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SIXPENCE WEEKLY

THE SOCIAL SERVICE RACKET

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

In a recent speech on Social Services, the Federal Minister for Health, Senator McKenna, said that in the present industrial civilization no individual could afford to be sick, and that it was therefore the responsibility of the Federal Government to ensure that everyone is kept healthy. Senator McKenna's remarks disclose beyond all argument the totalitarian objective of the various Social Service schemes being introduced from Canberra.

It is obvious that the individual's health is no longer his own private business. As all individual policies are subordinated more and more to the overriding policies of the totalitarian planners, it is not surprising that the totalitarians take a keen interest in the health of those whom they regard as their slaves. The slaves must be kept fit in order that they can help along the policy of "full employment" to which all the party bosses have agreed. What Lord Beveridge, former Director of the Socialist London School of Economics, and framer of the totalitarian Beveridge Social Service Plan, termed "positive health" must be insisted on.

Social Service Bribes

If the present Labour Government is returned at the next Federal elections, which is very probable, it will be largely because of the Social Service bribes being offered to the electors. It is unfortunately true that many electors still do not realise that the bribes are really baits camouflaging totalitarian hooks. No totalitarian regime has ever been introduced as the result of electors voting for candidates who openly admitted that they stood for tyranny. It is essential that the electors be persuaded to support policies, which, while allegedly designed to help the individual, really have as their objective centralised control of all the individual's activities.

Although Liberal and Country Party leaders are continually saying that they are determined to destroy Socialism, they enthusiastically support every major Socialist policy. No doubt they are influenced to a great extent by the skilful propaganda in favour of totalitarian policies being continually disseminated by all the modern centralised propaganda instruments, such as the Press and the radio. As far back as May 18, 1945, the Melbourne "Herald" published a featured article which stated, "Australia is going to have a National Medical Service, free to every citizen who needs medical attention, whether it wants it or not." In other words, the policy of a

National Medical Service had been decided upon by the totalitarian planners at Canberra, and the views of the electors were not even considered.

Mr. Menzies

In the course of his speech, in which he said that no individual could now afford to be ill, Senator McKenna also said that, prior to the Constitutional amendment carried at the 1946 Referendum, it was very doubtful whether the Federal Government had the constitutional power to introduce the comprehensive National Health Scheme it was now engaged upon. It will be recalled that the 1946 Constitutional amendment was carried because Mr. Menzies, as leader of the Liberal Party, urged a Yes vote. We have little doubt that had Mr. Menzies won the 1946 Federal elections his Government would have been introducing a similar Socialist National Health Scheme to that being introduced by the Chifley Government.

The most discouraging aspect of the introduction of the various Government Social Service schemes is the general lack of vigorous opposition. Even allowing for the effect of propaganda, surely a majority of electors can see that, over a period, they cannot gain any genuine benefits from the schemes. So-called free medicine is not free at all; it is paid for by money taken compulsorily from the individual by taxation. As all Social Service schemes have to be administered by an increasing army of officials, it is obvious that the individual cannot expect to get all his money back in so-called benefits. And, even more important, the various schemes permit the totalitarian plotters to use the army of officials to control more and more the individual's life.

German Example

It must be always - remembered that Hitler come to power in a society which had succumbed to the Social Service racket. In a brilliant survey of the history of Social Service Schemes, published in the *Christian Science Monitor* of Feb-

ruary 9, 1946, the following, statements were made: "The third and most insidious danger is the political one The increasing cost of the systems is a matter of record, but the growth in the political importance of the administrative organisation has gone almost unnoticed in most countries until a crisis. Such an emergency occurred in Germany in 1933. One of the first things the Nazis did after they took over the reins of government was to seize control of the health insurance funds and to convert the offices into governmental agencies to aid in regimenting the people." Hitler had most of his foundation work done for him by previous Governments, all calling themselves "democratic."

(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.

WHITHER.

THE SOCIAL SERVICE RACKET

(Continued from page 1)

Beveridge Report

Anyone who doubts that the various Social Service schemes are an important part of the plan to create the complete Monopoly State should examine these schemes in detail. After financial and economic policies have been used to destroy the individual's independence, he is then offered a mediocre standard of living if he will submit to control. In the Beveridge Report, which was considered of such importance during the war that it was broadcast all over the world in various languages, specific provision is made for the control of the individual who has become unemployed. The Report states: "Men and women in receipt of unemployment benefit (that is, in receipt of some of their own money originally taken from them by taxation) cannot be allowed to hold out indefinitely for work of the type to which they are used or in their present places of residence . . ." It is rather significant that this and similar statements in the complete Beveridge Report were not published in the edition circulated for the public.

The Social Service legislation being introduced by the Chifley Government, and which we believe Mr. Menzies would carry on if he were given the opportunity, is modelled upon the doctrines of Beveridge and other London School of Economics totalitarians. Professor Giblin, who has for many years been an economic adviser to all Governments at Canberra, said during the war years that "we (presumably he and his fellow-planners) shall require a power to direct labour to certain things with the penalty of being unemployed without receiving unemployment benefits on refusal." Under the National Health Service the planners will be able to use the individual's health — or lack of health — as a further pretext for strengthening their control of him. The Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act, passed early in 1944, already gives the bureaucracy power to conscript the individual. However, it is no doubt considered that further powers are required. The individual must not be permitted any avenue of escape.

Pattern of Monopoly

Behind the stream of legislation being passed by all Governments in Australia, both Federal and State, Labour and non-Labour, a pattern of monopoly is rapidly becoming clearer to all those who have not been completely bemused by propaganda which insists that we are becoming more progressive. Practically all political thinking is dominated by an evil collectivist philosophy. State Governments, like the Victorian Liberal Government, compete with the Socialists in introducing more and bigger State planning. The individual has less real control of his own policies than he had a hundred years ago. He certainly has a political vote, but this is manipulated by power-lusters to further his destruction.

The Answer

What is the answer to the growing challenge of the Monopoly State and its sponsors? Fundamentally, the issue is whether all individuals can be made responsible for their policies or not. In the economic sphere there is still a degree of responsibility. The individual consumer using his money vote accepts personal responsibility for the results obtained from his voting. The businessman's profit dictates whether he is serving the requirements of the consumers. But in the political sphere the individual elector is not held personally responsible for his political vote. Informed minorities who are aware of the menace of Social Service schemes and other totalitarian planning are at the mercy of uninformed majorities. If there are any genuine anti-collectivists amongst the Liberal and Country Parties, instead of competing with the "Labour-Socialists in offering bribes to the electors, they should be insisting that those electors who vote for the successful Government at the next Federal elections should pay for all the financial losses incurred by that Government. Why should a minority of say, 45%, be made responsible for a disastrous policy sanctioned by 55%? ? As the political vote is the only instrument through which the electors can at present defeat the totalitarians, it seems essential that the voting system must be reformed in order that all individuals can be held personally responsible for their votes. This means an open and recorded vote instead of a secret, anonymous vote. Electors who insist that there are great virtues in the anonymous vote, and that few electors would tolerate the abolition of secret voting, have been answered by the fact that on bank nationalisation and other important issues, hundreds of thousands of electors have virtually recorded an open vote by signing petitions to members of Parliament and to the Governor-General. If political voting is not going to be made responsible, how can the growing totalitarian drive be halted?

