

THE NEW TIMES

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

VOLUME 14, No. 47.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1948

SIXPENCE WEEKLY

A GENUINE ALTERNATIVE TO SOCIALISM

RADIO TALK BY ERIC D. BUTLER OVER 3CS, COLAC

If the non-Labour Parties really desire to win the next election, and win it with a worthwhile majority, they have little time left in which to formulate and publicise effectively a constructive policy, which is a genuine alternative to the centralised planning of the Socialists and other totalitarian. Although we have stressed the fact time and time again that high direct taxation and bureaucratic controls are some of the greatest obstacles we have to urgently required greater production, we must point out that the fear of what is termed over-production is also a big factor in the various go-slow policies being practised in many unions today.

Undoubtedly the biggest vote-winning argument Mr. Chifley has at present is his contention that there is what is termed full employment, which is consistently contrasted with prewar conditions when there were tens of thousands of unemployed. A great many electors think of the present non-Labour Parties as having been associated with the unsatisfactory prewar conditions and, irrespective of the fact that they are not altogether satisfied with all that the Labour Party is doing, refuse to support parties whose leaders infer that less controls and increased production will result in the solving of all the problems about which electors are gravely concerned. Electors who remember the dreadful depression years recall that there were no production problems and comparatively few controls. The problem was one of so-called over-production, and it is the widespread fear of a return of this problem, which has persuaded large numbers of people to support the idea of centralised planning. Skilful propaganda has resulted in people who term themselves anti-Socialists believing that some centralised control of production is essential to prevent "over-production" and unemployment.

The Crux of the Problem

The crux of the economic problem is as follows: Either the supporters of free enterprise have got to put forward a constructive policy which will enable consumers to get access to the benefits which only free enterprise can provide, such as greater production while actually reducing working hours, or free enterprise is doomed. One of the greatest fallacies being propagated today by many

well-meaning but uninformed supporters of free enterprise is that increased production and increased efficiency will in themselves result in reduced prices to the consumer. It is, of course, true that increased efficiency in any industry may temporarily reduce prices to the consumer, but over a period the general price-level continues to rise. This undeniable fact is overlooked by many advocates of various incentive schemes in industry.

American Example

Judging by recent figures published in America, we doubt whether there are any industries in Australia, which even with incentive schemes could attain the efficiency of American industry. But in spite of the great efficiency of American industry, so far from prices being reduced, they are actually being inflated more than they are in this country. If it were not for the ever-growing stream of exports from America, American industry would, without a modification of economic and financial policies, be faced with the serious problem of an enormous glut. These are all facts, which it is very stupid for non-Socialists in this country to ignore. However, there is now a growing danger that such facts will be exploited to develop another aspect of the totalitarian attack.

Public Works Policy

The following argument is now being developed by many so-called anti-Socialists: "Yes, we admit the very real threat of 'over-production' with free enterprise working to capacity. All economists now admit that there may be a shortage of purchasing power under

free enterprise, and that it is the function of the Government to ensure that the consumers have adequate purchasing power to buy all production. We must therefore draw up the blueprints of big public works schemes and use these schemes to increase the community's total purchasing power. All those not required in the production of consumer goods can be transferred to the public works schemes." This is advocacy of the very brand of totalitarianism that Hitler and his gang imposed upon the German people. Hitler took control of a centralised credit system and expanded credit for what Goering termed a guns before butter programme. Those

(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.

A Genuine Alternative to Socialism

(Continued from page 1)

who refused to work on making the guns found that they could get no purchasing power with which to buy any of the butter that was available. The war provided all Federal Governments with evidence of the power resident in Government control of credit expansion. Having tasted this power, all Federal Parties are very keen to continue using it. We find even papers like the *Sydney Bulletin* now advocating that there is "an obligation upon Governments, industry, and economic authorities to regulate credit and production . . ."

Economic Democracy

The very basis of genuine economic democracy is that the consumers shall dictate all production programmes. There can be no argument about the fact that an unfettered system of free enterprise can provide adequate production with progressively less man hours worked. Now either the financial policy of the Government can be used to ensure that the individual, as a result of free enterprise, is in the position where he has progressively greater freedom to provide himself with what might be best termed self-employment, or it can be used to compel the individual to work under centralised direction. If this latter policy is allowed to be advocated unchallenged, increasing totalitarianism is inevitable irrespective of what label is used to describe it.

Full Employment

It is high time that the policy of what has been termed full employment should be challenged as an essential part of the totalitarian drive. It is true that practically everyone in the community can at present draw a salary — even though the salary will buy progressively less as prices are inflated; but it is untrue to say that everyone is engaged in employment designed to serve individual requirements. What production of goods or services results from the "employment" of an increasing number of bureaucratic officials and their staffs? The Big Idea is to ensure that more and more individuals are compelled to come under Government control before they can get access even to the limited production, which a crippled system of free enterprise is providing.

Chifley's Statements

Mr. Chifley has made it very clear that the policy of using big public works to increase the purchasing power of consumers can only be imposed by totalitarian methods. Prior to the 1944 Referendum he said that this country could not be developed if men believed that they should have the right to see the Town Hall clock every day and hold their wives' hands every night. Developing this theme still further at the Greater Production Conference of Federal Trade Unions on October 17, Mr. Chifley said that, "We realise there will have to be transfers of workers and of whole communities to other forms of

work . . . There will have to be transfers of labour if there is to be expansion. It may even involve a plan of movable towns to provide reasonable living conditions and amenities while big projects are in progress."

Liberals in Agreement

This is what the Liberal Party and other advocates of using public works to increase purchasing power will have to impose. At least one so-called anti-totalitarian political leader, the Acting Premier of Victoria, Mr. J. B. McDonald, sees this. The following appeared in the *Melbourne Herald* of October 18: "The transfer of workers to other jobs foreshadowed by the Prime Minister was far from being fantastic, the Acting Premier (Mr. McDonald) said today. Mr. McDonald said he could see no other solution of the present problem of how to get things done."

While it may be true that some public works may be necessary in this country, there can be no argument about the utilisation of our present productive capacity under genuine free enterprise is quite adequate to increase the material standard of living of all sections of the community and to provide them with greater independence. Public works should be regarded as a capital investment, which may eventually help increase the standard of living still further. The finance for such works should be "subscribed" by the taxpayers to the Government.

The idea being skilfully advanced that Federal Governments should be able to expand central bank credit to compel individuals to submit to centralised control of employment, must be opposed by all genuine supporters of free enterprise. The expansion of credit must be used to place the increasing benefits which free enterprise can supply at the service of the individual. If the supporters of free enterprise will not agree that the sole purpose of the production system should be to provide the individual with the basic requirements of life with less man-hours worked, and to thus enable him to have greater opportunities for a wider range of activities — activities chosen by himself, not by a Government — they should openly join the Socialists immediately.

