

THE NEW TIMES

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MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1949.

SIXPENCE WEEKLY.

TOTALITARIAN POLICY BEHIND "FREE" MEDICINE SCHEME

Public opinion must be immediately mobilised behind the doctors in their resistance to the totalitarian policy underlying the Federal Government's "free" medicine scheme. The Canberra totalitarians are now anticipating that they can obtain public support by proposing to pay, for a start, 50 percent, of a scheduled scale of fees.

The Commonwealth Government has no constitutional power to conscript doctors into the proposed national health service to be set up as a result of the passing of the National Health Bill late last year, but it is anticipated that sufficient will be "induced" to enter the scheme by patients only desiring to pay half their medical bills. As all those doctors entering the scheme will come under the Government's Regulations, they will have their actions governed by the bureaucracy, which will be necessary to administer the scheme. Once the scheme is started, the Government will be able to decide, by regulation, to pay more than the 50 percent, of fees proposed for a start. In other words, the independence of the doctors will be progressively weakened by making them more and more dependent upon the Government for their incomes. The inevitable result will, of course, be a completely nationalised medical scheme with doctors mere instruments of the State.

Because of their financial problems, the great majority of patients may unfortunately take the shortsighted view, and feel that it is a big help to them if the Government will pay at least 50 percent, of their medical bills. Many will no doubt ask why they should be worried about the independence of the doctors. But the ultimate objective of nationalised medicine is to bring all individuals in the community more effectively under the control of the planners striving by various methods to create the complete Monopoly State. The doctors' fight is therefore the fight of all freedom-loving electors.

It is well to recall that the National Health Bill is based on the Constitutional power given to the Commonwealth as a result of the amendment carried at the 1946 Referendum, an amendment made possible because Mr. Menzies and other "anti-Socialists" advocated a Yes vote. Electors should immediately contact all non-Labour members of the Federal Parliament, and ask for a definite statement as to what they propose to do about the totalitarian National Health Bill.

The only effective answer to the Socialist technique of enslaving the people by bribing them with their own money is the

implementation of a financial policy which will ensure that all individuals have such financial independence that they can pay to have a free choice of private medical services. All professing anti-Socialists must be made to face this fundamental issue, and we urge all our readers to take action about the matter immediately. We also suggest that they let their local doctors know that they are behind them in their fight. Only in association can we defeat the Monopolists and establish a society in which all individuals shall have genuine independence.

A Sound Policy

Speaking at a public meeting in Sydney on February 15, Mr. A. G. Hebblewhite, Administrator of the People's Union (Non-party) of N.S.W., submitted the following five points "of an essential policy to counteract the Communist and Labor combination to subvert our representative form of government": —

1. They must have the initiative referendum and recall so that the people could at any time challenge those parliamentarians who would betray the trust of the electors.

2. It should be made a condition of the nomination of a candidate for Parliament that he must disclose any pledge he had entered into that would affect his vote in Parliament, in default of which his nomination should be null and void.

3. A Bill of Rights should be demanded guaranteeing freedom of speech and assembly, freedom of religion, freedom to choose one's avocation, and freedom of movement.

4. Decentralisation of taxation, abolition of uniform taxation, and abolition of the financial agreement of 1928 and restoration of taxing power to State Parliaments.

5. No State monopoly, for when once a State monopoly was created the people had no redress — the State or nation ceased to be an arbitrator or referee to hold the scales that would guarantee just administration of economic affairs.

A STRAW

Mr. M. J. Ashkanasy, K.C., and Mr. S. H. Cohen were counsel for Mr. John Rodgers, Director of Australia-Soviet House, in his writ against the Melbourne Council for refusing him the use of the Town Hall to lecture on his tour of Russia. Could it be that these two Zionist Jews share the pro-Communist outlook of Mr. Rodgers?

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 that 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

CALLING THE BLUFF

By NORMAN F. WEBB.

Notwithstanding the unpleasant aspect of the immediate proposition involved, we consider our contributor's arguments to be weighty and realistic, and we print them as a contrast to the false picture presented to us by official agencies. The paper was read at a recent meeting in support of the proposal that the British should abandon the defence of Berlin. —Editor, T.S.C.

I have undertaken to oppose the proposition that British troops should stay in Berlin in the present unnatural and exhausting effort to prevent Russia from consolidating her position in Eastern Germany.

