

# THE NEW TIMES

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SIXPENCE WEEKLY.

## HOW TO DEFEAT THE INFLATION MENACE

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

*It has been estimated that the latest increase in the basic wage by 3/- per week will result in the total wages bill for Australia increasing by £15,000,000 annually. Although the wage earners' purchasing power will be temporarily increased by the increased wages, the present financial rules make it inevitable that the temporary advantage will shortly be wiped out by increased prices, resulting from the increased wages cost.*

Increased prices will, of course, then necessitate a further increase in the basic wage, and so will continue the tragic and alarming spectacle of the wages - dog chasing its prices - tail without ever catching it. Those wage earners who don't have their wages automatically increased by the basic-wage formula, together with all those with savings, have the value of their money reduced every time a rise in the basic wage inflates prices still further. This destructive process heartens the Communists immensely.

### The Basic Wage

In spite of the fact that the basic wage in Australia has been steadily increased ever since it was first formulated early this century, it must surely be now obvious to wage earners that increased wages have not meant increased purchasing power. While there is some evidence that many wage earners are taking notice of this fact, Trade Union leaders still dogmatically assert that higher wages are essential. These leaders are now preparing to approach the Arbitration Court to seek a further increase, of 35/- per week, in the basic wage. If this increase is granted, and it is probable that at least portion of it will, there will be a further stimulus to the inflationary spiral.

When confronted with the inflationary effects of higher prices, Trade Union leaders—Communist and non-Communist—contend that industry should pay the increased wage costs out of profits without passing them on in higher prices. But the Commonwealth Statistician's figures show that, even if the total profits of all Australian companies—both public and private—were distributed equally amongst the wage earners working in those industries—and this division of profits could be made once and once only—each wage earner would receive only a few extra shillings per week.

### How Increases Are Paid

While it is probably true that here and there a few companies are making very big profit, from which wage increases might be paid, although Mr. Chifley's Taxation Monopoly makes this very difficult, it is

an indisputable fact that Australian industry generally could not carry on if it had to devote any considerable portion of its profits to paying increased wages. It would soon become insolvent. If increased wages, which must be paid immediately, cannot be met out of profits, the question naturally arises of where the money for increased wages is to come from. Where is the £15,000,000 necessary to meet the 3/- per week rise in the basic wage going to come from? It will have to be created by the banking system in the form of new financial credit and advanced to industry as a loan. Every increase in the basic wage necessitates an expansion of financial credit, a fact that can be observed by anyone who takes the trouble to examine banking figures.

### The Basic Problem

Now, as the expansion of financial credit to pay increased wages merely results in increased wage costs which must in turn be reflected in increased prices, the basic problem confronting our rapidly disintegrating community is how to halt and reverse the inflationary trend, while ensuring that the legitimate demands for increased purchasing power by the wage earners are met.

### A Deep-Rooted Fear

Unfortunately many employers' leaders are suggesting no real solution, but are merely antagonising the wage earners and providing the Socialists and Communists with further ammunition to further their policy of destruction, by stating that the wage earner must work harder for the same amount of money. Drastic tax-cuts and the removal of all bureaucratic controls would undoubtedly provide a temporary stimulus for more work; but as opposed to this is the deep-rooted fear that too much effort and increased production will result in the return of the "over-production" problem and unemployment. Businessmen who blink their eyes to the fact that in every industry today employees are openly "going slow" because "they don't want to work themselves out of a job" are simply helping to undermine their own interests. Hard

work, reduced taxes, and efficient production have not prevented inflation in the U.S.A. If employers are to get the wholehearted support of their employees, the present financial rules, which are inflationary in more ways than one, must be modified in order that new financial credits—such as those necessary for the 3/- per week basic wage increase—are used to increase wages without increasing industrial costs, and, consequently, prices. For example, it should surely be a simple matter to apply the £15,000,000 to paying a Production

(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.

# NOTES ON THE NEWS

The President (Mrs. Downing) of the Housewives Ass, in answer to questions re loss of members to the New Housewives Ass, over the prices question, had the following to say: "Something is done at every meeting about the high cost of living." It generally takes the form of a protest, which she says has been made for the last 30 years. That, in itself, should indicate the uselessness of protests. The only proposal credited to this body is, "eliminate the middleman," an impracticable commercial proposition, except to a very limited degree. All the protests in the world cannot prevent price increases while we distribute money claims solely through industry as a cost. If Mrs. Downing and her executive would only study this angle and act on it, they would find an answer to the vicious price spiral, and so give some hope to the thousands of distracted housewives who support them.

## Palestine Plot

Following recent allegations of a wide-spread international plot to procure arms for the Zionist-Jew gangsters in Palestine, the Austrian police are reported to have issued warrants for the arrest of Bruno Seletzky, described as the Basil Zaharoff of South-east Europe.

The method said to be employed is to take high-priced food into Austria, disguised as gift parcels for displaced persons, and from the proceeds of its sale to buy arms for Palestine. It is also alleged

## How to Defeat the Inflation Menace

(Continued from page 1)

Bonus *direct* to the wage earner without it going through industry and/or subsidising prices at the retail counter. Reducing prices by a subsidy means a direct increase in purchasing power.

### An Important Brochure

In the brochure, *How To Increase Wages Without Increasing Prices*, advertised elsewhere in this issue, concrete suggestions are made of how a policy of National Production Bonuses and Price Subsidies would increase purchasing power against increased production.

Those desirous of preventing the destruction of our society by the inflation menace are urged to obtain copies of this brochure, and make them available to all those who ask what can be done to meet the present financial rules. The ever-increasing battle between employers and employees must continue while the present financial rules remain unchallenged. The Communists are well aware that their hopes of a revolutionary situation are largely dependent upon the retention of financial rules, which result in increasing inflation. That is why they are bitterly opposed to any suggestion that financial rules should be modified.

It is not without significance that the present inflationary financial rules were originally evolved by Jewish financiers, while the chaos resulting from the rigid maintenance of these rules helps further the aims of the Communist conspiracy, a conspiracy that has been predominantly Jewish. Those genuinely concerned will understand the implications of the assault against Western Christian Civilisation should make it their business to understanding the implications of the preceding sentence while there is still time.

that Continental planes are used to fly these goods to Budapest, and that these planes have been given clearances through Vienna by the Russian authorities. Here we note the connection between Zionism and Communism in the Palestine plot, forming yet another piece of the pattern of the Zionist-Communist conspiracy to dominate the world.

## Depression Data

In addition to definite statements as to the existence of a minor depression in the U.S.A. (despite abundant production), the *Herald*, of January 14, tells us that "city economists, although wary of predicting a depression of the 1930 type, stressed the need for some sobering up." Three alleged experts were quoted, and doubtless others will take up the theme.

One of these "certified" economists infers the way to avert such a disaster is to "improve industrial production." Apparently this chappie has not learnt that the U.S. has a depression right now along with record production; further, that we had abundant production in 1930, but most of the people were denied adequate financial means to gain access to it. Those of us who understand these matters must take every opportunity to make it clear, that we are faced with disaster, unless our present financial system is modified to enable a National Production Bonus to be paid direct to the individual, together with a Price Subsidy through retailers.

## Copland's Comics

In addition to a preliminary boost on page 2 in the *Herald*, of January 18, page 4, contained a long screed featured as giving a guide to 1949 prospects. A photo, of this "certified" economist, Professor Copland, also appeared for good measure.

Space in this journal is too valuable to deal in full with all the twaddle credited to this chappie; it is well, however, to examine what may be described as his constructive? suggestions. Firstly, he fears difficult financial problems if pressure for reduced taxation succeeds — fancy that, now! Secondly, he says inflation is caused by the rapid increase in export income; he suggests here that this income should be held back from primary producers for distribution when prices fall; this, he claims, would guard against a depression.