Price Subsidy

One of the major problems confronting people today is the rapid increase in the cost of living. Mr. Chifley and his associates deliberately helped to further this inflation when they started to abolish the price-subsidy system. As we have explained on many occasions, the price-subsidy system, introduced into all English-speaking countries during the war years, was a comparative success. It prevented prices from soaring while ensuring that producers received a profitable price for their production.

Electors of all Parties should unite to insist that the price-subsidy system be reintroduced immediately. If the non-Labour Parties are really concerned with putting forward a constructive and genuine alternative to the Socialists, they

should immediately proclaim that if elected at the next Federal Elections their financial policy will be designed to use the price-subsidy mechanism to reduce prices to the consumer, increase purchasing power so that consumers can always buy what free enterprise can produce, and thus enable the individual to have progressively greater control over his own life.

PRICE SPIRAL

The Basic Wage will be increased by 4/ per week, or £ 10 per annum, as from 14/11/48. This will make the new Basic Salary £310 per annum.

The Basic Wage is still chasing prices, with prices well in advance all the time.

The increase of £10 provides no cause for rejoicing. It is merely a partial adjustment of the Basic Wage portion of salaries to increased living costs, which do not take into consideration fresh fruit and vegetables.

No quarterly adjustment is made in the MARGINS ABOVE THE BASE RATE. Therefore, as the cost of living rises, the purchasing power of the margins above the base continues to decline.

Not only is the ever-ascending spiral of prices reducing the value of the salary margins, measured in terms of goods and services, but it is also reducing the value of superannuation units, savings bank deposits, and insurance policies.

It is obvious to all who think that, like a waterspout, the spiral of prices, having reached its zenith, will descend, destroying all inflated values. Under the existing financial system, this is unavoidable. It occurs in cycles.

The problem is: how long will it be before the financial waterspout crashes; and will thousands who are now buying homes and furniture on time-payment be ruined, as thousands were by the GREAT DEFLATION of the thirties? —*The Transport Officer, Oct.*

A Sound View

To him (Disraeli) the whole issue of modern politics was between an historic school and a philosophic school; he chose history. A country is not an abstract being whose rights can be deduced by a plain mental process. A nation is a work of art, and a work wrought by time. It has a temperament like that of an individual. The greatness of England in particular is sprung not from its natural resources, which are mediocre, but from its institutions. The rights of Englishmen are older by five full centuries than the Rights of Man.

—ANDRE MAUROIS, *Disraeli*.

Douglas Social Credit Movement of Victoria

ROOM 8, THE BLOCK,
Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.

Books, Pamphlets, Periodicals on Social Credit Available. Send for List. Enquiries invited.

NATIONALISATION IN FRANCE

The following factual material is taken from an article by Frank Macmillan in the English "TABLET" of September 4. It shows the disastrous results that have accrued to the French people from nationalisation. We hope that some of our friends with contacts in the Liberal Party will see to it that Mr. R. G. Casey does not miss reading this, as that gentleman favours nationalisation of what is termed "national monopolies."

It further recalls the fact that De Gaulle's government was mainly responsible for the programme. On this record it would appear that the French people in the present crisis have the alternatives of being boiled in De Gaulle's oil or fried in the Socialists' fat.

It was by asking such questions that M. Reynaud aroused the hostility of those who staked their politician reputation and the country's economic future so lightheartedly on the policy of nationalisations after the Liberation. It was mainly under General de Gaulle that the programme was carried through.

The first ordinances and decrees on the nationalisation of the mines in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais Departments date from December, 1944, May and October, 1945, and May, 1946; the nationalisation of Electricity and Gas was voted in April, 1946; the Renault works were nationalised by ordinances and decrees in January and March, 1945; the manufacture of aviation engines by the important Gnome and Rhone plant was nationalised in May, 1945; the Bank of France by a law in December, 1945, effective from January 1st, 1946; Insurance Companies in April, 1946; and the Press was to a large extent brought under the control of the Government by a law in May, 1946.

These laws were blatantly political in motive and in many cases stated so quite openly in their preambles. They often accepted as proven the treason of citizens before their cases were heard in the courts.

Moreover, the compensation paid to former shareholders in the companies nationalised has been fairly described as "spoliation." In the case of the Bank of France the value of the shares was estimated independently at 72,000 francs. The official Commission of Enquiry estimated the value at 44,000 francs; but the Assembly voted only 28,029 francs.

Similarly, the selection of the various types of directing bodies was heavily weighted on the political side; and in the case of the nationalised aviation industry the Communists obtained a complete majority at all levels.

The results have in nearly every case been completely disastrous—lowered output, excessive absenteeism, excessive benefits, huge losses (when indeed the figures have been published), lack of authority throughout the industries, and a great increase in the administrative and non-productive staffs.

Severe and impartial examinations of the results of nationalisation in France to date have been published recently by institutions such as the College Libre des Sciences Sociales et Economiques and also by independent Commissions of investigation such as the Commission of the Belgian Senate which visited the French mines in 1947.

The conclusions of these investigations are free from the propaganda "victories" which constitute the handouts of the Press Officers of the industries, the poli-

ticians anxious to conciliate the workers, or the theorists reluctant to admit their errors.

For example, it was claimed in 1947 that France had won the "victory of coal" because production was 20 percent above prewar level. But the official estimates based comparisons on 1938, which



Gen. De Gaulle

was a very poor year. In fact production for 1947 was not at the level of 1930; and even the official paper victory was belied later in the year when production fell below even 1938.

The postwar output of the mines is lower than what was considered "sabotage" output during the Occupation. Allowing the official figures for output (say the Reports), no account is taken of the facts that the time paid for was 25 per cent greater, the total workers employed rose by 35 percent at the face and 44 percent at the surface and the quality of the coal mined was diminished from between 15 percent and 20 percent in calorific value owing to the amount of stone and dust passed on to the public by incompetent washing and sorting at the mine.

Add to these factors the vast expenses of introducing machinery, constructing "cities" to accommodate the workers, the reclassification of salary scales (in which many classes of workers, not previously recognised as equivalent to the miners at the face, were included), and some idea may be achieved why the loss

per metric ton rose from 300 to 800 francs from May to September, 1947, and why there was forecast a loss for 1947 of 131/2 milliards of francs; this excluding capital investments of 26 milliards, of which 11 milliards were for housing of personnel. In fact the Assembly voted last week a credit of 47 milliards to cover the deficit for 1947, consequent to the strikes of November and December.

The Electricite de France showed a similarly disastrous balance sheet — a total of 72,380 millions for expenses against receipts of 54 millions. Among the items of expenditure it was noted that the expenses for personnel had risen from two milliards in 1938 to 24 milliards in 1947.

The Renault works provided some even more curious grounds for comment. The accounts for 1945 had not been published for approved) by the Ministry of Finance by the end of 1946. The nationalised Renault company had floated a loan of 500 millions in 1945 and then asked for an advance of 600 millions from the State in 1947 because its credit on the open market was, like other nationalised enterprises, at the very lowest.