The Zionists And Soviet Europe

The Zionists' intimate connections with Soviet-controlled Eastern Europe have been emphasised in more than one way during the past two weeks. Prague Radio, on September 18, launched a particularly venomous attack upon the dead Count, saying that "with the best possible will, we could not say many good things about Count Bernadotte," and going on to say that "there was hardly any person in Israel so hated" as he. "The urchins of Tel-Aviv," it continued,

"used to throw stones at his white Dakota. Mothers used to call their disobedient boys Bernadotte. Whenever the Swedish Count passed through the streets of Tel-Aviv or Haifa, the people deliberately turned away their heads. They probably knew why they did so. It is not our business to blame them. . . ."

Two days later Mr. Moshe Shertok, the Israeli Foreign Minister, in the course of an interview on the Prague Radio, replied, when asked what his Government would do to bring the cold war in Palestine to an end:

"We shall first mobilise all our forces in the international field to inform world opinion correctly and truthfully about the real situation in the so-called Palestine problem. We know that we shall find understanding in all democratic and peace-loving countries. Besides, we are consolidating our State politically, economically, and militarily. We must be ready for all eventualities. And I am not afraid to say that we shall be ready."

Earlier in the interview Mr. Shertok underlined even more firmly the value of Czech support to the Zionists. "First of all," he said,

"and I would like to stress this particularly, the people of Israel and their political leaders can never forget what they owe to Czechoslovakia for her direct assistance in the reconstruction and defence of our State."

In this connection, too, it is interesting to note that Friedmann Yellin, the head of the Stern Gang, is reported to have fled to Eastern Europe. For the past three years at least the Central Asiatic State University in Tashkent has been training Communists as Soviet agents, and among their number have been many from Palestine. The courses of the Palestine department are organised by Olga Wilenska, the sister of Esther Wilenska, who is a member of the Politbureau of the Palestine Communist Party, and wife of Meyer Wilner, another of its most prominent leaders.

—*The Tablet*, Eng., Oct. 2.

Abolish States

National decentralisation could best be achieved by abolishing the States and creating in their place provinces each with its predominating community interests, said Mr. R. J. Joseph, chief president of the ANA, last night.

Speaking at the Sale branch annual smoke social. Mr. Joseph said that elected representatives from the provinces would then constitute the Federal Parliament, but the antiquated Federal Constitution would have to be changed before decentralisation could be planned nationally.

In this atomic age Australia should not leave her population and major industries vulnerable to attack by concentrating them in a few cities.

—*The Argus*, Melb., Dec. 16.

This gentleman has been a persistent advocate of centralised control of policy at Canberra with delegated authority to provinces. He is quite possibly a member of the Socialist (Labour) Party, and uses the A.N.A. platform to put across their propaganda. Needless to say, the policy suggested will lead to greater concentration of power, with all the consequent evils of bureaucratic and remote control. The immediate need in Australia is the creation of more Sovereign States to break the grip of the big cities.

NOTES ON THE NEWS

Legislation to make it an offence for unions to collect political levies or to require members to divulge their political affiliations is advocated by Mr. Lang, M.H.R. There is only one word, which adequately describes compulsory political levies and that is gangsterism. Mr. Lang's proposal to make such practices illegal would protect the individual and should be strongly supported. Most laws, even if not so intended, have the effect of taking power away from the individual and placing it in the hands of some executive or planner who invariably abuses the power. In these circumstances a law to curb power-drunk union officials should be very welcome.

Musical Mystery

Three months ago the State Government voted a grant of £15,000 towards the establishment of a State orchestra. The mystery is that nobody knows what has happened to the grant or the plan except perhaps the A.B.C. monopoly. Musicians now fear that the State Orchestra scheme will give the A.B.C. a monopoly of the services of first-class musicians. Past experience of State or Federal activities should have confirmed that fear, before they clamoured for the State to meddle with music or concert entertainment.

Private enterprise has in the past provided the people music in proportion to the money votes received from the public. That is as it should be.

The Socialisation of music is as dangerous as any other form of the disease. Taxing the people in advance to provide them with music is just as dangerous as taxing them in advance for their medicine. One would have expected musicians to resist, not assist, State interference with music.

Sales Tax Slug

A proposal by Mr. L. Hartnett to manufacture a low-priced aluminium car of French design is said to have the sympathy of Mr. Chifley, who has asked his overseas representatives to examine the proposal. Here we note a professed interest in the low-income group, especially the workers. But what do we find Mr. Chifley doing in fact. He acts deliberately to make it difficult for workers to own cars by the imposition of a Sales Tax.

The new Holden car is loaded with a sales tax charge of £58/10/, which is estimated will rob the people of £1,170,000 per annum on an expected yearly output of 20,000 cars. Thus it is clear that Mr. Chifley's professed sympathy for low-income groups to own motorcars is mere eyewash.

In case anyone reading this may say, "Oh, well, cars are a luxury anyway," it is well to recall that in addition to loading thousands of everyday items the Chifley Government even taxes certain foodstuffs, including invalid's foods such as jellies, &c. The same results, by the way, could be expected from a Liberal Government.

Farmers' Failings

Evidence of the spread of Socialist bacteria and the failure of farmers to control their organisations is seen in the following report from the Victorian

Tinplate Trade

Another breakdown in our tinplate supplies threatens the canning industry. This matter is now receiving the attention of the Department of Supply and Development. No wonder supplies are difficult. This Department should have retired from the field by now, but apparently it is still with us to cause chaos and dislocation. Private initiative and enterprise can be relied on to handle this matter.

As a matter of fact it is most undesirable that politicians and their departments have anything to do with such matters in peacetime. Because of their political party bias, they tend to extend preferences to countries with a similar political ideology, which in turn could easily cause international friction. Let boards and politicians stand aside so that the people can get on with the job.

—O.B.H.

Dairy Farmers' Association, which states "that further protests will be made at the action of the Victorian Government in granting new licences for more butter factories." It will be clear that more butter factories would stimulate competition for the farmers' produce. From this it is rather strange if farmers sanctioned this protest. It is far more likely that the executive of this body, at the behest of the major butter factories, took this action of their own accord.

In reply to a deputation on this matter to the Government, Mr. McDonald correctly replied as follows: "In the past there had been too many controls on people wishing to begin new enterprises." It is to be hoped that Mr. McDonald applies this point of view to all other such requests. Also, that dairymen and other primary producers take a firm hold of the executives of their organisations.

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IMPORTANT FIGURES

We publish below the price index figures from the Commonwealth Statistician's "Monthly Review of Business Statistics" for July 1948. They show percentage-increased prices from June 1947 to June 1948. We suggest readers keep them on record. During the above period the Federal Government had control of prices.

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX OF BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS

Commodity	Percent. increase
Metals and coal	16.3
Textiles	60.1
Rubber and hides	14.8
Foodstuffs and tobacco	10.3
Oils, fats and waxes	14.5
Chemicals	8.5
Building materials	5.1
All groups	13.1

RETAIL PRICE INDEX

Commodity	Percent. increase
Food and groceries	14.7
Clothing	12.1
Miscellaneous	5.4

PRIMARY PRODUCTION PRICE INDEX

Industry	Percent. increase
Agriculture	14.0
Pastoral	56.7
Mining other than gold	25.2
Farmyard and dairying	14.7
All farming	34.7
All groups	32.8

WHEN IS EXCHANGE NO ROBBERY?