Readers will note the Professor's socialistic "take" attitude; take it off the whole community via taxes; take it off primary producers by withholding payment for their produce. The inference is, of course, that you and I and the other fellow have not enough sense to take care of our money. It's a wonder someone has not biffed this fellow for his colossal egotism.

## ERIC BUTLER'S BOOKS

*The Enemy Within the Empire*, 10d  
Over 30,000 copies of this book have been sold in all parts of the English-speaking world. Carefully documented, it is essential for those who desire to understand the background of the present world situation. The policy of the International Financiers in using the Bank of "England" to cripple the British Empire while helping Hitler is dealt with in detail. The origin of what is now known as the "Financier-Socialist" plot is revealed. This book is generally regarded as one of the author's finest works. *The Money Power Versus*

*Democracy*..... 10d.

Well worth having if only for the comprehensive selection of statements by various authorities concerning the "Money Power." The main thesis of this book is to show how the "Money Power" has prevented the introduction of genuine political and economic democracy. The author shows how the electors must unite to bring their political institutions under control for the purpose of obtaining the results they desire.

*The Truth About Social Credit*, 1/1  
An excellent introduction to the subject of Social Credit for the beginner. It shows how Social Credit is far more than a "funny money" scheme. The author makes it clear that bank nationalisation and "State control of the issue of credit" have got nothing to do with Social Credit. Social Credit financial proposals are outlined clearly and simply. The 1945 Banking Legislation is revealed as a major part of the policy of totalitarianism being imposed upon Australians. This valuable book must be in the armoury of every Social Credit warrior.

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## PROFESSOR COPLAND AGAIN THE ECONOMICS OF MONOPOLY

The extracts published below were taken from an article entitled "Economic Needs of Prosperity, by Prof. D. B. Copland, which appeared in the Melbourne Herald on January 18 of this year.

*The fact is that full employment has not brought a net increase in the production of the goods needed to build up a flourishing export trade to yield a higher standard of living, and to ensure a rate of capital development required in a young country looking forward to a rapid increase in population. It is little wonder that people feel bewildered at the extraordinary economic position in which they find themselves....*

*I suggest that 1949 should commence with a dispassionate review of what has been achieved since the war.*

*There is no simple way of resolving our difficulties, but two lines of action are open to those who guide our economic destinies.*

*The first and most important is to place a check on inflation. This can be done by stabilising prices of primary exports to producers at lower levels than those prevailing, and placing the surplus income in a fund to be drawn upon by producers when prices again recede.*

*This would have by far the most decisive effect on inflation of any measure that could be taken, and it would require courage and foresight, but it would pay handsome dividends in the long run to every class in the community, and stand out in striking contrast to the present fumbling and indecision that attends action on this vital matter.*

*The other line of action is for our economic planners to return to the good earth in economics and to select the industries that are vital to permanent prosperity and a rising standard of living.*

*These are the export industries, the efficient secondary industries, the group of industries essential to housing, transport development and other essential forms of capital construction. This would concentrate a scarce labor supply on essential production, and step up the rate of capital and economic development by at least 50 percent.*

*At present we have no plan, and we are spreading our resources too thinly over too wide a field, some of which is completely incapable of yielding long-term benefits to the people of Australia.*

The Professor appears to have learnt nothing and forgotten nothing in the past twenty years. Holding the above viewpoint, together with his influential position, makes him a menace both to our personal freedom and economic well being.

We are not "bewildered at the extraordinary economic position," which has resulted from a policy of "full employment." We have consistently pointed out that this policy would lead to the very results that are now accruing to us; *i.e.*, increasing regimentation and a falling standard of living. The alternative policy, and the only workable one, is the production and distribution of goods and services *wanted* by the individual with the minimum amount of work, both mechanical and human.

His contention that we can obtain a

higher standard of living by (1) increased exports and (2) increased capital goods production is not borne out by the facts. In the case of (1), we increase money incomes against a decreased supply of goods for the home market, unless balanced by import of goods wanted by consumers. But, as the official aim under a policy of "full employment" and orthodox financial principles is to restrict imports to a minimum, the net result to the community is a progressive decrease in the purchasing power of money. Again, under (2), we have an increase of money incomes against the same, or, if carried far enough, a decreasing



PROFESSOR COPLAND

quantity of consumer goods. This, of course, is inflationary. (1) and (2) combined under the past and present finance-costing arrangements have been the mechanical causes of the progressive depreciation of the purchasing power of money during the Industrial Era, denying to the individual the fruits of science and mechanism in a freer and more leisurely life. The alternative to the above is a policy, which makes exports and capital -goods production incidental to the production of consumer goods *wanted* by the individual.

His suggestion that, "by stabilising prices of primary exports to producers at lower levels than those prevailing" would be the most decisive measure for the control of inflation is unworkable. To make any semblance of working, it would require the stabilisation of all industrial costs, which is impossible in fact, and a totalitarian regime to administer it. In any case, he contradicts himself, because he insists on an increased volume of exports, which would, if carried far enough, increase the inflationary demand, even if prices paid to, producers were lower.

We now come to the totalitarian masterpiece wherein he suggests that the central planners should select the industries that they consider are vital, and build them up. Implicit in this statement is a threat of industrial and capital conscription, either direct through the bureaucracy or indirectly through credit manipulation. It is, perhaps, a portent of things to come, when Dr.

Coombs gets properly in the saddle at the Commonwealth Bank. He shares the above viewpoint with the Professor. Further, it would be interesting to know if Mr. R. G. Casey subscribes to this policy, in view of his publicly expressed admiration for the Professor? If Mr. Casey does, we can expect a pretty torrid time if he should become Treasurer after the next elections. Finally, if the policy of "full employment" is persisted with by the industrial communities of the world, the third world war is inevitable, and with it will go the last vestige of individual liberty.

## THE HUMBLE SAUSAGE

A fine example of that tight economy practised in the interests of national welfare by Socialist Governments everywhere was given at a London conference when 150 scientists and Food Ministry experts spent two hours considering the various aspects of the humble sausage, with particular reference to the possible scientific method of preventing the mysteries bursting in the pan. Housewives, being unable to appreciate, like scientists and bureaucrat-experts, the niceties of the theoretical side of the problem, long ago foolishly went straight to the heart of it by jabbing a fork in the snag's belly. Thus the snork, instead of being agitated by the fury of the bubbling fat to the point of spitting menacingly as a prelude to swelling up and exploding like a grenade, was enabled to blow off steam through these inflicted safety-valves, and so loll around in the fat without further aggression. I expect to hear that the next vital conference will be solemnly devoted to the possible solution by radar of the great twin problems that have for centuries threatened to bring England to its knees; how to prevent two frying eggs from fusing into one hissing entity, and how to stop a strip of frying bacon from rolling itself annoyingly into a cylinder.

"B.O.," *The Bulletin*, Sydney, Jan. 19, 1949.

## THE ESSENCE OF PROPERTY

The coin clipping, or stealing while you sleep, monetary policy of the Administration is abetted by its legislative enactments in regard to property, both real and personal. The essence of property is not "possession," which is an abstraction; it is control. Every form of property is being shorn of control, except State and Cartel property; and yet there are still large numbers of people who believe that there is no "plot."

We will, however, make one concession to these trusting souls; there is a vicious strain in fallen human nature which would rather that all should go hungry than that some should be fed; that none should benefit rather than that any should profit. It is outstandingly characteristic of the Socialist and Communist mentality; it shows in their faces; and it has been exploited to the full by the Plotters.