The deficit for 1945 on the nationalised aviation was something in the region of 1 milliard francs, for a company whose capital is 99 millions.

STATOLATRY

Today the fashionable philosophy of *Statolatry* has obfuscated the issue. The political conflicts are no longer seen as struggles between groups of men. They are considered a war between two principles, the good and the bad. The good is embodied in the great god State, the materialisation of the eternal idea of morality, and the bad in the "rugged individualism" of selfish men. In this antagonism the State is always right and the individual always wrong. The State is the representative of the common weal, of justice, civilisation, and superior wisdom. The individual is a poor wretch, a vicious fool.

When a German says "der Staat," or when a Marxian says "society," they are overwhelmed by reverential awe. How can a man be so entirely corrupt as to rise in rebellion against the Supreme Being?

—Ludwig von Mises's *Bureaucracy*.

BROADCAST BILL

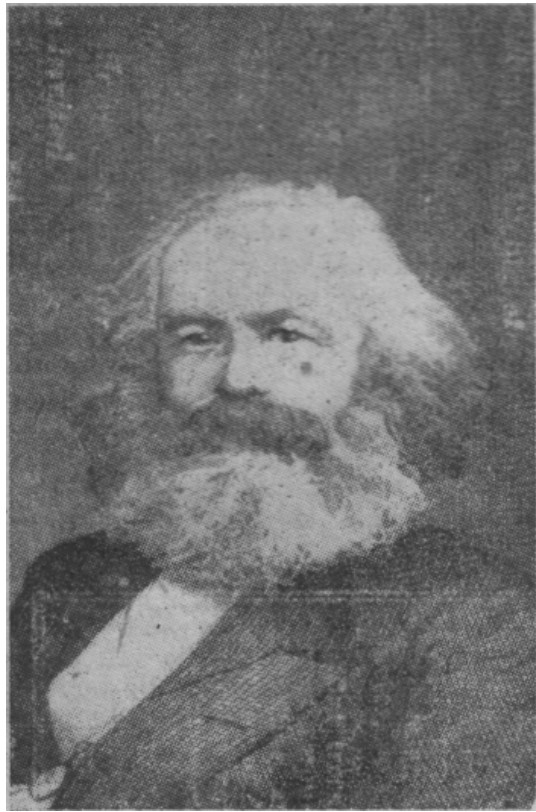
The application of the "Iron Curtain" can be seen in the proposal to set up a master control of broadcasting in Australia.

This bill provides for control of programmes, technical equipment, and advertising — which covers almost everything. It is a very rapid step towards the Police State; obviously it would lead to suppression of information by the party in power, be it Liberal or anti-Liberal. At the moment there is a certain degree of choice; all freedom-loving people should resist this move to limit their choice.

A few hundred letters to members would be opportune. —O.B.H.

"New Times," Nov. 26, 1948 — Page 3

THE RED PRUSSIAN (Karl Marx)



By Leopold Schwarzschild

This is the most powerful debunking of Karl Marx yet published. The author strips away the legend of Marx and reveals Marx the man. The extracts from the private correspondence of Marx and Engels will make bitter reading for Socialists and Communists. Every anti-Communist propagandist must have this book. (19/3 Post Free.)

"THE REAL COMMUNIST MENACE"

by Eric D. Butler

Price 1/7d, post free.

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

Only a limited edition of this booklet has been published, so readers desirous of obtaining copies should order immediately.

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

Another ENWITE Speciality

[Regd.]

SOLVIT

*For Clean, Easy Stripping
of*

**PAINT, LACQUER,
VARNISH**

Etc., from Any Surface

**NO DIFFICULT NEUTRALISATION!
WILL NOT HARM FABRIC OR WOOD**

**ASK YOUR HARDWARE STORE
FOR IT**

A "Good" Socialist

Mr. Morrison has defined a good Socialist as a man who puts more into the common fund than he takes out of it. But, if this definition is sound, then good Socialists must be rare, as indeed they are. The people who are still doing a conscientious day's work are quiet, unassuming men and women who are moved by a sense of personal responsibility, self-respect, and the habits and training of a healthier day. They are carrying the national economy on their backs, but not for love of Socialism.

Those who welcome Socialism do so because they think that Socialism will immediately and directly benefit themselves. This may be regrettable and disconcerting, but it is wholly natural. They support the Socialist Party as they support the local football or cricket team, with one part of their being. Political loyalty is only one, and not the most important, of their loyalties. More personal loyalties are infinitely stronger.

A Socialist M.P. told the Scottish Grand Committee that he could think of no reason why a man should work hard, if it was not to provide a good education for his children. Being politically minded, he assumed that the man who would work hard to pay directly for his children's education would be even readier to work hard to pay his share of the general cost of the education of all children, but the assumption suggested that his own education was highly deficient in the proper study of mankind.

A general purpose produces nothing like the impulse of a particular and personal purpose.

The Tablet (Eng.), Sept. 4.

GENUINE PROGRESS

Progress is precisely that which the rules and regulations did not foresee; it is necessarily outside the field of bureaucratic activities.

—Ludwig von Mises's *Bureaucracy*.

According To Plan

PROFESSOR NITWIT was a teacher of Economics. He had never been in business life, but he had studied all the theories about business, invented by the highest German and Russian authorities. And he longed for a chance to put his theories into practice, says *London Efficiency Magazine*.

Suddenly this chance came to him. He had a rich uncle who died and left Professor Nitwit his whole fortune.

What did the Professor do? He bought a rubber plantation in Malaysia. It was being worked by about 100 natives. It was an ideal place for what he called "sociological experimentation."

"First of all," he said, "there must be RECORDS. Second, there must be SECURITY; and third, there must be CENTRAL CONTROL. These are the three Essentials of a Planned Economy."

So he put up an Office Building, installed ten natives as clerks, and bought ten typewriters. This reduced his workers from 100 to 90.

He then sent out a Proclamation, promising his natives Security. "Not for any reason," he said, "will any native be discharged." Next morning 15 of his natives went fishing.

He promised them free Medical Service, and the next day 12 of the natives fell ill.

He promised them free Dental Service, and 8 of them at once had toothache.

He then established Central Control by inventing 900 Regulations, and as a result all the natives stopped working except two very old men and a cripple.

Of course, the rubber plantation was soon swallowed up by the Jungle, and Professor Nitwit now has a job in the Board of Trade.

—*Canberra Letter*, Oct. 30.

Group Defamation

"The committee found themselves unable to accept proposals that the law of defamation should be extended to embrace false statements vilifying groups or classes of persons distinguishable by race, creed, colour, or vocation . . ."—Lord Porter's Committee on the Law of Defamation issued October 20.

So fails the insolent effort to protect one race or creed from criticism.

Beyond a well-founded dread of libel actions, the average individual has little knowledge of the principle on which they are supposed to rest—that the injured party has sustained damage "in the way of his calling." The cool effrontery of the suggestion that a group of unspecified size, which on this principle might claim astronomical monetary injury, is covered by this principle requires to be understood to be appreciated. —*The Social Creditor (Eng.)*, Nov. 6.

