations, for the filtering action of the loose litters organic debris permits the slow percolation of surface water, and while this will leave the surface moist it will not be sticky like the garden surface.

Grant to your vegetables the companionship of weeds to the fullest extent, as their roots ably assist in the aeration of the soil, while their foliage provides useful material for the compost heap; the richer the soil the more vegetation it can sustain, and the more waste becomes available for composting: the

(Continued on page 12)

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INTENSIVE GARDENING IN P.O.W. CAMP

(Continued from page 10)

ditions, the large number of dysentery carriers, the ever-present risk of cholera, and the low state of health of everybody in the camp.

Production of Compost Without Flies

The soils round the gaol ranged from fine loose sand to a yellow lateritic loam with underlying clay. They appeared to have been subjected to soil erosion, as they were devoid of humus and appeared to be quite infertile. The sandy soils were too dry, and the loams too hard and compact, to allow the free growth of roots. The problem was to provide sufficient soil nutrients, to improve the soil texture, and to increase its moisture-carrying capacity. There was only one answer: compost must be produced without flies.

To achieve this it was necessary to exercise the strictest supervision over the camp kitchens and poultry runs, and to make certain departures from normal practice in composting. The poultry runs were brushed out and inspected every day; sour food was disposed of down a lidded borehole; and poultry droppings and run sweepings were carefully collected in lidded bins. Similarly, at the kitchens there was scrupulous cleanliness, and the kitchen waste "was sorted into covered bins labelled "Rice," "Ashes," "Rubbish," "Wet Waste," "Dry Waste," and "Tea Leaves." The various bins were collected twice daily and delivered to the compost centres, and there disposed of without delay.

At the compost depots equal care was taken to prevent flies breeding in the fouled ground around the compost heaps. The siting of these depots took into consideration the fact that kitchen waste is on average twice as heavy and over ten times as bulky as the derived compost, and that water is required in considerable quantities. It was not possible to locate them more than a few yards from any of the huts, and the offensive smells had to be endured. They were all situated on gently sloping ground to allow sour liquors to drain away from the base of the heaps, and so prevent the ground around the heaps from becoming a quagmire.

Evolving Special Method

The ground was raked clean each day, and any fouled ground—e.g., the site of an old heap—was sprinkled with wood ashes and covered with 1ft. of dry lalang until a fresh heap was started there.

The composting process was basically the same as that described in Agricultural Leaflet No. 6, *Composting*, published by the Department of Agriculture, but with certain important modifications to ensure the absence of fly-breeding in the heaps, in view of the fact that all of the depots were so close to the kitchens and huts and well within the range of flight of the house-fly.

The following points were taken into consideration in evolving the special method practised in the camp: —

1. The life cycle of the housefly from the egg to free flight is approximately ten days, varying with the conditions.

2. The eggs are destroyed in the hottest part of a compost heap, but not in the cold outer shell. Here the eggs will hatch out, and when the conditions become too uncomfortable, the resulting larvae will wriggle through the material to the surface to pupate.

3. The range of flight of the flies which result is well over half a mile.

4. Fly larvae can also pass freely through soil in order to reach the surface, prior to free flight.

5. Neither flies nor their larvae will attempt to penetrate a bed of loose dry lalang.

The heaps were accordingly all built up from ground level, without excavating the usual shallow pit, so that larvae could not escape into the soil from the base of the heaps. Each heap was turned within 10 days of laying down the first lot of vegetable waste, and thrice more at 10-day intervals.

Most important of all, each heap was

provided with a jacket of lalang, consisting of four walls and a roof, 1ft. thick. This shell was carefully built up to receive each additional charge of waste, and was not wetted or composted.

Independent Shell

Thus the shell was quite independent of the material being composted, and so could be carefully peeled off. It was opened each day while a heap was being made up to allow fresh additions to the core, after which it was again sealed.

Similarly, when the heap was being turned, the cold shell was first removed entirely before the hot core was broken up. Meanwhile, three new walls of lalang were started to receive the reconstructed heap, which, when finished, was once again sealed with lalang.

This jacket of lalang served to prevent flies from laying any more eggs among the decomposing rubbish, making them keep their larvae inside the heap, and so ensure their destruction. It also acted as a thatched roof, and so afforded protection against rain, while on cold nights it retained the heat. Furthermore, it allowed free aeration, so that foul gases could escape from the heap and be replaced by fresh air.

(To be continued)

IN DIGGING NECESSARY?

(Continued from page 11)

healthy weed is no more likely to attract to itself pests and diseases than is the healthy vegetable plant, but if in our efforts to exterminate weeds we reduce the health of the survivors, these may well fall victim to pests and diseases. Health is the same in legitimate plant or common weed—the sure shield against premature decay; decay starts first in most cases as a direct result of the negative health of the patient, accelerated as it may well be by pests and diseases.

Many will disagree with the findings contained in this pamphlet, but I venture to suggest that the most vehement critics will be amongst those who have never tried the system. Much of my work is still of an experimental nature, pursued with the object of finding out if orthodox principles are right, rather than an attempt to prove them wrong, for no one can be sure that he knows the best until he has tried every way.

To those who have not as yet tried this system, I can assure them that if they will follow the recommendations given in the light of my experiences they will not be disappointed with the results. According to the nature of the soil they tend they will benefit by the adoption of this system. Some slight modifications may be necessary which the individual himself can best determine, but if the broad principles of using compost or sawdust as Nature intended such substances to be used is faithfully followed, together with a wise selection of varieties of plants, then to practise this method of relatively effortless cultivation can be both attractive and profitable.

I do not claim for this system that it will produce exhibition types of vegetables, but I remain unconvinced that the beautiful and symmetrical prize-winning roots of carrots or parsnips, which are a feature of many shows, are

nutritionally better than the lesser roots of these same two vegetables taken from soil, which has not been deeply dug or trenched. Unless we are forever to be influenced by appearances, the time has come for us to allow the palate to be our judge of quality. Quality is born of unity, which exists in the case of soil, which is afforded a reasonable degree of peace.

(Concluded)

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