—*The Social Crediter*, Jan. 8, 1949.

"New Times," Feb. 4, 1949 — Page 3

# THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES ACT

By H.R.

The Essential Services Act contains two provisions of major importance to the people of Victoria. Firstly, it provides that the State Government shall have power to continue any essential service, which is interrupted or threatened with interruption, and, secondly, it forbids strikes in any essential service, unless they arise from secret ballots held by the Chief Electoral Officer. Both of these provisions have been received by the public with rather mixed feelings. Although it is felt by most people that essential services should not be subject to stoppages at the whim of irresponsible pressure groups, the extent and severity of the powers vested by the Act in the Premier, his satellites and the Chief Electoral Officer, have caused many to wonder whether the objective of the Government could not have been achieved by some less drastic and provocative means.

Besides covering the services named in Clause 2, the Act covers any other person or body specified by Order in Council, published in the Government Gazette. Other clauses give the Premier, or any Minister designated by him, power to requisition property and direct persons for the purpose of continuing an essential service. The Minister in turn can delegate all or any of his powers to any other person, except the power of delegation.

It has been objected that the secret ballot provision gives a vote to managers, staff and non-unionists, but there is every reason to believe that, were unionists only covered by the secret ballot, the same critics would object that the ballot was designed to give the Electoral Registrar access to the membership rolls and records of trade unions.

## Communist Strategy

The prime purpose of the Act, we have gathered from the statements of Ministers from time to time, is to deal with that irresponsible and ambitious band of Communist troublemakers, who have worked themselves into positions of prominence and power in the trade union movement. These positions are of tremendous strategic value to the totalitarian aims of the Communists.

They provide vantage points from which governments can be embarrassed, the law defied, production can be hindered, and the people in general are reduced to that state of frustration and anger from which revolutions are born. Any grievance or dispute is used as an excuse for a strike, and any strike once started becomes a step towards the general strike, which, in its turn, is preliminary to general insurrection and dictatorship by the Communist Party. Having acquired control of the means of production, distribution and exchange, by expropriating the capitalists and thereby



THE HON. T. T. HOLLWAY

establishing the dictatorship over the proletariat, the Communist dictators will proceed to vest themselves with powers even more drastic than those in the Essential Services Act, in order to suppress or discourage any activity or criticism which could possibly lead to a counter-revolution. It is the very height of hypocrisy for the Communist Press, which is loudest in condemnation of the Act, to seek to curry favour with the worker by claiming sympathy for personal freedom or the right of property. The slave state of the Communists has no place at all for those rights. The only difference between the Communist dictators and the dictators under the Essential Services Act will be that, under the Red dictatorship the powers will be inflicted upon the people without the sanction of parliament or the protection of open trial.

## Theory and Practice

If it achieves nothing else, the Act provides an opportunity for the bystander to

observe how easily those who support personal freedom in theory can forsake it in practice. When established systems are given preference over human rights by the suppression of discontent instead of by the elimination of its causes, the discontent grows, and benefits further those who feed upon it. If Mr. Hollway is sincere about eliminating, discontent from essential services, he must start by improving the real incomes of those employed in them, or expose the persons or conditions, which prevent him from doing so.

## Responsible Government

We do not deny that responsible governments must be responsible, above all things, for the maintenance of services essential to all or most of the people, but we doubt strongly whether the Essential Services Act is the only possible reply to those who favour irresponsible dictatorship. By resorting to regulation of that nature, Mr. Hollway has given the impression that he either despairs of having a contented public service, or that he considers the public service to be so lacking in mental balance and moral fibre that it needs the protection and guidance of a paternal government to save it from its own folly.

It is a peculiarity of what passes for democratic government, that almost invariably it presents more government as the only cure for bad government. Government, which cannot avoid dissatisfaction in the public service and in the community at large, is bad government, irrespective of what label the party administering government might bear. No government can avoid discontent under a system, which makes the incomes of almost the entire population dependent upon wages and salaries, and costs them into prices or demands their recovery through taxation.

## Progressive Inflation

Any real gain the wage or salary earner obtains from a wage or salary increase under a system of that type, ceases when all or most other workers have received a similar increase, and prices and taxation have risen all round under pressure from increased costs. The workers in one industry or a restricted number of industries can obtain some benefit from a wage increase limited to themselves only, but hardship must be inflicted thereby upon the workers in other industries who have to bear increased prices without any corresponding increase in money income.

## Soil of Class Hatred

Not realising the true cause of their discontent, because of the conspiracy of silence on the matter by parliaments, press and pulpits, the workers in the industries which have not received increases, place the full responsibility for the falling purchasing power of their money upon their employers, instead of upon the financial system which forces the employee to demand wage increases and prompts employers to avoid paying them if they can. The antagonism bred by this struggle between the employee and the employer, for an equitable share in the products of industry on the one hand, and for financial solvency on the other, provides the right soft for class hatreds, and for the agitators who exploit those hatreds. Those antagonisms will never be eliminated until the underlying cause is removed.

(Continued on page 5)

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[Regd]

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### **FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION**

At the present time such a thing can hardly be said to exist outside the realms of sport. If I join a cricket club and find that I do not like the game, or the methods governing the club itself, I am usually free to resign without further penalty than attaches to the loss of association, and the consequent facilities for playing cricket. But if I enter a profession or business, and find that I do not like it, or the methods under which it is conducted, it is true that I am free to resign, but the penalty attached to resignation greatly exceeds the mere deprivation of association and the facilities to exercise the profession or business—it includes economic catastrophe for myself and my family.

In other words, I come up against the doctrine of rewards and punishments in an acute form, since it is absurd to suggest that, if I resign, the necessary work previously done by me will remain undone. It will not, if it is tolerable work, and done under tolerable conditions. An average consequence is that I do not either resign from, or criticise actively, my associations of this nature.

—*Social Credit*, p. 37, C. H. Douglas.

### **Essential Services Act**

(Continued from page 4)

If, instead of removing the cause, government exploits the situation by substituting itself for the private employer, which is the present-day trend, it thereby draws upon itself the criticism and hatreds, which hitherto have been directed against the private employer. Governments which take that course will be led to greater and greater subterfuge and repression to protect themselves from the people, whilst governments which oppose socialism, but ignore the underlying cause of the trend towards it, cannot expect any happier fate.

### **Correct Action Required**

Mr. Hollway's evident sincerity and his determination for what he considers the correct course, even in the face of criticism and opposition from his supporters and friends, have won him wide respect, but good intentions must be supported by a correct analysis of the problems confronted and by methods suited to their solution. History has record of many men who, through shortsightedness, lack of courage, or love of office, risked their reputations in support of bad policies and paid the price for their folly.

The public respect, which Mr. Hollway has gained through his recent moves, will be short lived unless he takes the steps necessary to the establishment of a proper balance between incomes and prices. If he lacks the power to take those steps, he should take the people into his confidence by indicating where the necessary power resides, and exposing those who refuse to exercise it. With exposure of the interests behind the present financial policy, must be coupled a complete exposure of the subversive, disruptive and traitorous activities of those who exploit the consequences of that policy, in order to establish a ruthless and demoralising dictatorship over their fellow men.

### **THE ARISTOCRAT AND DEMOCRACY**

The aristocrat in the real sense knows nothing of class or unearned privilege. Secure in his status, he is one who can give more to life than he takes from it. We need not one but a thousand kings of all degree in every humble community; as we need them in their hundreds for wider work of national co-ordination and guidance.