Our Sham Democracy'

AN OUTSTANDING BOOKLET

By JAMES GUTHRIE, B.Sc.

Price: 1/1 d posted

NARROW IT DOWN

We republish the following editorial from "THE SOCIAL CREDITER" of November 6 in order to encourage our readers to lose no opportunity of playing their part in the continuing crisis. While this editorial refers specifically to conditions in Britain it applies with equal force to affairs in Australia. (Ed. NT.)

On all hands there is talk of breakdown. Sometimes it is "inevitable" breakdown; sometimes "breakdown—unless." It seems to be contended that the doctors are to have it both ways, and the Medical Service to be facing breakdown "in the winter," unless something unspecified is done, which would seem impossible, to rescue doctors from too many patients and too little income at the same time. The inexhaustible willingness of the present administration to let, or make, someone else pay to keep its ventures afloat could be stretched to cover the plight of doctors on the verge of bankruptcy, or worse; but that would not increase the number of available doctors. And once having given inducement to all and sundry to consult doctors "free of charge," there does not seem to be much, short of withdrawing the inducement, to limit the number of those who take such advantage of the opportunity as they can see. Mond-Turnerism in action hasn't brought peace to industry, nor has it brought peace to the schools. (The responsibility of the Mond-Turner agreement for recent developments in education is not often stressed; but it is there, and much current discussion of the problems of educational administrators would be better directed if its role were brought under inspection.) The "extra year" of school life, in conjunction with other "reforms," has disrupted education at every stage, and newspaper writers are having a fine time explaining what a widening perspective of difficulty attends every human activity that has been touched by the planners' hand, which is to say every activity there is.

We used to look forward (though not happily) to the time when the planners, having reaped the percentage success they had determined upon, would consolidate their position. But like prosperity in the increasingly distant past, this point of hesitation seems to be round the corner; and breakdown for breakdown's sake seems to be more and more certainly the sole present objective of the administration: Nihilism in process of execution.

From this angle, it does seem that the enemy is winning all along the line, without losing a man, and almost without conceding a point. Certainly every potential opposition which might have been predicted to become actual has shown itself to have no substance at all: Lords, Commons, Industry, the Church by Law Established, right down to the driven and ridden individual. The taste has gone out of life for most of those who live it, and even those in unexpected enjoyment of the few corrupted privileges, which remain outside of Zion, betray signs of a jaded palate. Even Sir (Austerity) Cripps doesn't sound happy when he broadcasts, and Mr. Attlee's medical advisers have painstakingly, if not pleasantly, distinguished his discomforts from the Gout, a patrician dis-

order, which has still to acquire popularity among our present rulers.

There must also be recorded a rising expectation of an early end to the Government elected (so they say) by a majority of the constituencies in 1945. Probably this signifies little more than wishful thinking on a not very impressive scale. Mass bribery, in one form or another, has by far the greater part of the electorate subject to it. It may not be a willing subjection; but it is an accepted shackle, one of the many. Actually the new hopefulness helps the Government: it acts as a leak to reduce rising resentment. In the total absence of a sound policy from all the parties, it promises nothing but a slope made more slippery

Whether breakdown can be averted remains to be seen. We have consistently predicted breakdown, and breakdown on the most magnificent scale, if the political and economic directives (the latter as instrumental to the former) of the present century (to go no farther back) were persisted in. The conclusion is inescapable assuming our view of the nature of the universe. Right and wrong are not interchangeable terms. It is as simple as that.

What we have to say beyond that is that, breakdown or not, we have still the same part to play, which is the uncovering of obscured or hidden truths concerning our own and everyone else's situation, so that he who wishes to do so may see it. That we find easier every day. To Orage is attributed at least this observation: that the opportunities of Social Crediters had a certain periodicity, which Orage put at something like six months. This is something like the billiard-player's "break." We are inclined to say that now we "go to the table" oftener than in Orage's time, and do not stay so long. The game is faster. At the same time, it is more individual, and we have written these lines to persuade our readers to watch ceaselessly for their opening to play, to play up when it comes, and, above all, to recognise their chances when they come. There is one major necessity: the narrowing down of the issue to one on which it is possible to break through.

Chinese Inflation

By raising artificially the buying price of silver, the U.S. drained China of the metal, which was the basis of her currency, thus forcing her on to a paper currency having no link with commodities. Then, during the Burma War, unknown millions of these banknotes, printed in U.S. and flown over "the hump" to the exclusion of vital materials, were let loose on China, completely disorganising the economic system and opening the country wide to Communist propaganda. Just how does this link up with the Roosevelt assistance to Russia, everywhere?

HAVE YOU STUDIED THE COMMUNIST MENACE!

The following is a complete list of special publications recommended to those who want to study authentic, factual material on the Communist menace:

The Real Communist Menace, by Eric D. Butler. 1/8d.

This is an excellent commentary on the Canadian Report and Soviet policy as laid down by Lenin and Stalin. It also contains the most important part of the Canadian Report.

Red Glows The Dawn, by Michael Lamb 8/d.

A detailed exposure of the history of the Australian Communist Party. The author shows by documentary evidence how the policy of the Australian Communists is dictated by Moscow.

Communism in Australia, by J. T. Lang, M.H.R. 2/2d.

This hard-hitting book gives detailed information concerning the Communist domination of Australian Unions. Communist leader Thornton took unsuccessful legal action against Lang when this book was first published.

20 Questions About Soviet Russia, by H. W. Henderson 7 d.

More Questions About Russia, by H. W. Henderson. 10 d.

What Are Russia's Ultimate Aims? by H. W. Henderson 7 d.

The Red Spider Web, by Bernard Newman 18/6

A famous mystery writer deals with the thrilling story of the Canadian Spy Trials. He shows that truth is stranger than fiction.

Report On The Russians, by W. L. White 17/-

This famous book is the one, which caused considerable consternation amongst the Comrades all over the world. White visited Russia during the war years. A brilliant first-hand account.

Communism — Why Not? by "Advance Australia." . . . 2/8d.

A well documented book dealing with the Jewish influence in Communism. Strenuous attempts were made to have this book banned during the war years.

Communism in Action. . . . 3/2d.

This detailed factual report was prepared at the instigation of a Member of the American House of Congress.

The Answer to Socialism, by C. Barclay-Smith 2/8d.

This excellent book is a "must" for every student of Communism. All the essential facts and figures are available for those who engage in controversy on the Communist Question.

Inside Red Russia, by J. J. Maloney, M.L.C. 4/8d.

In this book, the former Australian Minister in Moscow, "pulls no punches" about what he saw in Russia. He saw Russia as an Australian Labour man officially visiting a Socialist State, and returned to Australia horrified at what he had seen.

All prices listed above include the cost of postage. Order now from *New Times Ltd.*, Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne.

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: MU 2834.