The objections to such a move are obvious and serious. No matter how it came about, Western prestige and morale would have to sustain a severe shock. And there is no doubt that, for a time at least, British and American influence in Western Germany would sink very low indeed, if the Berliners, and all their resistance stands for, were to be let down.

Yet we must be realists in this matter (a statement which usually precedes some particularly dirty proposal — I say, usually, but not inevitably); and this means that we should try and find out what the defence of Berlin actually means. To get at this, I think you must take it as a symbol; as symbolical of the dominance of a United States World Policy and Great Britain's subservience to it. There may be no harm in this, if the policy of the U.S.A. is built on a basis of realism — in other words, if it's a sound policy. But is it?

Two Points of View

The fact that determines the world situation today is the presence of two points of view,—that of the United States, and that of Russia — and the complete absence of a third, and very necessary one, that of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Let us be quite frank about it, the average American is taught to regard us as foreigners, as Continentals. We are almost as European to them as the French, or the Swedes. The teaching in their schools has always ignored the existence of a British Empire— except in the guise of a rather disreputable commercial ramp, of which, whether we are or not, we should be, ashamed.

From this point of view, then, there are broadly speaking, only two factors to be considered, the United States and Russia. And the rest of the world, including ourselves, merely represent the field of operations upon which these two face one another. This, it is obvious, is a somewhat narrow and unbalanced point of view, and therefore, it is not unlikely that the policy based on it might easily turn out to be unrealistic, even perhaps, unrealizable. In which case, our determination to abandon the defence of Berlin, symbolising, as it would, Great Britain's assertion of a policy of her own, while tragic for the Berliners, would automatically introduced the much-needed third factor into the world picture, greatly to its improvement.

Such a move, however, does not necessarily imply that Great Britain would no longer help Europe to pull herself together; she could not possibly afford to abandon her. But it would mean that the assistance was given from *outside*, as it has

always been in the past, and not from inside, where the policy-makers of the U.S.A., for a great many reasons, none of them very creditable, would have her.

Two Possible Results

The effect of this might be either one of two things. Either it would re-establish the fact of three major world powers, which undeniably existed at the end of the War; at the time when Sir Stafford Cripps is supposed to have got "the green light" from the British electorate "to liquidate the Empire."

Or else it might mean that the United States and Russia retained their places as the major political parties, with the British Commonwealth as an independent minority party effectively holding the balance between them. In either case it could hardly be argued that Great Britain would not be of more real help to Europe as head of a widespread Commonwealth, than merely as a member State inside a federated Europe.

Could such an internally pro-British policy be successful?

A Self-Interested Policy

I want to make it clear that I am not proposing a third, and rival plan for a British Empire. I am suggesting merely a self-interested policy for those areas of the world owing allegiance to the British Crown — "a place in the sun" for them along with everyone else. I distrust Planning entirely, and World Plans in particular, and all I am trying to do is to imagine what might be expected to follow upon a particular event, — refusal on our part to allow ourselves to be submerged in a United States of Europe on the American pattern, and under the undisputed economic control of the U.S.A. However grand such a federation may look on paper, it is only a plan, and the British Empire, is a fact, even if it has been overlooked in the American history books. Could such a move have a successful outcome? Or would it mean the immediate over-running of Western Europe by the Russians?

The American Aim

The American aim — I don't think that British statesmanship at the moment can be said to have an aim at all, unless we can call the abject giving-in to all the economic threats of the United States an aim — is to hold Russia by means of a Western coalition of States built round Great Britain. As I have tried to show, the assertion of a pro-British policy which we are assuming, does not mean the abandonment of the attempt to hold Russia in the present Western line, but the shifting of the executive centre of that attempt from London on to the Continent of Europe. But if the Federation of Europe is not to be built round us, who or what is to be its effective centre? I think there is only, one answer to that question, and that is France, under a strong man. And in the whole of Europe — whether we like the idea or not, — there is

only one even potentially strong man visible, and that is Charles de Gaulle.
De Gaulle

I don't fancy de Gaulle any more than most of us. But if you consider him, it is a fact that he combines a great many of the qualities asked for by the situation I am trying to imagine. For he is sufficiently independent in spirit to be what is called anti-American. I could wish some of our statesmen were as independent. He is even anti-British, in the sense that he resents the suggestion to organise the Continent from London, and would welcome any resolution on our part not to merge ourselves in Europe. He is an unpleasantly jealous man, but quite possibly in a good sense rather than the bad sense of that word. And if ours and France's policies were found to be complementary, he might easily prove a very good ally.