By FOOTLE

I wish I were like dear old Pongo Pyke. Pongo never seems to be daunted by problems; in fact he never seems to notice their existence—the ones I bump up against, anyhow. Pongo is a respected member of a board of directors; he is listened to by his co-directors as attentively as if he were William Winter or the Quiz Kids, or someone really important. Of course I never appeal to him unless I have to because he makes it plain that his opinion of me is even lower than my own of myself.

But I felt I should go mad unless someone got this international exchange business disentangled for me. There was a time when I thought I understood it. It was represented to me as a sort of equation or alligation or variant—blest if I can think of the proper name—I never can. But let me explain. You take a common denominator, which we may call a mess of pottage. This, of course, varies according to nationality. With some it would be Wiener Schnitzel; with others, hominy or tripe or hari-kiri and so on. You get the idea, doubtless. The cost of this is expressed as a vulgar fraction of the national cost of living, and the said vulgar fraction is constant in all countries of similar culture. Now if you find that by changing your money (subject to permit) and descending upon some foreign country (subject to visas) you are now in a position to command two messes of pottage instead of one, then your money is worth twice as much abroad as it is at home. Hence the exchange rate is in the ratio of two to one. So far, so good; we are mercifully not concerned with the reason for the disparity.

Of course, you would naturally expect certain intricacies; certain ingenious people, who in happier circumstances might have become inventors, have a way of finding out where to buy certain commodities from one country for the sole purpose of selling them to another so as to cash in on some defect in the ex-

change rate. So far my comprehension has not been unduly strained. But I don't get this dollar business at all, and I felt I had to refer to Pongo Pyke.

I unfolded my conception as above outlined. "Is that the right wheeze?" I asked.

"In a sort of amateur way, yes!" he conceded. "What's bothering you?"

"Well, I understand that a pound of prime steak costs a dollar in America."

"Why worry? No one here buys American steak."

"And," I persisted, "my Australian pound will buy about 15 pounds of similar steak here."

"But you're here," Pongo pointed out, "not there."

Which was quite an admission for Pongo, as usually, according to him I am neither here nor there. "What I'm getting at," I continued, "is that if other things were in proportion my Australian pound should be worth 15 dollars."

"Fifteen d . . ." Pongo goggled. "Now, look here, my dear chap! You simply don't understand."

"I know I don't," I admitted. "I said it first."

He continued to elucidate. "Everything is higher in America."

"Dash it!" I complained, "don't pinch all my lines!"

Pongo looked at me severely. "All I'm saying is that everything is in proportion in America. I've no doubt it's quite all right to spend a dollar on a pound of beef unless you're a vegetarian."

"I'm not concerned with Americans," I replied wearily, "I'm talking about Australians buying in America."

"They're not allowed to, so what are you worrying about?"

"Listen!" I commanded with great intensity, "what — happens — to — this — marvelously conceived — automatic — adjustment — of the exchange rate?"

"Who said it was automatic?"

"Isn't it?" I asked weakly.

"Course not!" he snorted.

"You mean," I gasped, "that some blighter takes a poke at it like the village idiot trying to get fine weather by altering the barometer?"

"It is pegged, not poked—and by experts, not village idiots." I'll admit I was almost beaten. I can't abide experts. But there was a ray of hope.

"Know what I'd do?" I asked triumphantly.

"Something worse than the atomic bomb, I'll bet"

"I'd shove the Australian exchange rate up to billyo and let in oodles of petrol and cars and gadgets. Then I'd shove the rate the other way and flood the world with primary produce. Why,"

I said, warming to the idea, "worked scientifically this would enable every Australian to get a home and a car or a trip round the world for practically nothing."

Pongo looked up from his finance column with the briefest of comments. "Ever heard of Bretton Woods?" he inquired.

Darn! There's always something.

BIG COUNTRY CAMPAIGN PLANNED

All Victorian country readers will be interested to know that Mr. Eric Butler is planning a big country campaign designed to cover most of Victoria before the Federal elections this year. In order that this campaign be carried through to success it is imperative that all country supporters co-operate fully.

All those willing to help arrange meetings in their centres are requested to contact Mr. Butler immediately in order that all arrangements can be made well in advance. It is anticipated that both Mr. Butler and Mr. John Weller will be participating in the country campaign.

The major purposes of the country campaign will be to make clear to as many electors as possible the basic issues which electors must face up to before the next Federal elections; to increase the number of "New Times" subscribers; to sell as much educational literature as possible; and wherever possible to assist in the creation of Voters' Policy Associations similar to those already operating in some centres.

Every "New Times" reader in Victoria can do something to make the proposed country campaign an outstanding success.

Successful Country Meetings

On December 9 and December 10 Mr. Eric Butler addressed successful meetings at Red Cliffs (V.) and Berri (S.A.). Mr. Butler was visiting Red Cliffs and Mildura in connection with League of Rights activities for the coming year.

The Sunraysia Daily published an excellent report of Mr. Butler's Red Cliffs address, featuring in particular his comments on the Zionist-Communist

Twelve new direct subscribers to "The New Times" were obtained at the above meetings and a quantity of literature sold.

SOCIAL CREDIT SECRETARIAT

(Lectures and Studies Section)
Entries for the Associate Examination to be held in March 1949 close at the end of December.

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PRIVATE v. PUBLIC TRANSPORT

By FRANK C. BROWNE,
From "The Public Be Damned!"

In Sydney, up to 1931, omnibus services were in the hands of private enterprise. The Sydney bus service at that time compared more than favourably with bus services anywhere in the world.

A company called the Comfort Coach Company ran many of the lines. This company had the most modern equipment then available, its charges compared with the Government-owned trams, and it made a profit, after paying large amounts in State and Federal income tax.

Let us see what that means. It means that not only did this group of wicked capitalists transport the public from place to place, but it did it without charge to the public purse. The only cost to the public for riding in these buses was the few pence that the individual traveller paid for his or her ticket.

They were never called upon to finance a deficit or pay higher taxes because the buses couldn't pay. And on top of that, the taxes that the bus lines paid did something towards reducing the colossal sums paid by the public to finance Government-owned businesses.

From the public viewpoint the set-up appears perfect. But a Socialist (excuse please, Labour) Government was elected. It drove the bus lines out of business by legislation. This was during the depression. Then it opened up its own bus services. No longer was the traveller finished with his bus fare when he handed his few pence to the conductor. Now, he was a shareholder, and, like any other shareholder, he had to pay for any losses incurred in running the business. Naturally, with Government ownership, losses did occur and, with one or two isolated years of breaking even, the Sydney buses have cost the public money year after year.

But what does that matter, if you are getting service? Let's have a look at the

Conquest By Dollars

The following figures (cabled from Washington) show how America is getting control of the policies of other nations by surrounding herself with debtor States suppliant to her will:

United States investments, loans, and credits abroad reached a record total of \$28,800 million (£A9,005,065,240) in 1947.

This was an increase of \$8,110 million (£A2,535,801,414) on the previous year.

Government loans and credits accounted for \$7,000 million (£A2,188,731,183) of the increase.

Government credits made available abroad in 1947 included:

- \$2,850 million (£A891, 126,274) to Britain.

- \$3,100 million (£A969, 295,238) for the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

- \$800 million (£250,140,706) for the Export and Import Bank.

Private U.S. investors raised foreign holdings by \$1,110 million (£A347, 070, 230)—the largest increase since 1928. *The New Era*, Nov. 26.