Vol. 14 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1948. No. 47

BRITISH FOOD AND MARSHALL "AID"

The following are extracts from a special article in the Melbourne Argus, of November 13:

"New British Treasury instructions to British food buying officials may severely curtail importations from Australia in future...."

"As exports are limited by Britain's industrial recovery difficulties and by American insistence on Britain's supplying European Marshall Aid countries with material to aid their recovery, the quota of Commonwealth trade has become uncertain. Visions of a vast expansion in food production to meet the great needs of Britain may dissolve in a mist...."

"The price has been mentioned as a deterrent factor (preventing the importing of a large quantity of excellent Australian jam), but it is surely known in London that strict Treasury budget limitations are now holding back food men from buying . . . Yet food available in the sterling areas of the Empire would greatly help the ordinary Briton in his home....."

"Australia has been told that some supplies, such as tomato sauces and tomato soup, may not be required by Britain, as they are 'luxuries,' but Britain has begun buying just those things from Italy and Hungary, explaining that this course has become necessary to establish the reciprocity of trade required under the Marshall Aid scheme."

It is obvious from the above that the continued imposition of severe food rationing in Great Britain is a deliberate policy and is not necessary. Surely even the most confused person must admit that it is strange that certain food supplies from the Dominions cannot be made available to the British people because of the Marshall Aid plan.

The mounting evidence makes it clearer every day that the Marshall Aid plan is designed to interfere with the right of British Empire countries to conduct their own trading in their own way; also to make Great Britain merely one comparatively insignificant member of a centralised Federal Union of Western European countries.

It can no longer be denied that international gangsters, most of whom are domiciled in America, although they have their agents and branch offices in other countries, have used various forms of international control to limit food supplies to the British people. Unless the peoples of the British Empire challenge and defeat the various forms of international planning now interfering openly with their sovereignty, it appears that no matter how much food production is increased in Australia and other Dominions, it will be of no benefit to the British people.

If the Federal Government were really determined to ensure that more Australian food was made available to the British people, it would openly challenge Marshall Aid and other alleged barriers. But the Federal Government will never challenge the international planners wrecking the British Empire for the very good reason that it is comprised of members, who, like Sir Stafford Cripps in Great Britain, are not very concerned about the future of the British Empire and what it stands for.

The present plight of the British Empire and the open interference with its domestic policies by Marshall Aid planners should stir all Australians who still have red blood in their veins to be up and doing while they can still take effective action.

TURNBULL TACTICS

In his *Herald* articles, "Free Speech," Clive Turnbull puts up a curious mixture of fanciful propaganda.

Commenting on the American election: "Americans have shown that they can take the degree of regimentation imposed by the Democrats (?)"—and still want more.

He then goes on to say: "If the Liberal Party wants to put Labour out . . . they will have to undertake big projects, such as T.V.A. (Tennessee Valley Authority)"—that is, they will have to outdo the Socialists with more Socialism.

He then laments that trade union officials have discarded procession banners, and he says that other people (Coms.) will use them to advantage. There are lots of curious comments by this chappie, which indicate a strong Leftist tendency. He might be a second Brian Fitzpatrick. Incidentally, while he laments that unionists are discarding historical banners, he approves discarding the historical "British" as an Empire tradition. Passing strange, is it not?

Labour Conscription

Have Australians lost all resistance to being pushed around at the behest of the Canberra bureaucracy? Last weekend the Prime Minister made a statement which a generation ago might have provoked a hot exchange of words and a flurry of fists. Yet his assertion that "there will have to be transfers of workers and whole communities to work" has been received passively. How strange it is that industrial conscription, which was considered one of the most distasteful features of the Nazi regime, is now advocated here. There are only two ways of getting things done in this world — by inducement or compulsion. Men will work anywhere, provided sufficient inducement is forthcoming. But to compel a person to do something that he would prefer not to do, demands at least two conditions: (1) That someone must have authority and power to force obedience to directions, and (2) that the person directed has no alternative way of escape. Already the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act denies benefits to anyone not prepared to accept employment where directed; and the "Free" medicine plan will take care that no escape is made by private medical reasons. By preferring methods of compulsion, the Federal Government is following the pattern of totalitarian countries. Unless a protest is made to individual members of Parliament, the individual will be planned and mesmerised until he becomes a spiritless pawn in the big political game.

—From a letter by NEIL McDONALD, in the Geelong Advertiser, Oct. 22.

H. N. SMITH

WATCHMAKER AND JEWELLER.

Inspection of Stock Invited. All Work Guaranteed. 1st Floor, McEwan House. 343 Little Collins street, Melbourne. Phone MU2115.

Printed by Academy Printing and Publishing Co. 95 Brunswick St., Fitzroy for New Times Ltd., McEwan House, Melbourne.

DR. LEVY'S LETTER

Prior to the publication of his brochure, "The World Significance of the Russian Revolution," Mr. G. Pitt-Rivers forwarded the manuscript to Dr. Oscar Levy, a Jew of standing and well known in English literary circles. Dr. Levy replied in a letter dated July 1920. The following extracts from this letter are worthy of considerable study at a time when the remains of Western civilisation are menaced by growing revolutionary movements.

"Dear Mr. Pitt-Rivers: When you first handed me your MS. on *The World Significance of the Russian Revolution*, you expressed a doubt about the propriety of its title. After a perusal of your work, I can assure you with the best of consciences, that your misgivings were entirely without foundation. No better title than *The World Significance of the Russian Revolution* could have been chosen, for no event in any age will finally have more significance for our world than this one. We are still too near to see clearly this Revolution, this portentous event, which was certainly one of the most intimate and therefore least obvious, aims of the world-conflagration, hidden as it was at first by the fire and smoke of national enthusiasms and patriotic antagonisms.

"It was certainly very plucky of you to try and throw some light upon an event which necessarily must still be enveloped in mist and mystery, and I was even somewhat anxious, lest your audacity in treating such a dangerous subject would end in failure, or what is nearly the same, in ephemeral success. No age is so voracious of its printed offspring as ours. There was thus some reason to fear lest you had offered to this modern Kronos only another mouthful of his accustomed nourishment for his immediate consumption.

An Ancient Ideology

"You rightly recognise that there is an ideology behind it (the Russian Revo-

lution), and you clearly diagnose it as an ancient ideology. There is nothing new under the sun, it is even nothing new that this sun rises in the East . . .

"For Bolshevism is a religion and a faith. How could these half-converted believers even dream to vanquish the 'Truthful' and the 'Faithful' of their own creed, these holy crusaders, who had gathered round the Red Standard of the prophet Karl Marx, and who fought under the daring guidance of these experienced officers of all latter-day revolutions—the Jews? . . .

"There is no race in the world more enigmatic, more fatal, and therefore more interesting than the Jews. Every writer, who, like yourself, is oppressed by the aspect of the present and embarrassed by his anxiety for the future, MUST try to elucidate the Jewish Question and its bearing upon our Age. For the question of the Jews and their influence on the world past and present, cuts to the root of all things, and should be discussed by every honest thinker, however bristling with difficulties it is, however complex the subject as well as the individuals of this Race may be.