The old intimate links between the people and the Crown are broken; aristocracy among all ranks is the new link needed. While it is most likely that good blood in cottage or mansion will reproduce good blood in seeking to build an aristocracy, it is status, that will count, since, given opportunity, good blood will always find status . . . If we fail to protect those with innate superiority, integrity and power of self-giving, there can be no future for democracy. In our semi-servile State today much of his time is spent by the natural aristocrat in trying to protect those for whom he or she feels responsibility, from the obscure bullying of officials, or victimisation by anonymous plutocracy. Too often it is unavailing against the monstrous powers that be. The English aristocrats by breed, as witness our Imperial services in their heyday, or the running of a ship from captain to petty officer.

—*Alternative to Death*, p. 28, by the Earl of Portsmouth.

### **Frankness Urged on Israeli**

The Federal Government should speedily make a frank and open statement on whether it condoned or condemned the Israeli Government in Palestine, Mr. Gullett, Liberal M.P. for Henty, said last night.

He was commenting on a statement on Wednesday by Mr. Paul A. Morawetz, secretary of the executive council of Australian Jewry, that the Israeli Government was incensed by British policy.

Mr. Gullett said a statement by Federal Government now was important as it would show whether it was consistent.

It had been vocal about the Dutch defiance of the United Nations' ruling on Indonesia.

Would it remain silent on the Israeli Government's defiance of the UN ruling on Palestine?

It was untrue for Mr. Morawetz to claim that there was no evidence that Israel was becoming an outpost of Communism, Mr. Gullett said. Israel was being supplied with arms by Czech Communists, and Russia had offered military aid.

It was outrageous for foreign Jews, who took shelter in Australia, to use Australian free institutions to attack Britain, which through the years, had been Jewry's greatest defender.

These Jews would have to make up their minds where their loyalty began, whether to Australia and the British Empire or to Israel. Most Australian Jews who had been here for some time would undoubtedly decide in favour of Britain and the Empire, he said.

—*The Argus*, Melbourne, Jan. 14, 1949.  
We congratulate Mr. Gullett. He is one of the few public men with the political intelligence and moral courage to publicly tackle the Zionist problem. We suggest that readers of this journal living in the Henty electorate give him every support.

# THE NEW TIMES

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## THE LESSON of the PRAHRAN ELECTION

The Labor victory at the Prahran by-election on Saturday, January 22, may well be a pointer for the Federal Elections later this year. Labor propaganda was specifically designed to exploit the people's growing concern about rising prices. This propaganda obviously paid dividends in increased electoral support for Labor as compared with that obtained at the State Elections just over twelve months ago.

While it is true that Liberal Party leaders have acknowledged that the question of rising prices decided the Prahran by-election, they appear to think that their failure was merely the result of insufficient organisation for informing the electors that the Federal (Government was primarily responsible for increasing prices. But the electors are generally not so concerned about explanations as they are about some positive policy for reducing prices. This is the issue to which we suggest the Victorian Liberal Government should direct its immediate attention if it desires to help defeat the totalitarian drive from Canberra.

The first point, which Mr. Hollway and his associates must clearly grasp, is that neither they nor anyone else can control prices. As we have demonstrated time and again in this journal, and the facts are surely clear enough for all to see, price rises are inevitable while the present financial rules are maintained. Any attempt to control prices within the framework of these rules can only result in frustration of production, shortages, black markets and a further lowering of business morals.

Now, although prices cannot be controlled in the sense that is usually meant, a simple factor can be employed to ensure that prices are reduced while at the same time producers can make a profit. This factor is price-subsidies. Price-subsidies were successfully introduced in Great Britain and Australia during the war years. Hundreds of millions of pounds of new credits were created and applied to the reduction of the prices of certain basic commodities. In other words, it was demonstrated, even if in rather a crude and unscientific manner, that new credits can be made available without rising prices.

When Mr. Chifley abolished price-subsidies, he was undoubtedly acting on the advice of Dr. Coombs and other totalitarian economic "advisers," who are well aware that rising prices must eventually lead to the destruction of the few powers left to the States. We suggest that Mr. Hollway refuse to remain on the defensive against the Canberra totalitarian, merely trying to explain that he is doing his best to control prices without any practical support from Canberra, but that he immediately take the offensive by introducing his own price-subsidy scheme. He could attempt at least to have prices subsidised for a start at a level lower than that operating when the Federal Government controlled prices. Although this would be very difficult in view of the State's lack of finance, a practical demonstration to the people of what could be done by price-subsidies would create a public opinion, which could then be directed towards the defeat of the policy imposed by Dr. Coombs and his associates.

If Mr. Hollway had the vision and the courage to try and introduce his own price-subsidy scheme, he would at one step nullify the Communist-Socialist propaganda, which is gaining ground with every new price increase. Even the local Labor Party would be compelled to support the Hollway Government if it came out boldly with a subsidy scheme for reducing prices.

A policy of price-subsidies by the Hollway Government might easily prove the death knell of the Chifley Government at the Federal Elections. But unless this policy is announced and an attempt made to implement it, the Prahran Labor victory will probably be multiplied at the Federal Elections.

## ROOSEVELT

"In the United States and Great Britain, powerful influences, inside both Governments operating under the tolerance extended to the Reds, got the confidence of both Churchill and Roosevelt.

"Truman was nominated (as Vice-President) with 1,100 votes to only 66, for Wallace, but not until Sydney Hillman (Schmuel Gilman) had approved the change.

"Churchill, a, far more experienced diplomat than Roosevelt and also far more realistic, wanted to save from Stalin's grasp as much of the Southern Balkans as possible.... Churchill was not fooled by Stalin and Stalin knew it, and that is why they were at each other's throats . . .

"Roosevelt and Stalin agreed that Manchuria would remain with China and that Stalin and he would back Chiang against the British . . . After that, the way must have seemed wide open to Stalin for all his plans. Here was Roosevelt suggesting a secret deal between himself and Stalin against Churchill, just as he had suggested a secret deal between himself and Chiang against Churchill, and as he was later to make a secret deal between himself and Stalin against Chiang."—*The Roosevelt Myth*, John T. Flynn, p.p. various.

So we put up statues to him.

—*The Social Creditor*, Jan. 8, 1949.

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## Do As I Say

Petrol rations got another stiff cut this month; authorities are trying to save every gallon they can.

It's reached a stage where land men are complaining that production must suffer. Now read on:

A New South Wales Cabinet Minister has just completed a holiday at Mooloolaba. He drove there from Sydney in his late model eight cylinder — and he drove all the way back.

—*The Sunday Mail* Brisbane, Oct. 3, 1948.

This short par throws into relief the utter corruptness of our society and the growing indifference to public opinion of our new rulers. This is in the best Soviet tradition. With their centralised propaganda machine and the all-pervading official, the Party bosses feel quite confident that the mob can be used to silence any individual who may be critical.

## Mr. Menzies Evades Question on Palestine

The Melbourne *Argus* of January 10 reports Mr. Menzies' answer to the following question: "Did he believe there was Russian influence in Palestine?" Mr. Menzies replied, "he believed it would be difficult to find any country in the world to-day in which there was not considerable Russian influence."

Did not Mr. Menzies learn something about the Zionist-Communist link up while overseas? Or, is he like many others, afraid to come out openly and admit the facts about the Zionist-Communist menace? The *Argus* question gave him an excellent opportunity to tell his fellow-Australians the truth about Palestine, but he cleverly sidestepped the issue.

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# AUSTRALIANS LOSE BRITISH STATUS

COL. BOWDEN ON NATIONALITY ACT

Australians have been deprived of British nationality under the Canberra Government's Nationality Act passed during the last session of Parliament.