"New Times," Jan. 7, 1949 — Page 5

service on a fairly representative line, the Watson's Bay route, serving an area in which the population has increased threefold since private enterprise was driven out in 1932. This route in 1931 was serviced by buses every 10 minutes, and the time from terminus to terminus was 40 minutes. The bus crews were courteous, clean, and well paid.

After 15 years of Government ownership, the much more populace district has buses every 20 minutes. The running time is now 48 minutes from terminus to terminus, despite the general increase in speed in motor vehicles in the 15 years that have elapsed.

The bus crews are neither clean, courteous, nor well paid. They are generally unshaven, truculent, and poorly paid, poorly clad people, whose urgent desire it is to give the public as little service as possible. They are Government servants, and they just don't care.

And as well as that, they have introduced the old, old public service technique of making things tough for the taxpayer. If a person complains of their discourtesy or negligence he has to face up before an inquiry board and stand up to cross-examination and insult from the secretary of the union. Not unnaturally this discourages people from complaining about the service.

So in return for the inestimable privilege of operating a bus service, the public has bartered its right to service and civility, and shouldered extra burdens in taxes.

The Public Be Damned!

An Excellent Handbook for All
Anti-Socialists.

By FRANK C. BROWNE

This is one of the most devastating exposures of Socialist enterprise that we have yet seen. Written in a racy style and punctuated with plenty of irony, the author deals with various Socialist enterprises in Australia.

He exposes very effectively the popular myth that electors as shareholders in any socialised undertaking can exercise control of policy.

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U.S. — Israel

Former Chief Rabbi of Berlin, Dr. Leo S. Baeck, is reported in N.Y. "Post" as stating that the centre of "Jewish life and studies" has shifted from Europe to America.

"I would say," he added, "that now there are two centres, Palestine and the U.S., and the currents are strong between them. I cannot see a future for Judaism without Israel, but neither can I see such a future without the U.S." — *The Bulletin*, Dec. 8.

"N.T." Comment: Nor can we.

Liberal — Socialism

By RAY PARTENIO

From the *Labour Call* (10/12/48) comes still another reminder that our anti-Socialists are not what they profess to be. In an article entitled "Anti-Socialist Government Out-Socialised Socialism," attention is drawn to the North-West Mallee Settlement Areas Act passed by the late composite Government on September 7. This Act is described as one of the "greatest Socialistic measures to grace the Victorian Statute Book."

It is, in fact, an additional proof that our anti-Labourites are merely hypocritical defenders of the open system of society and amazingly practical Socialists.

The Act was passed to enable the re-allocation of areas in the Mallee region. Under the Act, the Board of Land and Works can: —

- (1) Proclaim a certain area a "settlement area" and dispossess the farmer or farmers concerned.
- (2) Award him the compensation it thinks fit, without being obliged to recognise any improvements.
- (3) Proclaim any area Crown land when a farmer refuses to accept the Board's terms and compel him to "get off" by the time the notice period expires.
- (4) Reallocate the land on a perpetual lease basis and force all reallocated farmers to nominally stock their land to its maximum carrying capacity, to reside on their land for at least nine months of the year, and to obey any direction of the Board concerning attempts to stop or mitigate soil erosion.
- (5) Exercise complete power over the re-allocated farmer.

This infamous piece of legislation, which has attracted little attention, is a practical example of what those Governments who "bitterly oppose Socialism" will do to combat it.

It seems that all our Governments are out to give the people (in Cromwell's reported words) "not what they want but what is good for them."

BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

By Sir Philip Gibbs

The theme of this great novel of Sir Philip Gibbs is one of topical interest. It deals with life behind the "Iron Curtain" created, in Europe by the Russians.

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No. 1

THE POLICY OF A PHILOSOPHY

From time to time we are asked to put forward a Social Credit "plan." People who make this request are obviously misinformed concerning the real nature of Social Credit. They envisage Social Crediters as merely another group of reformers who have a Utopian conception of what the world should be like. What they do not understand is that Social Credit is, as Douglas has pointed out time and time again, the policy of a philosophy.

The policy of Monopoly now being imposed upon the peoples of the world under various labels - - Socialism, Communism, Planned Economy, etc — stems from a philosophy which can be best termed totalitarian. This philosophy, which has been strengthened by the materialist jargon emanating from pseudo-scientists over the past 50 years, conceives of human beings as mere raw material to be fitted into the Utopias of the various Planners.

Social Crediters recognise that human beings are more than so many pounds of various chemicals; that they are conscious, purposeful individuals who can only develop to their maximum in an environment in which their free will is allowed the greatest play. Social Credit policies are designed to enable the individual, within the framework of certain clearly defined rules, to make his own way in this world, to produce his own individual Utopia instead of having one imposed upon him.

The fundamental issue confronting humanity goes far beyond mere monetary reform as such. Appropriate adjustments to the financial mechanism will naturally take place in a society in which individuals are consciously working towards the objective of making themselves genuinely free. But society at present is moving in exactly the opposite direction towards complete totalitarianism.

The major task is to get a change of direction away from totalitarianism. This means less government, less taxation, less restrictions and regulations. Every retreat from the policies of totalitarianism means a step in the direction of a Social Credit Society. This is the issue with which we are mainly concerned at present.

Children Of The Sun

Under the heading "Israel's New Jewish Stock," "The Scotsman" for October 20 carried a copyright article by Michael Davidson stating that Israel's soil "is producing a new and surprising Jewish stock—burly, blond, and somewhat oafish. The process is as clearly marked and as novel as the evolution of a new breed of cattle or a new kind of wheat."

If it were not for the upward curve of the nostrils, the writer thinks the fair-haired, blue or brown eyed "Sabras" of

both sexes of the 'teen-aged generation would seem as "Aryan" as any Scandinavians.

He says the phenomenon is unexplained, "though experts are inclined to believe it due to the impact of minerals in the soil on 'unacclimatised European tissues.'" Nearly everyone of the new race of "Jewish" youngsters belong to the youth movement of a political party, and, girls as well as boys, are "generally freethinkers," and regard "most religious prohibitions and practises as outmoded superstition."

—"The Social Crediter," Nov. 6.

"GOOD OLD DAYS"

So people nowadays haven't anything to complain about as regards living conditions? In *All My Yesterdays* the late Ernest Wunderlich wrote thus of the Sydney he settled in in 1885: —

There were no taxes to speak of, and no trade-union tyranny. Living was ridiculously cheap, a lamb 2/6, good table wine 2/6 a gallon, imported beer 2d, and stout 9d. a bottle; honey, 601b. tin, 12/6. Orchards in most suburbs provided fruits fresh from the trees. These orchards have ceased to exist, and today we have to be content with fruit packed when green, which has ripened in cold storage. At the Diner de Paris one could get three courses, with wine and coffee included, for 1/6. There were many restaurants offering good dinners from 6d. to 9d.

Major Jarvis, in his autobiography, *Half a Life*, writes of having a good two-course meal, with unlimited meat, for 6d. in Sydney in 1898. He also says Sydney stevedores then earned nearly £1 a day.

In Moore's *The Story of Australian Art*, mention is made of Melbourne artists in the 'nineties, dining at Fasoli's, where a good dinner, with wine *ad lib* and *cafe noir* cost 1/. At a wine shop in the Royal Arcade a mug of hot-spiced wine was 3d. Tony Kanake's provided steak and eggs and accessories for 6d.