Finance and Revolution

"For the Jews, as you are aware, are a sensitive community, and thus very suspicious of any Gentile who tries to approach them with a critical mind. They are always inclined—and that on account of their terrible experiences—to denounce anyone who is not with them as against them, as tainted with 'medieval' prejudice, as intolerant Antagonist of their Faith and of their Race.

"Nor would I deny that there is some evidence, some prima facie evidence of this antagonistic attitude in your pamphlet. You point out, and with fine indignation, the great danger that springs from the prevalence of Jews in finance and industry, and from the preponderance of Jews in rebellion and revolution. You reveal, and with great fervour, the connection between the Collectivism of the immensely rich international Finance—the Democracy of cash values, as you call it—and the international Collectivism of Karl Marx and Trotsky—the Democracy of any by decoy cries. . . . And all this evil and misery, the economic and political, you trace back to one source, to one 'fins et origo malorum' — the Jews.

Jewish Influence

"Now other Jews may vilify and crucify you for these outspoken views of yours; I myself shall abstain from joining the chorus of condemnation! I shall try to understand your opinions and your feelings, and having once understood them . . . I can defend you

from the unjust attacks of my often too impetuous Race. But first of all, I have to say this: There is scarcely an event in modern Europe that cannot be traced back to the Jews. Take the Great War (Continued on page 8)

EX-COMMUNIST ADDRESSES SERIES OF MELBOURNE MEETINGS

Speaking under the auspices of the Victorian League of Rights, Mr. T. C. McGillick, ex-Communist leader, opened his campaign in Melbourne with a well-attended meeting in the Masonic Hall on Wednesday, November 3. The central theme of Mr. McGillick's address was that the Communists must be regarded as a part of an international secret society controlled by criminals have their fifth columns operating in all countries.

McGillick addressed Town Hall meetings at the following centres: Camberwell, Northcote, Prahran, Collingwood, Port Melbourne, Brunswick, and North Melbourne. He was supported at all meetings by Mr. Eric Butler, Campaign Director of the Victorian League of Rights, who exposed Communism as one aspect of the totalitarian drive against the British Empire. He traced the history and methods of the powerful international financial groups backing the policy of Monopoly, and indicated what electors in association must do to defeat the menace confronting them.

Literature sales were good at all meetings.

Mr. McGillick and Mr. Butler finished their Melbourne meetings at North Melbourne on Friday, November 12, and left for Adelaide on the following day. They opened their South Australian series of meetings at an open-air meeting in the Botanic Park, Adelaide, on Sunday, November 14. Approximately 800 people gave both speakers an excellent hearing. Communist interjectors were effectively dealt with.

THE QUICK PRINT

Quickly Assembled. Unique in its Possibilities. Invaluable for Teachers.

• OWN YOUR OWN DUPLICATOR

An Amazing Aid. Complete with all Accessories. For Teachers, P. & C. Assns, Clubs, &c.

Draw, write, type and trace and print straight into notebooks. Use the same materials as large standard machines.

£2/12/6, Plus Postage.

Write for information or call for demonstration at New Times Office,

5th Floor, 343 Lit. Collins Street, Melbourne. MU2834.

Manufactured by

UNIQUE SUPPLIES, SYDNEY.

**CODNER
BROS.**

**Builders and
Joinery
Manufacturers**

**HOMES AND
HOME SITES
AVAILABLE**

**Wheatsheaf Rd.
GLENROY**

DR. LEVY'S LETTER

(Continued from page 7)

that appears to have come to an end, ask yourself what were its causes and its reasons: you will find them in nationalism. You will at once answer that nationalism has nothing to do with the Jews, who, as you have proved to us, are the inventors of the international idea. But no less than Bolshevik Ecstasy and Financial Tyranny can National Bigotry (if I may call it so) be finally followed back to a Jewish source.

The Great Question

"The great question, however, is whether the Jews are conscious or unconscious ones, but please do not think that I wish to exonerate them on that account . . . A conscious evildoer has my respect, for he knows at least what is good; an unconscious one—well, he needs the charity of Christ—a charity which is not mine — to be forgiven for not knowing what he is doing. But there is in my firm conviction not the slightest doubt that these revolutionary Jews do not know what they are doing; that they are more unconscious sinners than voluntary evildoers.

"I am glad this is not an original observation of mine, but that you yourself have a strong foreboding about the Jews being the victims of their own theories and principles. On page 39 of your pamphlet you write: 'It may be that the Jews have always been instrumental in bringing about the events that they most heartily disapprove of; that maybe is the curse of the Wandering Jew.' If I had not the honour, as well as the pleasure, of knowing you personally, if I were not strongly aware of your passionate desire for light and your intense loathing of unfairness, this sentence, and this sentence alone, which tells the truth, will absolve you in my

eyes from the odious charge of being a vulgar anti-Semite.

Intense Idealism

"No, you are not vulgar, you are a very enlightened critic of our Race. For there is an anti-Semitism, I hope and trust, which does the Jews more justice than any blind philo-Semitism, than does that merely sentimental 'Let-them-all-come Liberalism,' which in itself is nothing but the Semitic Ideology over again. And thus you can be just to the Jews, without being 'romantic' about them.

"You have noticed with alarm that the Jewish elements provide the driving forces for both Communism and capitalism for the material as well as the spiritual ruin of this world.

"But then you have at the same time the profound suspicion that the reason for all this extraordinary behaviour may be the intense Idealism of the Jew. In this you are perfectly right . . . From Moses to Marx, from Isaiah to Eisner, in practice and in theory, in idealism and in materialism, in philosophy and in politics, they are today what they have always been; passionately devoted to their aims and to their purposes, and ready, nay, eager, to shed their last drop of blood for the realisation of their visions.

" 'But these visions are all wrong,' you will reply . . . 'Look where you have led the world to. Think, that they have now had a fair trial of 3,000 years' standing. How much longer are you going to recommend them to us and to inflict them upon us? And how do you propose to get us out of the morass into which you have launched us, if you do not change the path upon which you have led the world so disastrously astray?'

World Seducers

"To this question I have only one answer to give, and it is this: 'You are right.' This reproach of yours, which—I feel it for certain—is at the bottom of your anti-Semitism, is only too well justified, and upon this common ground I am quite willing to shake hands with you and defend you against any accusation of promoting Race Hatred: If you are an anti-Semite, I, the Semite, am an anti-Semite, too, and a much more fervent one than even you are . . . We (Jews) have erred, my friend, we have most grievously erred. And if there was truth in our error 3,000, 2,000, nay, 100 years ago, there is now nothing but falseness and madness, a madness that will produce an even greater misery and an even wider anarchy, I confess it to you, openly and sincerely, and with a sorrow, whose depth and pain an ancient Psalmist, and only he, could moan into this burning universe of ours . . . We who have posed as the saviours of the world, we who have even boasted of having given it 'the' Saviour, we are today nothing else but the world's seducers, its destroyers, its incendiaries,

its executioners . . . We who have promised to lead you to a new Heaven; we have finally succeeded in landing you in a new Hell . . . There has been no progress, least of all moral progress . . . And it is just our morality, which has prohibited all real progress, and—what is worse—which even stands in the way of every future and natural reconstruction in this ruined world of ours . . . I look at this world, and I shudder at its ghastliness; I shudder all the more as I know the spiritual authors of all this ghastliness . . .