In speaking against the measure, Lieut. Colonel Bowden, M.H.R., told the Parliament that it was part of the Socialist attack on the Empire. He reminded the House that Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer in the British Socialist Government, had said that the disintegration of the Empire was necessary for the success of Socialism.

Colonel Bowden said: I have no desire to prolong the debate upon the bill, which was fully discussed last week. However, I do not approve of certain features of it. No sane person could object to Australians being given a distinctive nationality if we could as much as pretend that Australians have not had a distinctive nationality for the last 150 years.

I do not accept this proposal as something necessary, merely because other parts of the British Commonwealth have agreed to it, when they did so without reference to the peoples of the respective countries. I cannot accept this proposal.

Mr. Beazley: Australian citizenship.

Colonel Bowden: We cannot divorce this proposal from the present trend of events. The honorable member for Reid (Mr. Lang) mentioned the march of time; this is another step in, the march of time under Socialism.

The Minister for the Navy (Mr. Rordan) may smile, but surely no one can regard as insignificant the statement attributed recently to Sir Stafford Cripps that disintegration of the Empire is necessary for the success of Socialism.

## Divide and Conquer

That is true, because, while the British Empire cannot be socialised, it can be attacked, on the principle of divide and conquer.

It can be broken up into several parts, and this part socialised today and that part to-morrow. Should that happen, the British Empire would be a heterogeneous mass of unrelated nations, instead of the cohesive whole, which, up to date, has enabled us to revel in the title "British."

There is something warm and homely about the term British which has proved to be sanctuary and security for the politi-

cally oppressed and the homeless of all countries. What will the term "British" mean in the future? We have delighted in the fact that we have been able to call ourselves British, but under this proposal Australians are to be deprived of that title; we are to be deprived of British nationality, and the British Commonwealth of Nations is to be changed to something like the "Commonwealth of Nations."

Mr. Beazley: This bill specifically provides that an Australian citizen shall be a British subject.

Colonel Bowden: The honorable member should read the speech made by the Minister for Information (Mr. Calwell) when moving the second reading of the bill. There can be no question about the meaning of what he said. This measure means the breaking up of the British Empire, step by step.

## British Socialism

I do not believe that Australians as a whole accept this legislation, or that honorable members should acquiesce meekly in it because the present British Government, which is making Great Britain a home of Socialism, has accepted it.

It has been said that that Government introduced its complementary legislation reluctantly. We have also been told that Canada has endorsed this proposal. Is it not possible that Canada, being the next-door neighbour of the United States of America, is not satisfied to become a part of the socialised system now being introduced by the British Government? Government says that it has been compelled to endorse this proposal because some convention of Prime Ministers, or other representatives having no authority whatever from the peoples of their respective countries, committed Great Britain to it. Be-

cause those representatives said that this proposal is necessary, are we meekly to agree to it?

I have always been proud to be known as British, and to be assured that even if I could not be known as an Australian, I would be known as British. That satisfied everybody who realised that the title "British" commanded respect in any part of the world.

I repeat that the British flag has been a haven and sanctuary for the oppressed. It will no longer be so, because it will no longer be British in the sense that it has been up till now.

The British flag has flown in China, India, remotest Africa, in the torrid and the frigid zones; in fact, all over the world, and wherever it has flown it has represented sanctuary, warmth, and friendship.

Everyone who respects British citizenship will regret that that is to disappear because some persons have arrogated to themselves the right to force this proposal upon the people of the British countries whether they want it or not. I shall not accept the proposal in that sense.

## Destroyers of Empire

I say deliberately that no one can be ignorant of the fact that, for years there have been elements working in the world with the avowed and single objective of bringing about the destruction of the British Empire.

They have been succeeding gradually. However, the Marxist programme is not to change things over night, but gradually and systematically to effect changes over a number of years so that each generation will accept the little bit which the preceding generation succeeded in implementing until in the end everybody will accept the changes as natural.

Those influences have been working for years with the one objective of destroying the British Empire, as we have known it up to date.

They have succeeded to a certain degree because traitors within our own country, people who are allegedly British, and because they are thought to be British, have been trusted, have been working in the interests of those foreign elements. Yet we are supposed to accept this change meekly. I repeat that this is part and parcel of the scheme to which I have referred to destroy the British Empire. It will have the effect of widening the gap between Australians and the hub of the Empire to a greater degree than could ever have been achieved under the Statute of Westminster.

After this legislation is passed we shall practically be a foreign power, another nation, instead of a part of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Whether this legislation is passed or not, I shall always be British in opinion and sentiment.

*The Countryman*, Jan. 14, 1949.

We congratulate Col. Bowden on his sound and forthright statement. We hope that, if there is a change of Government at the next elections, he will use his best endeavours to have this obnoxious legislation removed from the Statute Book.

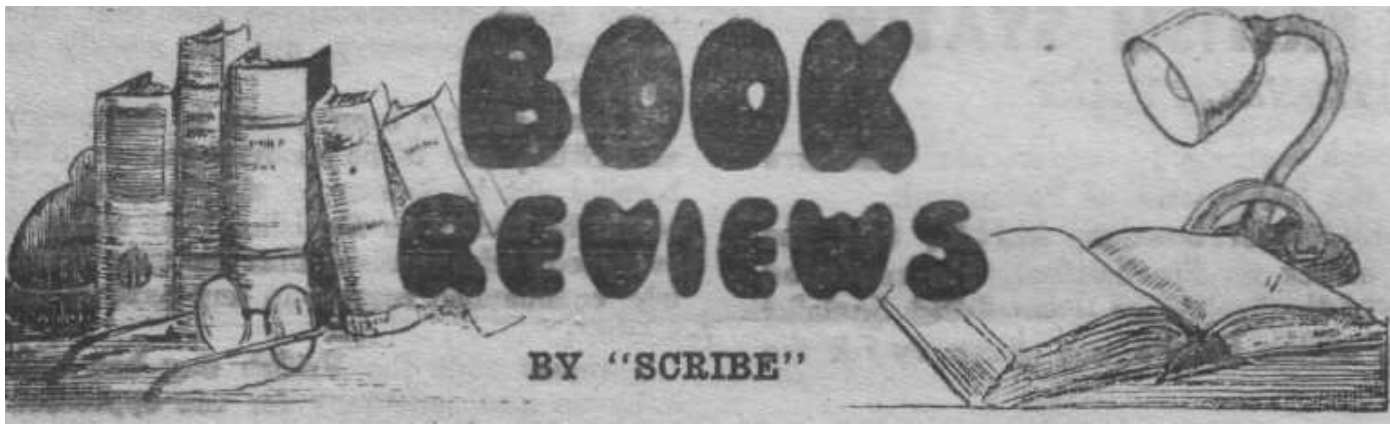
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## A DEFENCE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY

In his famous book *The Servile State*, first published early this century, Hilaire Belloc wrote: "If we do not restore the Institution of Property we cannot escape restoring the Institution of Slavery; there is no other course." Belloc was, of course, well versed in the arguments of the great St. Thomas Aquinas of the thirteenth century.

In his book, *Property and Poverty*, published last year, the author The Rev. A. M. Crofts, O.P., M.A., provides a splendid treatise on private ownership, according to the principles of St. Thomas. This work should have a special appeal to all those Christians who are concerned with the collectivist threat to those fundamental values so carefully nurtured by the Medieval Christian Church. Supporters of this journal will, if they read *Property and Poverty*, agree with the author when he says that, "Amidst the darkness and uncertainty that besets human affairs the Christian Philosophy can lead the way to happier conditions." It is an evil, anti-Christian philosophy, which is spawning the devilish policies wrecking Western Civilization today.