And here's a glimpse of living conditions in Sydney in the 1900's, from a housewife's letter to a Sydney newspaper:

Thirty years ago we paid 7d. per lb. for rump steak, 4d. for loin chops and blade, 3d. for sausages, 3d. for 4lb. of onions or potatoes, 6d. a yard for good prints, 1/6 to 2/6 for voiles. Now material is up to 17/6 a yard. At that time my husband was getting £3/10/ a week, and I was better off than now at £8. We had a large, five-roomed house for 15/ a week, and all to ourselves, too.

These days, in any good middle-class suburb, one can find plenty of houses that are grossly overcrowded, through married children or close relatives being unable to find places of their own. There was nothing like that in the 'nineties, except, perhaps, in the slums. The young clerk, shop assistant, or artisan of those days had a house ready for his bride—there was a wide choice at a reasonable rent.

Within the last 50 years there has been substantial increase in production. The average family is smaller, and people generally marry later. Therefore, there should be a much higher standard of living. Yet it is doubtful if most of what luxuries the average household enjoys could be afforded but for the extended credit system. That development is making debt a national habit, and a social structure built on debt is built on sand. — Economist (N.S.W.), writing in *The Bulletin*, Sydney, Nov. 17.

What about a Price Subsidy through Retailers and a National Production Bonus to remedy this situation?

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SOCIAL ENGINEERING

By NORMAN F. WEBB

The reviewer of Dr. Robertson's book is confronted with more than one difficulty, the most immediate being the lack of space in which to give an adequate idea of the enormous scope of this really fine work. If he is a Social Creditor, and writing from the particular and consistent angle of this journal, he has others, which, however, it is not my intention to stress now. Dr. Robertson and I do not agree at all points, and some of them I regard as essential ones, but on so many we do agree, that I prefer to confine myself to emphasising some of them.

My Oxford Dictionary is so Concise that it has cut out the word "ecology." But for Dr. Robertson's purposes in its narrow, biological sense, it means "the science of the influence of environment on organism," and he widens this to "the science of the adjustment between organism and environment." His main theme, in his own words, is "what is here called, the philosophy of mechanism, the key idea of which is that *'those who use mechanisms subserve the ends inherent in the mechanisms.'*" He gives a list of seven mechanisms in the order of their existing effective potency—(1) Finance, (2) Industry, (3) Sanctions, (4) Administration, (5) Politics, (6) Education, (7) Religion—which order, he says, is an inversion of reality, or realism, presenting to us first things last and last first. But not only is the sequence inverted but the original uses, or objectives, of the different mechanisms have been partly, and in some cases completely, perverted, preserving the intention of their origin as a facade only (or myth), behind which the nature of the mechanism itself has been altered to suit other purposes. These seven are the social mechanisms. There are others. He says: "The human body is a biological mechanism, for putting the consciousness in touch with the physical world via the senses, it is not the real man . . . The mechanism on which all turn is the human mind."

Subject of Subjects

There, in bald outline, you have the mechanics—Greek mekhane, contrivance, expedient, means—of Being, conscious existence. The author's training and experience in biology and medicine has obviously revealed a great deal to him, not the least being a realisation of the limits of the legitimate claims of what

we call the Natural Sciences to exactitude. Nevertheless, he has a deep reverence for the methods, which their sincere exponents uphold and, on the whole, successfully pursue. Dr. Robertson's researches into the mechanics of being—more particularly into that of beings in association, society; Social Engineering as Major Douglas has named it—have led him inevitably to a study of the human mind. This of course is the Subject of subjects, one that repays humble and intelligent study. Curiously enough, it is the branch (or is it not the stem?) of knowledge, which would seem to have been in decline since at least the 16th century. This is a point that has been more than once noted in this journal, and it is significant that it coincides with the period when men turned their attention away from the human mind to "things" (external physical phenomena), under the influence of a complete misinterpretation of Francis Bacon's profound wisdom. What Bacon's advice amounted to was this: that not only should the Thinkers, the introvert Schoolmen, turn from their exclusive concern with ideas, but that the Doers, the extroverts, should modify their narrow concern with things material, and that *both* from their opposite standpoints should give their attention more to associations; what Bacon refers to as

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"The just balance between the mind and things." Relative truth, in fact, which is what we have to make do with in this world, and which is concerned altogether with associations and relationships, as the term relative implies—with adjustment, fitting-in, allowance, indeed every tolerant quality—in short, with the science of ecology.

Inversion

If one can sum up a work of this scale and lack (I say it without necessarily meaning any adverse criticism at all) — lack of concision, one might say that it was devoted entirely, and on the whole very successfully, to emphasising and analysing the vital impact of the mechanism of human thought (the kingdom of co-ordinated and fruitful thinking), as applied to all the other external, phenomenal mechanisms of human association—"all these things," which rightly follow upon thinking, or mentation, as the psychologists have it. And the moral of the book, its lesson and warning is to be found in that word *inversion*, and in its most clear analysis of the present inverted order of those seven social mechanisms to the preservation of which false sequence all interested propaganda is directed. It is this inversion, as the author points out, which constitutes the prevalent and unnatural disorder, of social values, the reversal of which would reintroduce that Natural Order or Rule of Law, which is the goal of all true religion. It is a human weakness, especially rife; I think we must admit, in Western civilisation, to want to run before one can walk. And undoubtedly the most immediate lesson that needs to be learnt is the hard paradox that while in reality (ultimately) there is no such thing as precedence—not only shall the last be first, but the first shall be last—nevertheless, our present and urgent need is to learn and understand, and to uphold, that correct structure and sequence which is the science of Social Engineering; the putting of first things first. And pre-eminently first must come the sovereign, religious individual, the conscious experimenter of Reality, the consumer-and-maker-in-one, with his technique, whatever it may be, in one hand, and the Money Vote in the other: the only and genuine political dictator. That is the correct picture of the individual in association, which, I begin to realise, must triumph, and is only temporarily kept from doing so by the fact of our inverted social values. Much of this is worked out by Dr. Robertson in Chapter 24, Integral Society, in what appears to me a most admirable manner, far ahead of the quite celebrated chapter on The Rule of Law in Professor Hayek's "Road to Serfdom"; where he proceeds down through the Social mechanism, showing the true as distinct from the false "objective" of each one, to the last, Finance, "under all and serving all and in one sense being the greatest as being the servant."

Social Philosophy

The philosophy of Dr. Robertson's book—and it is as Social Philosophy that one

(Continued on page 8)

SOCIAL ENGINEERING

(Continued from page 7)

recommends it—owes its origin to several sources. Obviously a considerable factor has been a study of the East and a reaction to it not unlike that associated with the name of Aldous Huxley—to my way of thinking, a trifle adulatory. Added to that is a sympathetic and understanding approach to the West and its social problems, based obviously on very wide reading and thought, but influenced, I should judge, to a predominating extent, by the writings of Major Douglas, which are quoted throughout with discrimination and with a respect due to the only scientific economist of the age. Where I, personally, would feel tempted to cross swords with Dr. Robertson—though I forbear here—is in the Middle East, on "the planes of Armageddon," in short; over which, as I feel, he is apt to hop between his two chosen fields of East and West, with a too distant and bird's eye view of its significance. There is a vast territory covered by the Christian, as distinct from the Buddhist, interpretation of the term Incarnation, which I feel is a closed book to Dr. Robertson—I may be wrong, of course.

But setting all that aside, I am inclined to think that this generous and over-flowing volume, that nevertheless has a discernible affinity to Dr. Hayek's compact and delectable but somewhat unsatisfying essay, may well be the pioneer in a returning stream of popular thought towards a too-long abandoned realism in Religion, Politics, and Economics. I should be very sorry indeed if I gave the impression here that it offered over-tough or involved reading.