Jewish Exodus

"But its authors themselves, unconscious in this as in all they are doing, know nothing yet of this startling revelation. **While Europe is aflame, while its victims scream, while its dogs howl in the conflagration, and while its very smoke descends in darker and even darker shades upon our Continent, the Jews, or at least that part of them and by no means the most unworthy ones, endeavour to escape from the burning building, and wish to retire from Europe into Asia, from the sombre scene of our disaster into the sunny corner of their Palestine. Their eyes are closed to the miseries, (their ears are deaf to the meanings, their heart is hardened to the anarchy of Europe; they only feel their own sorrows, they only bewail their own fate, they only sigh under their own burdens. . .**"



Mr. HUXLEY

"Science, Liberty, and Peace"

By Aldous Huxley.

The central theme of this important book by a great writer and thinker is to show how every increase in technological development has been exploited to concentrate increased power into the hands of a small minority of power lusters. Huxley clearly postulates the basic problem confronting modern industrial civilisation.

Price 5/8d, post free, from *New Times Ltd.*, Box 1226L., G.P.O., Melbourne.

Furniture News...!

Beautiful 4-piece and 5-piece Bedroom Suites, featuring large three-door lady's robe, fitted if desired; gent's robe, fitted with 3 drawers or shelves; a choice of several attractive dressing tables; vanity stool optional; and a double or two single beds, complete with fittings.

Suites, polished any colour, are available for immediate delivery direct from our factory, at prices ranging from £49/10/ to £62.

Inspection invited at any time.

*Makers and Retailers
of Quality Furniture*

Paton Furniture Pty. Ltd.

8 STANLEY TERRACE,
SURREY HILLS. WP7191.

NZ. RAILWAYS

A few months ago I was travelling by express rail from Christchurch to Lyttelton. Having bought the evening paper, I got seated in an antiquated carriage and became absorbed in the news of the day. Suddenly the train entered the tunnel and the light became so faint that, even with the aid of spectacles, I was quite unable to read the paper. There was just sufficient light to enable me to note that the carriage was lit with a gas system at least 60 years old.

Once upon a time we had a privately owned railway in New Zealand: The Wellington-Manawatu Railway Co. Ltd. The company's line extended from Wellington to Longburn, a distance of 84 miles. From memory, the company paid an annual 12% dividend, notwithstanding the fact that it was the first line to adopt Westinghouse brakes, electric lights, dining cars supplying morning and afternoon teas, to say nothing of on excellent dinner. Newsmen, fruit and confectionery men, topped off with the finest carriages and engines in the Dominion.

About forty years ago the Government purchased this railway and from that day it deteriorated to the standard of other State undertakings, and I think it would be fair to say that it is not as up to date today as when acquired, and it is now part of the railway system which shows a loss of hundreds of thousands of pounds a year, which the taxpayer makes good. Today our railways are nothing but a derelict system, which beggars description, except as a gigantic example of State ownership.

—F. WHILEY, Christchurch, writing in *The N.Z. Social Creditor*, Aug. '48.

Sinister Influences

The decade just passed has seen great and radical changes in the way of living and in the economic structure of the world and indeed it does not seem certain that another war of still greater magnitude is not ominously looming with consequences that would be unpredictable. Could we, for instance, imagine a British Commonwealth and an American Republic dominated by a Communistic junta, and would it then be possible to "Forecast and plan in business"? And even if we were again victorious, would the chaotic aftermath influences by a far greater and more virulent leftist tyranny allow us to recover our former equilibrium? Look back at the Russian regime since 1929 and shudder at the answer. And yet either of these things "can happen here" while UNCHECKED SINISTER INFLUENCES are pushing us perilously near the abyss.

—H. G. MAGAARD, *Ryde's Journal*, Oct. 1948.

D.S.C.M. WOMEN'S GROUP

(VIC)

Now Meets on

THE THIRD THURSDAY

of Every Month.

All interested are invited.

"New Times," Nov. 26, 1948 — Page 9

Paris Riots

Sinister Moves

But many observers believe the latest rioting is illustrative of something larger and more sinister than a tendency among a Paris mob to "have a go" at the police.

As incidents in the coal strike showed, attempts are being made to create an atmosphere of public tension, in which police and security guards can be provoked into these displays of rather brutal efficiency.

A great outcry is then made by the Communist Press against the "assassins" of the Ministry of the Interior.

The attempted exploitation of yesterday's rioting by Communist papers led to confiscation of the editions.

—The Age (Melb.), Nov. 13.

This is the old revolutionary technique of the Jewish secret societies. The Communists are apt pupils. —(Ed. N.T.)

All Interesting Admission

In the meantime the Zionists do not cease to manifest their discontent with the present frontiers of their "State." Mr. Joseph Sprinzak, the chairman of the Zionist Executive Council, recently expressed the hope that Jerusalem would remain the "true capital" of Israel, and he was followed by Mr. Moses Shertok, who declared: "We cannot now be satisfied with the frontiers proposed at Lake Success nine months ago." An interesting admission by the Jewish Chronicle shows how near the Arabs were to success in their opening campaign of the war. During the first seven months of the fighting, it declares:

"The one country that helped the Jews practically and, in fact, enabled Israel to hold its own on the battlefield, was Czechoslovakia—and not necessarily the Communist element there. It is no longer any secret. Had the Jews not received these Czech arms, they would have gone down, in all probability fighting to the last, but defeated none the less."

The Americans, it continues, "knew of this traffic; so did the Russians." But the Americans now think that the Zionists are strong enough, while the Russians will in future only permit Zionist recruitment on condition that a high proportion of it is Communist. In other words, the infiltration of Soviet agents is to be greatly increased. It is now clear that Czechoslovakia is being made the centre from which Soviet aid from all over the territories it controls is sent to the Jews. Thus Mrs. Golda Meyerson, the Israeli Minister to Moscow, spent a few days in Prague before taking up her post.

—The Tablet (Eng.), Sept. 11.

"SOCIAL CREDIT AND CATHOLICISM"

By George-Henri Levesque, O.P., Professor of Economics, Laval and Montreal Universities, Dominican House of Studies, Ottawa.

Introduction by Eric D. Butler.

Price 1/1 (post free). Order now from: New Times Ltd., Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne.

Selected Advertising Accepted

In view of the increased size of *The New Times*, the Board of Directors has decided to make a limited amount of space available to selected advertising. Advertising not in keeping with the policy of the paper will not be accepted.