There is so much splendid material in *Property and Poverty* that it is difficult to select extracts to quote. But the following will give some indication of the general excellence of the work:

### Importance of the Individual

"To-day the State, under the influence of a totalitarian philosophy, tends to become monopolistic of all rights. In St. Thomas' days, when Christian philosophy governed human institutions, no such concept of the State was even imaginable. There is found ample refutation of all such doctrines in the works of the Angelic Doctor. His entire teaching is opposed to it. The individual, he states, has a personal existence and personal rights before any consideration of the social group.

### Property and Liberty

"To deny the right of private ownership would be to destroy man's liberty of expression in regard to external goods, which, though not the essence of human happiness, are yet a means to that end. Not to have possessions in sufficiency impedes a man in his activity. St. Thomas' teaching on the dignity of the human person points clearly to the natural appropriateness " of private possessions, since liberty is intimately concerned with material things."

### Joy of Giving

What have our "Christian" Communists to say to the following?: —

"Communism would kill the joy of living. Were external goods held only in common, 'it would be impossible to know whether one was liberal, nor could one exercise an act of liberality if there were no private possessions, the use of which entails a work of liberality' . . . It is through this virtue that possessions, though privately owned, yet retain their

original purpose of supplying the needs of all, 'Citizens will be liberal and generous to one another.' Thus used, private possessions are compared to an increase of Divine grace whereby man is helped to obtain beatitude after having received the first grace."

### Enforced Poverty

St. Thomas Aquinas would have been opposed to the puritan argument that enforced poverty is "good" for people. He is quoted: "Poverty is not good in itself. Spiritual danger ensues from poverty when the latter is not voluntary; because those who are unwillingly poor . . . fall into many sins." St. Thomas made it very clear that private incentive must be the main-spring of production. "Each one will increase more his own possession by more solicitously labouring upon it as belonging to himself."

There are several points in *Property and Poverty* which the Social Crediter will query, but this should not prevent him from obtaining and using one of the most excellent defences of private ownership of property published for some time.

Our review copy is from W. P. Linehan Pty. Ltd., 244 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. (Copies of this book may be obtained from New Times Ltd., at 11/- per copy, post free.)

### THE "BRITISH" COMMONWEALTH

The quiet but deadly snub administered to the Crippses and Morrisons by His Majesty the King in his Broadcast on Christmas Day, in restoring the adjective "British" to the truncated Commonwealth, has gone round the world, and has, we notice, penetrated the hide of even the "B."B.C.

This review is a journal of realism, and for that reason regards materialism as romantic in the worst sense of the word. We do not require, e.g., the *Daily Worker* to tell us that the King is "only" a man, any "more than we should pay much attention to such a source of light and wisdom if it explained that a high-tension cable is "only" copper wire. The idea that nothing is real unless you make it in a factory has had a considerable run, but we suspect that in the next few years the difference between picking up a copper coal scuttle and grasping a 132-kilovolt bare conductor will be borne in on many people who are sure they outgrew all superstition when they "did" elementary chemistry.

—*The Social Crediter*, Jan. 8, 1949.

## 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:

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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.

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We are swiftly approaching the fourth Christmas since the end of the war in Europe. How many thought that the level of austerity, which measures our lives in 1948, would be in many cases even lower than that which obtained at the end of six years of war? Even Socialists, with a firm conviction in their faith, are now realising that the political excuses advanced by their administration hardly carry water.

Pressing, in the minds of all people, is the lack of material improvement in the food situation. There is, of course, not the slightest reason for the continuation of food rationing. In the free market, prices would tend to fall rather than rise, so exceptional are the surpluses of the world's primary foodstuffs. Only sanctions imposed by that totalitarian body, the World Food and Agriculture Organisation (to which our Government so willingly subscribes, and whose recommendations it accepts without question), prevents the proper distribution of food to the British market. True the situation is complicated by bulk-buying; but that is a detail compared with the worldwide rationing imposed by this alien planning body, which has the governments of fifty-eight nations in its toils.

Meanwhile, children who were six when the war ended, are ten years old to-day, and have still not experienced the generous Christmases which once were a feature even in the poorest homes in our land. Again and again attempts have been made to break the power of the World Food and Agriculture Organisation in the face of ample harvests which nature has yielded in the post-war years. Even to-day one of their chief spokesmen, at the completion of the Organisation's fourth annual conference on Tuesday, said: "The great improvement in recent months may too easily engender a false sense of security." At the International Wheat Conference, Mr. Brannan, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, let the cat out of the bag when he said that "he would be most reluctant to accept a reduction in the maximum price for wheat under the new International Agreement below the maximum of two dollars per bushel, fixed in the Agreement which was to have come into force this year." In short, these planners who have cornered the food of the world are "most reluctant" to pass on to the consumer the benefits of world surpluses. Better in their view to burn grain, than to break the cartel price. Such men are public enemies and should be treated accordingly. They, not nature, whom they so glibly blame, are responsible for famine amidst plenty. The British representative in this case is Mr. Strachey. The time has come for the housewives of Great Britain to rise again, as they did in the days of the Suffragettes, and deal with Mr. Strachey as he certainly deserves.

### British Housewives' League

What are the housewives doing? A couple of years back we heard a lot of the British Housewives' League. At that time they were one body of public opinion of which the Government was afraid. They could be, and should be so, again. At the height of their power they allowed a political infiltration, which for a time quite disrupted them. Some thought that the British Housewives' League was finished; they were quite wrong. They did not reckon with the unswerving patriotism of Mrs. Irene Lovelock, who has not a shade of self-interest in her make-up; nor with Mrs. B. M. Palmer, the acting chairman, one of the shrewdest political strategists of our day; nor yet with Mrs. Parsons, the forthright Ulsterwoman who is the League's secretary. With a handpicked team of women, this trio reorganised the British Housewives' League, and we have very good reason to believe that early next year they will advance into battle again, to the greater discomfort of Mr. Strachey and his contemptible army of snoopers and sneakers. We had a talk with Mrs. Parsons; it was "off the record," but we may at least say this,

and we say it with emphasis; the British Housewives' League is worthy of support. It would be a nice Christmas gesture if some wealthy industrialists who read this newsletter would send them a nice fat cheque for their funds. We would even suggest that it might well prove a good insurance towards a substantial Christmas dinner in the year 1949.

What we are hoping to see from the British Housewives' League next year — and we advance this proposal in all seriousness — is a carefully planned campaign whereby Mr. Strachey cannot show his nose out of doors without being surrounded by a dozen or more militant housewives demanding the end of rationing. Ladies and Gentlemen: The need for basic action of this type is very, very pressing; nothing short of the old Suffragette tactics will bring our administration to its senses. The crisis which is deepening on the home front cannot be met by default. There is no economic reason why cheap, plentiful, unrationed food should not be in the shops today. But until a league of very angry, and very determined, housewives sets about it, rationing will remain. We shall have plenty of trouble to solve without feeling-hungry. Let the British Housewives' League pursue that limited objective, and Mrs. Irene Lovelock and her colleagues will leave their mark in history.

### Meat

The reverse, of this food situation comes in news of events from the Argentine. Signor Miranda is coming to town. It will be remembered that this gentleman, with some truculence, held us up to ransom a few years ago. He had all the cards, and he curtly said, in effect, "Neither meat nor wheat, except against goods or gold." In such a situation the bulk-buyers of the Ministry of Food were sitting birds. They sold the Argentine Railways for sacks of grain and scrag end of meat. But now the market is going against the Argentine, and Signor Miranda finds that he must approach London to ask us to take more of his produce. Our administration, too, finds itself in a quandary. It has no money, and can only buy with American consent. That consent will certainly not be forthcoming, for both Mr. Marshall and Mr. Hoffman have other ideas in mind covering the expenditure of the Marshall millions. Yet another problem confronts the leader of the Argentine. He is learning what our own nationalises are learning, that it is one thing compulsorily to acquire a great capital venture, and another thing to administer it at a profit. The situation here developing is not only piquant, it is important in the extreme. — *London Tidings*, December 9, 1948.