Admittedly the subject is not easy or simple, but Dr. Robertson's style is limpid and clear, and—unless I am carried away by the fact that his approach to so many aspects of things is so close to my own—exceptionally entertaining, in the best sense of that adjective, and the tenor of his thought is so evenly preserved throughout the 500 or so pages of his work, that I feel it can be safely recommended to anyone who thinks about social and philosophic matters at all seriously.

Reality

Dare one think it might come to serve as a sort of reintroduction of the study of that philosophic and economic realism which is the objective of Social Credit? The effect of a perusal of it by the entire British House of Commons might be appreciable. Unquestionably the currently indoctrinated mind is still largely an intellectual—or is it more psychological?—closed shop to the idea of Social engineering as opposed to planning just as it is allergic to true Christianity, and the intrinsic humility implicit in the scientific method. The fact, in my view a profoundly important one, that the scientific approach is not fundamentally an intellectual one, is touched on more than once by Dr. Robertson. As, for instance, where he says on page 341 where he gives it as his opinion that the "democratic" idea of hand-counting "as a method of determining any kind of truth is fatal . . . Religious truth or Reality, as it is called

here, is not only the possession of a minority, but it cannot be attained at all *by intellectual effort*." The emphasis is mine, for in the popular phrase "I couldn't agree more." Only I suspect Dr. Robertson of regarding that truth as an Eastern perquisite, whereas for me it is also a fundamental fact of Christianity, with its much-misunderstood emphasis on the poor, referring almost always to lack of intellectual equipment.

Whether the size of this book is a defect or not I don't feel competent to say. In my own case, after a fairly grim start, I found the journey both easy and rewarding. As a start my advice to Social Crediters is to buy it if they can afford to; at least to see their library gets it, and to read it, and recommend it with the same discrimination as Dr. Robertson has shown in his writing of it;

—*The Social Creditor*, Nov. 20.

**Human Ecology*, by Thomas Robertson. William Maclelland, Hope Street, Glasgow, 21/-.

THE THEORY OF MODERN BUSINESS

The theory of rewards and punishment is the foundation stone of the Labour leaders' platform, just as it is of the employer whom he claims to oppose. The only difference is in respect of the magnitude and award of the prizes and as to the rules for the competition for them. To anyone who will examine the subject carefully and dispassionately it must be evident that Marxian Socialism is an extension to its logical conclusion of the theory of modern business.

—"Social Credit," p. 12, by C. H. Douglas.

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DANGERS IN HAVANA PACT

The Havana trade agreement was described by Mr. Lang in the House of Representatives as a "legal hotch potch," which would sign away Australia's right to protect its industries.

This Government has surrendered all those rights on one condition. That is that the Charter is accepted by the Governments of Britain and the United States. So the ironical situation is that the industries of this country are now in a position where they must look to other Governments to save them.

It would take away from the Parliament the right to legislate on tariff and trade policy and would take away the right of Australia to protect itself against a world depression, he added.

In the Havana charter, bureaucracy had found a new field for exploitation in the international field. The bureaucrats, he claimed, were not satisfied with power in one country; they wanted to dominate the world. The objective of the bureaucrats was to create a series of world cartels.

"Once we accept the charter there will be no such thing as preventing pig iron exports or protecting Australian consumers against highly inflated import prices. It is not a charter of human rights but a legal nightmare," he said.

Sir Earle Page said that every provision in the Havana charter was subject to exceptions, modifications, escape clauses, and special arrangements, which made it almost impossible to get any comprehensive view in proper perspective or what it really meant.

Although the charter provided for a complete ban on British Empire preference, special arrangements had been made at the first meeting of the International Trade Organisation for giving the United States preference in Cuba and the Philippines.

"In practically every country in Europe and in Australia, all sorts of Government controls exist," he said. "There is rationing of food, raw materials, and practically everything that goes into our national economy. Most of our buying and selling arrangements with Great Britain are on a Government basis. The old practice of individual trading seems to have gone by the board. There is not the slightest chance during the next five or six years of the world settling down to normal trading relations."

Sir Earle Page said it was folly to make a dogmatic agreement like the Havana charter. No one could tell what new industries might spring up which might need protection. —L. Withal, "Canberra Letter," Dec. 7.

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VICTORIAN PARLIAMENT

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

November 10, 1948. Wheat

Industry Stabilisation Bill

Mr. REID (Box Hill). —I desire to voice a protest against this proposed legislation, and in doing so I am not wishing to cast any reflection, or to do anything adverse to the wheat-growing section of the community, of whose energies and abilities, and, at times, sacrifices, I think all citizens of this country are fully cognisant, and to whom they pay a just tribute. **But I do say that the Bill contains in its terms the foundation stone of Socialism of a most extreme character.** To the Minister of Agriculture I acknowledge the fact that he has devoted much time and energy to this measure, and has taken part in strenuous negotiations concerning wheat industry stabilisation, but I doubt if even he fully realises what he is doing when he introduces a measure of this kind. He is a member of a party, which has laid stress on freedom of enterprise and has expressed opposition to Government control. Clause 6 of the Bill provides that a person who is in possession of wheat—

(a) may deliver that wheat to the Board; and

(b) shall deliver that wheat to the Board on demand made by or on behalf of the Board.

There is a further provision that—*Upon delivery of wheat to the Board under this section the wheat shall become the absolute property of the Board, freed from all mortgages charges liens pledges interests and trusts affecting the wheat.*

In short, there is a complete act of expropriation, or, in other words, control by a State instrumentality of private property. That is Socialism naked and unashamed. I voice my protest against this type of legislation, because I do not think that many people who

support it realise what they are doing. A certain proportion of the wheat growers have apparently voted for the scheme, but I doubt if they themselves appreciate what they are doing or have fully studied the terms of the Bill. **If the growers have voted freely for the scheme they do not realise that to gain an economic advantage they are bartering away their own liberty, for, whatever the immediate advantages of it may be, they are resigning to a Government Department complete power of expropriation of the fruits of their labour.**

I also voice a protest against the fact that the Board to which this Bill proposes to resign so much power and to abrogate so much authority of this Parliament is a Board not under the control of this Parliament, but one set up by a Commonwealth Act implemented by various State Acts. It is bad enough that we should in recent years have passed Acts of this Parliament resigning and abrogating a large amount of executive authority to various Boards, which are more or less independent of the Parliamentary institution, but at least it may be said of some of the Boards this Parliament has created, that Parliament still maintains a measure of control over them. As regards this Board, however, it is the fruit of an agreement between the Commonwealth and the States, and the only ministerial control over it is the control of a Commonwealth Minister. The Commonwealth and State Parliaments, in ratifying the respective legislation, really set up an authority, which is outside the control of either Commonwealth or State Parliaments.

A precedent for that type of authority is found in the Joint Coal Board. The Commonwealth and New South Wales Parliaments legislated concurrently to create that Board, which is really outside the control of either of them. If at any time the Victorian Parliament becomes dissatisfied with this type of legislation it will have to invoke the machinery of a number of Parliaments to correct it. In short, we are resigning our authority to something, which is outside the control of all Parliaments, because it will be difficult to get the Parliaments concerned to meet together, and correct injustices or anomalies occasioned by the appointed body.