We point out to prospective advertisers that, although the circulation of *The New Times* is not large compared with, say, the daily Press, it has a very special type of reader for whom it caters. For example, an increasing number of business men are taking *The New Times* in order that they can keep themselves well informed on current events.

Our representative will call on anyone considering taking advantage of our offer to make limited space available for advertising.

Our rate for casual advertising (single insertion) is 4/ per column inch, payable in advance.

Our rates per column inch for contract advertising (monthly a/c) are as follow:

Two to twelve insertions (not necessarily consecutive): Less than five col-ins. per insertion, 3/9. Five to ten col-ins. per insertion, 3/6. More than ten col-ins. per insertion, 3/3.

Thirteen consecutive insertions: Less than five col-ins. per insertion, 3/-. Five to ten col-ins. per insertion, 2/9. More than ten col-ins. per insertion, 2/6.

Twenty-six consecutive insertions: Less than five col-ins. per insertion, 2/9. Five to ten col-ins. per insertion, 2/6. More than ten col-ins. per insertion, 2/3.

Fifty-two consecutive insertions: Less than five col-ins. per insertion, 2/6. Five to ten col-ins. per insertion, 2/3. More than ten col-ins. per insertion, 2/.

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 are: —*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.

You MUST Have This Book!

"The International Jew"

(By Eric D. Butler)

This comprehensive commentary on "The Protocols" must be in the hands of every person who wants to understand the relationship of the "Jewish Problem" to the growing world crisis.

The present demand for this book indicates that it will become a "best seller." Get YOUR copy NOW.

Price 2/8 (post free), from New Times Ltd., Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne.



"WITHOUT ASCENDING THE MOUNTAIN"

By ELYNE MITCHELL From "SOIL AND CIVILISATION"

"He who rules the mountain rules the river" is a truth that remained undiscovered by the early riparian civilisations and is mainly unheeded now, just as another Asiatic proverb—"Without ascending the mountain you cannot judge the height of heaven"—would be heard by few ears today among a materialistic people demanding secure comfort from the State.

Rivers in roaring flood come down from the mountains that man has exploited; hills under natural timber, unburnt and never overgrazed, provide the main catchment for clear, life-giving streams. Thus the condition of the mountains is reflected in the life of the men in the valleys below and far out on the irrigated plains—is reflected in a civilisation's creative ability. Mirrored also in the creative power of a civilisation is whether or not a sufficient leavening of the people "ascend the mountain" seeking the measurement of heaven, because a civilisation eventually loses its reason for continuance if its purpose is fulfilled within itself - if there is no search for transcendent or essential meaning in temporal life. And, to receive eternal life, man must "be born of water and spirit."

Watersheds Devastated

Many watersheds of the world have been devastated by the cutting of timber for fuel or building material, by agricultural and pastoral misuse, by the demands of mines or factories, by wanton fire. Not only the watersheds of the Yangtze Kiang and the Hwang Ho, the Tigris, the Euphrates, and the Tiber have been ruined by the "withering blight" of civilisation, but the catchment areas of the great rivers of North America, of Australia, and of South Africa. Many of these rivers flood huge areas, some of them drawing millions of people and animals, ruining or carrying away homes, threatening cities, doing immeasurable damage to land, fencing, crops; filling harbours and covering rich soil with rocks and debris from the deforested hills. "He who rules the mountain rules the river."

Importance of Watersheds

The forested mountains, snow-lease country where few people live during the winter, and the lower foothills above the homesteads, perhaps cut by gullies and with bare subsoil showing through a thin covering of grass, have as much—and perhaps more—meaning to the whole country as the rich river flats and the

valley widening into irrigated plains, where the larger populations are gathered. In controlling the river the higher areas are of special importance; it is urgent that this should be deeply realised by all the people of the region, and that the dwellers below the mountains and the men of the snow-leases should understand their responsibility. That the mountain slopes should be fully protected by forest and grass and undergrowth is essential for the even flow of a river. An eroded catchment—bare, desiccated hills or burnt-out forests—means a fluctuating stream, with excessive floods at the time of heavy rains and the melting of the snows, and a very small flow during the dry periods of the year.

The Forest Floor

Forest cover breaks the beat of the rain that would otherwise clog the soil pores; and the leaves and sticks and the decomposing mould of the forest retain the rain as it falls so that there is little run-off before the water is absorbed in the soil itself. A soil particle does not actually take up water; the water drops cling to its surface. But organic material is like a sponge.

It is of the utmost importance that forestland should not be burnt and that what timber is cut should be replanted or cut lightly and protected from stock so that it can regenerate itself. Deforestation means a shortage of water in the dry months and tremendous wastage of the energy of the stream during flood, wastage of the life-giving water that is potential energy for the minds and bodies of men, could it be held in the soil to make green many acres of grass in the summer-time.

Natural Reservoir

Men can build huge reservoirs to store water against the summer; but before they destroyed the vegetation and soil balance of the mountains, the water was stored there, at the sources of the rivers, to flow more evenly throughout the seasons. Nor was there the silt in the streams, which now fill up dams and irrigation channels and constantly raises the riverbeds so that floods occur more easily and banks and levees have to be

built. Ancient Antioch is covered, sometimes as deeply as 28 feet, with silt carried by the Orontes River from the desiccated mountains. It is the frequent small deposits of silt left by normal floods, which have made up the alluvial lands—the most fertile soil of the world. But silt coming down from the man-accelerated erosion in the hills rarely makes the good agricultural land such as is annually being increased at the mouth of the Yangtze Kiang, because from most eroded hills come huge quantities of subsoil that remain infertile for many years until weathering, the soil organisms, and the first green plants can build up the humus.

Failure to Understand

Silt can bring ruin to hydroelectric schemes—silt due to mountain fires. The electricity supply of large cities might fail as the soil coming down from the hills silted up the weirs. The terror of floods rolling through streets and houses may seem like fate or the will of God, and they are fate and the will of God inasmuch as they are the direct results of the sin of failure to understand the natural laws by which man may continue to inhabit this earth.

Unless we are fatalistically going to allow the cycles of fire, overgrazing, flood and aridity to continue unchecked all through the mountains—laying up for ourselves a future of such catastrophes as have happened in the Mississippi Valley, or in Shantung caused by the Hwang Ho, China's Yellow River—we must see to it that the community, particularly the people of the upland areas, understand the imperative necessity for the regeneration of the natural forests of the catchment areas.

State of Balance

The mountain country should remain in a state as close to the original natural balance as it is possible for us to achieve. We have already travelled far along the destructive course of changing the face of the country and killing most of the natural influences of the land itself. But we could try, before it is too late, to help some of the Australian soil to rebuild its own natural covering; try to absorb the influences of this earth, to accept them, and to become the vital people that the land could make us.

Unspoiled forest in the catchment area is essential for the water supply of farms and cities alike, for the building up of a permanent culture. The unspoiled solitude of the mountains has, for centuries, provided the places where men could ascend to "judge the height of heaven."