## LAND USAGE IN AUSTRALIA

By H. F. WHITE.

The following contribution by Col. H. F. White, of Bald Blair, Guyra, N.S.W., who is recognised as one of the leading authorities in Australia on "organic farming," is a slightly condensed version of an address on the subject delivered by him before the recent Rural Convention of the Liberal Party of Australia at Warrnambool, Vic.

### MAINTENANCE OF NUTRITIONAL BALANCE IN THE SOIL

The early success of improved pastures was maintained by frequent applications of super, but then there came a falling off in results and lowered animal health. Still more super failed to maintain the early results, and reports of deterioration in animal health, increased incidence of bacterial diseases such as enterotoxaemia of pregnancy, and the Western Australian breeding disease, etc., began to come from all over the Commonwealth, especially those areas in the south where subterranean clover has been boosted to excess by super.

A complete upset of the nutritional balance in the soil had taken place, and a complete departure from the practices of our forebears who had discovered how to build and maintain the finest pastures in the world as the basis of sound farming practices. Their method was the ley-farming of Britain, the whole basis of which is to maintain a sufficient amount of the right organic matter in the soil and keep it decaying, for, as the U.S.A. Yearbook, *Soils and Men*, says:—"You cannot store organic matter, it is only useful while it is decaying." The same authority also says:—"There is no true soil without organic matter."

Professor Waksman, undoubtedly the leading authority in the world on microbiology, says in his magnificent work *Humus*:—"With all the progress made in fertiliser applications, man still depends upon the soil humus for the major part of the nutrient requirements on his crops. One cannot afford, however, to rob the soil too much of its humus; otherwise, not only will the granary become exhausted, but the soil will be ruined as a medium for crop growth."

#### Ley-Farming Policy.

I set to work to apply to my run-down pastures the plough-down or ley-farming policy of Sir George Stapledon, a policy which seemed to me to suit our conditions best. The response was immediate, and far more spectacular than anything from fer-

tilisers, either super or sulphate of ammonia. The results were equal to the original pastures from virgin land, that is, for phalaris pastures, giving a full crop of seed and hay. Strips of super, up to 360 lbs. per acre on the top of this plough-down, showed no increased results, even as long as seven years after the plough-down (which in this case was a chance one, prior to my enlightenment; the paddock had got so far down that something had to be done about it). Putting the cost at 30/- per acre to plough, disc and pack, the cost per annum is about 4/- per acre, and there is still an increment, as the pasture actually remains better than when ploughed eight years ago.

There is one point here for consideration. We know that any super, which does not go into use by the plants, becomes fixed in the soil in an insoluble form; indeed, under the most favourable conditions quite a lot is rendered insoluble. Does the microbial population, when stirred into activity by the added organic matter and increased air circulation due to cultivation, process this fixed phosphorus? Waksman has this to say in *Humus*:—"Humus exerts a definite effect upon the availability of the inorganic phosphorus in soil; it prevents the rapid precipitation of the phosphate by calcium; rock phosphates interact with some of the humus constituents to render some of the P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> more soluble." As regards animal health I can only say that lambs from my ploughed-down pastures have been topping the markets, and a leading fat-lamb butcher has reported that the carcasses are equal to anything he has killed from more favoured districts, yet this country was originally reckoned as unsound for sheep.

#### Natural Laws

What we have to realise is that all living matter is part of a complete whole and that each plays its part. An English farmer who rose to the top as an asparagus grower puts it very neatly thus:—"The whole history of any living thing depends on the life history of many other living things, and indeed, nearly or remotely, on *all* living things."

The more we learn the more it appears there is yet to learn. The scientist does not yet know anything like all the facts, and as he cannot tell us the whole story we must continue to look to the fields for

our guidance while the scientist laboriously plods along the road of research as to the why and wherefore of certain things that happen in the fields. We must realise that this world, in common with the universe, is governed by unchanging laws, which are extraordinarily complete. Only by obeying those laws can we hope to survive and fulfill the purpose for which we were designed. It is the job of the scientist to discover and interpret the laws of nature, and it is our job as producers to fit their findings into their places in the general scheme of things.

#### Narrow-Minded Scientists

It is the narrow-minded scientist who leads us into trouble. Take this statement by a University Professor of Agriculture:—"In the first place we know that plants build up their tissues from water, carbon-dioxide of the air, and simple inorganic salts." In support of this he quotes hydroponics, or water culture, but his statement is an oversimplification and most misleading. It completely ignores the *carbon cycle*, which is the skeleton on which is built all living matter. It ignores, also, very many minor factors which are nonetheless vital, and whose functions in some cases are only suspected, while others are undoubtedly still unknown. There is, for example, the sex activator, or estrogen, which has been brought severally to notice recently in these southern climes as a result of man's interference with nature's cycle. Again, there is the appearance of penicillin, handed, as it were, to a learned scientist on a platter, to wit a microscope slide.

Hydroponics is nothing more than a subterfuge to overcome disabilities of environment. Admittedly it is possible by this means to produce plants having the appearance of natural plants and possessing many of the same substances, but until it has been shown that a large group of people and animals can be maintained, for an extended period, entirely on food produced in full health, vigour and reproductive by hydroponics—and, moreover, maintained powers—it cannot be accepted as a worthwhile contribution to the world's food needs. On the other hand, we know that the healthiest and most virile group of people in the world, the Hunzas, in the upper Himalayas, live entirely on food produced by composting, the ideal of organic farming.

#### Dr. Alexis Carrel

The late Dr. Alexis Carrel, probably one of the greatest of the medical scientists, has this to say:—"The weakness of many scientists whom we meet in Universities and laboratories is due to the mediocrity of their goal and to the narrowness of their life." The same authority, in *Man the*

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*Unknown*, tells us that we must learn to live in harmony with our environment if we are to persist on earth. He says: — "The only possible remedy for this evil (physical degeneration) is a much more profound knowledge of ourselves. We have no other means of learning the inexorable rules of our organic and spiritual activities, of distinguishing the prohibited from the lawful, of realising that we are not free to modify, according to our fancy, our environment and ourselves

Carrel goes on: — "We have infringed natural laws. We have committed the supreme sin, the sin that is always punished. Life always gives an identical answer when asked to trespass on forbidden ground. It weakens. And civilisations collapse."

Environment is now looked upon as dominant in all *life* indeed it would seem as though evolution is merely an adaptation to environment. Let us study, therefore, the part played by organic matter in the environment of the plant.

First, what is organic matter? It is any plant or animal refuse, in fact anything, which has had life and which will decay or decompose. In the process of decomposition in the soil by microorganisms a point is reached at which the process slows down; we then have what is known as humus, a dark viscous substance, but there is no definite line of demarcation, and the exact chemical composition of humus has not been determined.

There is a natural law that must be kept well in mind, *viz.*, "the indestructibility of matter." Nothing is destroyed, in the sense of coming to be; it is merely transformed into something else.

## RELATION OF ORGANIC MATTER TO PLANT ENVIRONMENT

The first factor in plant environment is *climate*, *viz.*, rainfall and temperature, Rainfall we cannot yet alter. The art of husbandry is to capitalise the rainfall; it is the limiting factor and must decide all agricultural practices. Irrigation is one way of controlling moisture, but it is limited

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in application in Australia. In soil use organic matter increases the effect of rainfall; it increases the absorption and retention of moisture, and provides for better drainage of excess.