Recently Government supporters took part in a referendum campaign, in which they stressed that the States must preserve their rights by resisting any attempt on the part of the Commonwealth Government to obtain permanent control over rents and prices. By subscribing to legislation of this type, which gives power to a body outside the control of this Parliament, we are reversing the process for which we pleaded a few months ago from the public platform. Therefore, I voice my protest against the Bill. Although I appreciate the energy and good intentions of the Minister of Agriculture, I do not think the honourable gentleman realises that, by the introduction of the Bill, he is laying the foundation stone of a socialistic edifice.

Although wheat growers are looking for some immediate economic advantage over the next five years, we ought to take a

long view and realise that what for the time being may appear to be a material advantage, may later prove to be a millstone around the necks of those for whom the legislation has been brought forward. In short, it may well be that wheat growers are selling their inheritance of liberty for a mess of pottage.

U.K. Wives 'Unfit'

LONDON, Friday. —British housewives generally are "under-fed, over-worked, and unfit to carry on without endangering their health," according to a report by Dr. Stella Instone.

After surveying 61 women in their homes, she said typical housewives aged from 26 to 64 were running the homes on a weekly income of £5 or less.

Ninety percent complained of permanent tiredness, which Dr. Instone attributes to worry over rations and other household problems.

Some complained of dreaming regularly of shopping and queuing and a few declared they woke up at nights and planned the next day's meals. Fewer than 23% had sufficient to eat, even at present standards. Few had a proper breakfast or supper, often because they gave up their rations for their families. Nearly all were eating too much starchy food, thereby putting on weight.

Many seemed incapable of thinking and speaking clearly, saying "I cannot seem to remember anything these days."

Dr. Instone says housewife-fatigue causes unhappiness in marriage, because it drives out the husband at night.

Nearly one in three have never had a holiday since marriage. Many complained that they had no leisure whatever, and that their children were reluctant to help with the housework. Some said they went to the cinema mainly for a chance to sit down.

—"The Herald," Melbourne, Dec. 11.

What a commentary on the "New Order!"

By Their Fruits . . .

The "Boston Post," of Monday, December 22, 1947, reports the annual convention of the New England division of the American Jewish Congress. According to the Post, here are a few of the resolutions passed:

1. A resolution condemning the Thomas-Rankin committee investigating un-American activity.

2. A resolution to make it possible for Communist Party members to teach in the schools.

3. A resolution hailing with great satisfaction the "partitioning" of Palestine with the co-operation of the United States and Russia, with the hope of "furthering common grounds" between the U.S. and Russia.

4. A resolution opposing rebuilding Germany.

In addition a plea was made for the U.S. to furnish the Zionists with arms, weapons, and money to continue the civil war in Palestine.

—"The New Era," Nov. 26.

"New Times," Jan. 7, 1949 — Page 9

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SCRAP THE PLOUGH

By FRIEND SYKES

During nearly forty years of farming I have been increasingly impressed by the folly of deep cultivation until I now regard the plough as my greatest enemy on the farm. For a century the soil has been accepted as a conglomeration of so many minerals, and the need for chemical analysis has been urged whenever cropping difficulties have arisen.

Experience of farming in a number of countries, from Angus to Cornwall, has taught me that, however valuable such an analysis may be, the biological, ecological, and physical aspects of the soil are equally important. Indeed, I am now convinced that the farmer should consider first the biological content of his soil, and that, if humus is manufactured in all the ways that Nature so easily provides, the mineral, ecological, and physical aspects can be left to look after themselves. A principal aim of farming should be the return of humus to the soil, for all are agreed, "a fertile soil is one rich in humus."

Deep Rooting Leys

The humus content of the soil can be maintained by growing deep-rooting leys from mixtures containing certain grasses and clovers, and in addition such plants as lucerne, sainfoin, burnet, chicory, and yarrow. These mixtures have a great variety of plants, differing considerably in the depths of their root development. The deep-rooting plants bring an untapped supply of minerals to the surface through their stems and leaves. This herbage is grazed by animals, whose droppings add minerals to the topsoil, thus helping to compensate for any loss sustained by sending foods off the farm. My grasslands are grazed the first year, cut for hay and grazed the second and third years, and entirely grazed the fourth. The sod is then broken up and, when activated by the urine and dung, is converted into humus. It has been found that the root system of a four-year-old ley such as I have described contains not less than 25 tons of potential humus per acre. This is a far heavier dressing of organic matter than a farmer is usually able to apply to his land in the form of farmyard muck. When humus fertility has been built up in this way, heavy yields of different kinds of grain can be produced during a succeeding four years of arable cropping. The large tonnage of straw resulting should be turned into farmyard muck and sub-

sequently into compost, which is spread as an occasional surface dressing on the land. This system, which I have long practised, increases fertility without the aid of artificial manures bought at great expense in a bag.

The Plough

The accepted implement for primary cultivation is the plough. It has been used for thousands of years. But the fact that leading manufacturers have over 200 different designs of plough in their pattern shops is not due entirely to differences in soil conditions throughout the world; it is evidence, too, that farmers have not been entirely satisfied with the ploughs they have been using.

For over 20 years I have realised the necessity for shallow ploughing, but the plough is so designed that the depth of its operation cannot be controlled at all accurately. The farmer who makes organic fertility and then buries it with a ploughed deeply that it is out of reach of the roots of most plants is working against himself. Furthermore, the plough necessitates a complete reversal of Nature's own methods. In the hedgerows, for example, the crop usually dies down (decomposes) on the surface of the soil, and is turned by natural methods into humus. Humus is, among other things, full of bacterial life, which, with the earthworm, is one of Nature's means of cultivating the soil. As vegetable matter decomposes on the surface, with the oxygen and nitrogen of the air all around it, the numbers of saprophytic and other bacteria multiply. Some of these extract nitrogen from the air and introduce it to the soil as nitrates. The process of decomposition releases carbon dioxide, which, mixed with the dews and other moisture, is dissolved into a powerful chemical solvent—carbonic acid; this acts on the complex mineral structure of the soil, making the minerals soluble and available to plants as food. When a farmer uses a plough he buries the source of this fertility by depriving the decaying vegetation of much of the oxygen and nitrogen without which complete decomposition does not take place. Instead of decomposition of the sod with all its beneficial effects, putrefaction en-

sues with all its harmful possibilities. In his disappointment the farmer applies artificial fertilisers from his bag to supply the minerals, which are present in the soil all the time, but which he has not succeeded in making available owing to faulty technique.

The Rotary Hoe

It is some 20 years since I first ransacked the agricultural machinery markets of the world for an implement that was an improvement on the plough. In recent times it has appeared in this country in the form of a surface cultivator of a rotary type, and during the past two or three years I have experimented with it. First, the four-year-old sod is broken to a depth of only one inch; then, using the same rotary cultivator in a crosswise direction, we break up a further inch of surface, making our total cultivation only two inches deep. By accident, I think, rather than by the object of the designer, the soil, being the heavier, falls down first, and the vegetation, which is lighter, remains on the surface and dies off; and this is where we want it—as in Nature. Into a field fairly level and evenly cultivated, but with a surface untidiness, which does not appeal to any farmer, we sow our seed. The result is astonishing. We are growing at Chantry today crops of the same species of both oats and wheat in fields where the two methods of cultivation have been tried side by side. The fertility of the whole is uniform. The only difference is that one half has been cultivated twice with a rotary hoe, and the other has been ploughed and cultivated in four operations of the usual type, including two costly ploughings. In the complete absence of rain, seeds sown last spring germinated after four days, following rotary-hoe cultivation, as against 14 days when the plough had been used. The seeds, and the day of sowing, were the same.