Humus provides warmth, as it is dark in colour and absorbs heat more readily than mineral soil. Also the decomposition of organic matter generates heat. A very few degrees makes quite a difference to seed germination and plant growth.

Next we turn to the *soil itself*. Here the physical condition, or *texture*, is most important, firstly from the point of view of workability, secondly as a medium for plant roots, and thirdly as a habitat for the soil population of animalcules, bacteria, fungi, etc. Organic matter is almost the whole story in this factor. Humus has the effect of binding the soil particles into crumbs, which increases aeration, water absorption and retention, and drainage. The whole object of cultivation is to condition the texture of the soil. The microorganisms in the soil need air and moisture.

This texture of the soil, and the binding effect of the humus, is the first and best line of defence against *erosion*.

The next factor is the release of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). The first happening in the decomposition of organic matter by the soil population is the release of carbon dioxide gas, which is almost the whole source of carbon for plants and, through them, for animals and man. Incidentally, it is the factor that is lost sight of by the advocates of hydroponics and by the sponsors of the traditional fertiliser trials at Rothamsted Research Station.

### Carbon

Carbon constitutes about 50 percent, of the dry matter of plants, and it is the major constituent of all foods — carbohydrates, fats and protein — as well as of those extraordinary accessory factors, vitamins, enzymes and hormones, without which the organs of digestion, etc., won't function. Too often carbon dioxide is dismissed as "coming from the air." but it is not a

natural constituent of the air. It is there as an impurity; chemically pure air is a mixture of nitrogen and oxygen. The carbon dioxide in the air at any one time is only .03 percent, which is scattered throughout the whole atmosphere, over seas and deserts, so that the amount immediately available to the plants is very small indeed. Waksman quotes figures to show that the total amount of this gas in the air at any one time is only enough to last 35 years. It is acknowledged by scientists that an increase of carbon dioxide is beneficial to plant growth.

Undoubtedly the principal source of carbon dioxide for plants is from decomposition of organic matter within the soil. As it oozes from the soil, being heavier than air it lies among the plants and is temporarily protected from dispersion throughout the atmosphere. It has been shown, by placing a glass dome over a plant, that the latter can procure its whole requirement of CO<sub>2</sub> from the soil. Dr. Quastel tells us that there are about nine tons of carbon dioxide given off per acre per annum. In addition, the release of CO<sub>2</sub> from the soil is largely concurrent with the growth activity in plants, the same factors — warmth and moisture — contributing to both. As Mr. Hopkins says in *Chemicals, Humus and the Soil*, it is a case of "at the right time and in the right place."

The fourth factor in plant environment is mineral nutrients. Here some CO<sub>2</sub> combines with the soil moisture to form carbonic acid, which is a solvent of rock particles — thus releasing further supplies of the original elements to be taken up by the roots of plants. It is in this connection that deep-rooting plants are so necessary to bring these nutrients to the surface.

With regard to the fifth factor, *viz.* nitrogen, Waksman says in *Humus*: — "In humus is concentrated the major part of the organic and inorganic forms of nitrogen on this planet, as well as a large part of the phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium and iron. Many other elements rare constituents of soils, are concentrated in humus."

### Microorganisms

Waksman goes on to say: — "The role of Microorganisms in the cycle of organic matter in the soil is, therefore indispensable. Without them, the contin-

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ued existence of life upon this earth, as we know it, would have disappeared long ago, since most of the available elements essential for plant growth would have been stored away in the form of inanimate plant and animal residues." I would ask those scientists who so continually advocate hydroponics, and mineral fertilisers only, to weigh that last statement carefully.

Again Waksman says:—"Humus thus serves as a reservoir and a stabiliser for organic life on this planet. It also plays a prominent, if not predominant, role in the formation of most soils. It exerts a variety of physical, chemical and bio-chemical influences upon the soil as well as various other important effects upon the plant growth."

Trace elements constitute the sixth factor, and as already shown, and as acknowledged by most scientists, they are safeguarded by humus.

## Soil Hygiene

The seventh factor is hygiene. Nature has designed a very wonderful system of hygiene in the soil, through the agency of the microorganisms, bacteria and fungi, which in turn are dependent on a satisfactory level of organic matter. First there are the antibiotics of which penicillin, streptomycin and streptothricin are examples; they are the products of soil fungi, of the toadstool type. Second, there are the pre-daceous fungi, which prey on nematodes in the soil, such as eelworms, etc. Waksman tells the story in *Microbial Antagonisms and Antibiotic Substances*. Here are a few quotations:—"At first soil was thought to be the natural habitat of the bacteria that cause epidemics and disease as a whole, but after careful study the fact was definitely established that very few of these bacteria survive long in the soil. On the contrary, the soil was found to be the natural

medium for the development of antagonists chiefly responsible for the destruction of pathogens. The saphrophytic organisms that influence in various ways the disease-producing bacteria and fungi were found to inhabit, in addition to the soil, various other natural substrates, such as manure heaps and water basins."

Dealing with garbage and human and animal wastes, Waksman advises composting, and says:—"By proper handling, a product is formed that is free from injurious insects, parasitic worms, and bacteria, and that has conserved all the valuable elements essential to plant growth."

With regard to plant problems he says:—"Antagonistic relationships may be utilised for the control of nematodes. Lindford and others found that the root-knot nematodes of pineapple may be controlled by heavy applications of organic matter. The decomposition of this material results in a greatly increased population of saphrophytic nematodes in the soil. The decomposed organic residues also support large numbers of other soil micro-organisms destructive to the parasitic nematodes."

Dr. Hallsworth, of Sydney University, reported that streptothricin, product of a soil fungi, was fifty times more effective than penicillin against the bacillus of contagious abortion, among other harmful bacteria. Why are not our veterinarians investigating this aspect of disease control in stock? Here surely is the scientific explanation of such phenomena as reported by Sir Albert Howard—animals which were fed on compost grown food were found to be resistant to infection with foot and mouth disease—or of Sykes, in England, and May in New Zealand, who reported the clearing up of contagious abortion, mammitis and sterility, when change was made from inorganic fertilisers to organic farming methods. From the above cursory examination of the relation of organic mat-

ter to the environment of plants, it would appear that it plays a very vital part in all factors.

## Fertilisers

Now what of *fertilisers*; how does the environment react to them? The U.S.A. Yearbook, *Soils and Men*, discussing the results from applications of fertilisers, says:—"The mutual effects of all the various soil nutrients on the yield of crops and their assimilation of mineral matter under different environmental conditions are so complicated that the literature on the subject presents a chaos of contradictions. The operations of the so-called law of the minimum and of the law of diminishing returns enter into all the discussions of this and other related problems." Also, "the continuous use of chemical fertilisers tends to deplete elements not supplied to the soil."

Professor Comber, of Leeds University, says in an excellent little work—*The Scientific Study of the Soil*—that it is impossible to alter one soil condition, and keep all the others constant. In applying trace elements individually, there are all sorts of interactions and reactions; an excess is often more harmful than a deficiency; one reacts on another, and may depress or stimulate.

Now here we have the whole trouble connected with continued use of fertilisers. The husbandman has no guide as to what is happening within the soil. He is led away by initial spectacular results, which are probably at the expense of the organic matter, or trace elements, or other factors, or it may be that the results are due to an excess of nitrogen from excessive build-up of legumes. This latter predisposes to disease and attack by bacteria or parasites. There is abundant evidence of all these happenings following the misapplication of fertilisers.

(To be continued)

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