Our experience therefore suggests that the plough is a destroyer of fertility, whereas farmers require a machine, which will assist in creating new fertility to replace what is extracted. The present tendency in farming, with a labour bill higher than we have ever known, is to intensify the use of machinery. This may ultimately prove disastrous unless our agricultural engineers realise that they have to design not merely implements to extract fertility, but those that will help to create it. When the rotary cultivator has been improved, as it will be, it may well replace the plough on every farm. This may make our practice of sub-soiling at regular intervals of eight or ten years more essential, but my views on that subject are already well known.

—The Countryman, Eng.

Earthworms And Soil Fertility

MANGAIA, Cook Islands.

The soil of this island, which is highly productive without fertiliser as far as oranges and pineapples are concerned, falls short when it comes to vegetables. This may be due to extreme acidity, but it is as likely to be traced back to the paucity of earthworms.

One notes in Rarotonga that the most fertile fields seem to be those with the largest number of worms to the square yard. A point of interest is that not only worms but ugly IOin. centipedes are found in this fertile soil. Perhaps their burrowing propensities may assist their earthworm neighbours to break up the soil.

Here at Mangaia we rarely see a worm, even after rain, and in many fields the earth, reddish in hue, has a dry and tight appearance even when freshly cultivated.

To suggest importing worms seems like a joke, but one has reason to believe that incalculable good might result. The creatures aerate, moisten, and fertilise the soil they live in, and the more there are of them the better the harvest that can be expected.

In spite of the cry that there is not enough land for the native population there are large areas on this island that lie idle and unproductive. And the fertile portions have been planted to death—the same crop being taken off each section ever year.

[Editorial Note: The importation of earthworms to increase fertility is not unknown. The Dutch have made efforts since the end of World War II. to restock their polder land with worms. These polders, reclaimed in the first place from the North Sea and the Zuider Zee, were flooded during the German occupation of Holland. They have been again drained by the Dutch, but the salt water killed the worms. Worms live and breed freely in soil rich in humus and decaying leaves and other vegetable matter. This fact has been utilised by

Dr. H. C. Coombs

The *Sydney Morning Herald* of November 24, 1948, commenting on the appointment of Dr. Herbert Cole Coombs as Governor of the Commonwealth Bank, says it "will widely be construed as a further step in the Government's plan to nationalise the banks of Australia.

"Colour for this is given by the reliance placed on advice from Dr. Coombs by Mr. Curtin and Mr. Chifley for some years. It should be remembered, however, that Dr. Coombs was first made a Treasury adviser in 1939, when the Menzies Government was in office . . .

" . . . His views, undoubtedly, have been influenced by study under the English Socialist, Professor Laski.

"Security of tenure is assured to Dr. Coombs and his Deputy Governor for at least seven years. Except for usual forms of misconduct, they can only be removed from office by a special Act of Parliament. The Governor's salary will be £5,000 a year."

the Dutch in bringing fertility back to their farmlands, and by at least one American whose cultivation of worms in compost heaps turned (it is reported in a recent "Reader's Digest") a piece of Pacific coast desert into a garden paradise.]

—*Pacific Islands Monthly*, Oct., 1945.

Food Export & Fertility

In order to keep up a high rate of export the soil surface must be so worked that little time is given to regenerative methods, by rotations, by grazing, &c., and since the food grown is consumed elsewhere, waste of the humans who eat it is lost instead of being returned whence it came.

So, inevitably, a country committed to existence on export of farm produce, is faced with diminishing fertility—even diminishing soil surface.

This is a brief statement, with all the faults of brevity. But it is nevertheless true as a whole.

The alternative? Bring the population to the food, not the food to the population. Conserve within the confines of this human Eldorado the elements of soil fertility, and let riches be counted in the multitude of happy homes with happy, healthy people.

Let us aim not to be famed for the best medical service and most extensive hospital system in the world, but to be honoured for the diminishing need for these. Medical skill and hospital accommodation are needed for the vicissitudes of mortal existence, just as garages and mechanics are needed for the motor population. One would hesitate to measure the reliability of motor vehicles in terms of repair stations and maintenance stocks and mechanics.

Population—number and quality—depends upon our attitude towards the rural basis of life. If you want towns and trams and neon signs and cinemas we shall have them—only so long as the disappearing soil and diminishing fertility will pay for them. Not one generation longer.

—Sir Stanton Hicks, Professor of Human Physiology and Pharmacology, University of Adelaide.

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Butter, Cheese Supplies Go To Foreigners

SYDNEY, Friday.—Big quantities of Australian and New Zealand butter and cheese will be bought by foreign countries, the Australian Dairy Produce Board announced after a meeting today.

These countries were prepared to pay more than Britain while world demand was keen, the board said.

The names of the countries were not disclosed. The Sun, Melb. Dec 11.

N.T. Comment: This brings into relief the question of the ban on the use of cream in Australia. As we understand it, the ban was imposed to enable Britain to obtain more butter. We are strongly opposed to the continuation of the ban under the above reported circumstances. To this end we urge our readers to contact their Federal member, asking him to exert pressure on the Government to remove the ban.

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Incredible But True

Mr. Edward Holloway, Secretary of the London Economic Reform Club, in the course of an article reprinted in the *New Zealand Social Crediter*, said:

"In April, 1947, a British journal told the following story illustrating the craze for exports at all costs:

"I heard from a London printer a pleasant story illustrating the old fallacy that the bigger the distance anything can be carried, the greater is the volume of world trade, and the richer everybody is, because the cabbage, grown in the back garden and cooked and eaten in the kitchen does not enter any statistics.

"An English magazine, unable to obtain paper here, asked a Dutch firm to print it. The Dutch firm agreed, as it was for export, although this meant using paper from one their own magazines, which they took to Belgium.

"A Belgian firm accepted the Dutch offer, as it would help out the Belgian export trade, though it meant farming out one of their publications to a printer in Paris, who could only do the Belgian work by getting one of his own productions printed in London; which has just been done, since we will do anything to help the export trade."

—*The New Era*, Nov. 26.

The New Rich

To what extent it is recognised we do not know, but the period through which (we hope) we are passing is bringing into a cold, clear light a good deal of the rather neurotic sentimentalism about the virtues of the poor which the plotters have found so useful as an excuse for adding to their number. It is quite possible that the nonsense took its rise in various mistranslations of the New Testament. Some of it arose from a muddle-headed confusion between misfortune and merit What is certain is that the problem of poverty is the method of its abolition, not its represen-

tation as a qualification. The number of rich (let us take as an instance Mr. Aneurin Bevan) who have been poor is probably greater in this country than ever it was. Viewed coldly and objectively, these new rich offer perhaps the most repulsive spectacle of the New Order. It is not because they are rich; it is because they are exactly the same kind of people that they were before they became rich, would not have become rich if they had been any other kind of people, but have larger opportunities to demonstrate the qualities, which in all probability kept a considerable number of them poor under the Old Order. It is becoming more firmly established daily, not that environment is unimportant, but that it is far more an extension of personality than a cause of progress. If it does not provide freedom of choice, emphasis on environment is a snare of the Devil, and the "successful" tend to be both the spawn and bait of the Great Enemy.

—*The Social Creditor*, Nov. 27.

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