It is a big assumption, of course, that he would turn out to be enough of a statesman to hold Western Europe together. But no one can deny that he is anti-Russian, and his freedom from the narrow, ideological attitude of the socialists towards Spain might pave the way to a Western alliance. It is permissible to assume that he would have the backing of a consolidated British Commonwealth behind him in his task; and as well, Spain, and an Italy with possibly some of her North African possessions returned to her. Nevertheless, it is a big assumption.

Dependence on Marshall Aid?

Now, the argument against Britain being able to make a stand where the United States is concerned is, of course, our supposed dependence, abject and complete, on Marshall Aid. It appears to me that one of the best points about de Gaulle is his refusal to be frightened by this threat. In Great Britain it is an obsession, the threat of the economic blockade from the United States.

Economically, the thinking of this country is completely dominated and cowed, and there is not a politician of either complexion, Socialist or Conservative, with the guts to stand up to the mental pressure. Nothing will persuade me that the British Commonwealth is not capable of economic independence. If it isn't, then no part of the world is.

What would be the immediate effect of an assertion of independence on our part? An immediate threat to cut off Marshall Aid supplies.

Result of Calling the Bluff

And what would be the effect of that, if the issue were squarely faced? Inevitably, I think, the result would be to bring about the very thing we most want; the drawing-together of the areas comprising the British Commonwealth, to devise means to meet the effects of the threatened blockade. And the result of that, I am convinced, would be to bring out in strong relief, as nothing else possibly could, the dependence of the unrealistic economy of the United States upon the markets of Great Britain and the Commonwealth countries, which is so studiously hidden from us at present. For post-war America fears a glut of goods — which as the economic world now works, means a slump in values — as much as, if not more than, we fear starvation, and in consequence is as de-

(Continued on page 3)

SOCIAL CREDIT ACTION GROUP ANNUAL REPORT

FURTHER FUNDS URGENTLY REQUIRED,

The following is a brief summary of the annual report of the Social Credit Action Group recently forwarded to a large number of *New Times* supporters by Mr. P. W. Keogh:

Mr. Eric Butler's weekly fifteen-minute radio talks over 3CS Colac continued regularly throughout 1948. Excellent results, both direct and indirect, have been obtained from these talks. Unfortunately, however, lack of adequate finance over the past two months has resulted in what it is hoped will only be a temporary break in this radio session.

Country newspapers have continued to publish Mr. Butler's material whenever submitted, and it is hoped to make a much greater use of the press this year. If all supporters will "do their bit," and make funds available, it is also hoped to pay to have special news-items inserted in the press regularly.

The Social Credit Action Group was responsible for the production and publication of the two brochures, *Mr. R. G. Menzies and the Socialist Menace*, and *How To Increase Wages Without Increasing Prices*.

Already these two important publications have been largely distributed with excellent results. But far more is required. The Action Group desires to finance the systematic widespread distribution of these brochures by mail to all those members of the community who are in the position to act upon information supplied.

Other important brochures for general distribution are also being prepared. With an assured fighting fund there is much important material, which could be published and distributed.

The Action Group is also desirous of increasing the influence of the *New Times* as rapidly as possible. Portion of last year's fighting funds was used to pay a special man to canvass businessmen for direct subscriptions. Some very worthwhile results were obtained from this venture. Advertising revenue was also increased by paying another man for a short

CALLING THE BLUFF

(Continued from page 2)

pendent on a mad policy of export as are we. That is the essence of the American bluff.

Results of Present Policy

This was, the line we should have taken immediately following the war. But things happened with such rapidity that there was no time for proper consideration. The Labour victory of '45, which, whatever else it may turn out to have been, was a move in an anti-imperial direction — Cripps, the Empire-liquidator, in office, — and then, hard on its heels, the rushed through economic agreement of Bretton Woods, which, whether you regard these moves as accidents or, as I definitely do, the maneuvers of interested parties, certainly had the effect of preventing any economic consolidation of the Commonwealth countries. And it did more, for it planted the U.S.A. on the top of the world, and in a position from which she could exert force — and is exerting it — to drive this country along the narrow path that leads to absorption in a federated Europe; thus leaving the British Commonwealth of Nations without a real head or rallying point.

Another unfortunate result of the present Anglo-American policy in Europe, and its concentration on the defence of Berlin, is that it is at the expense of Anglo-American co-operation in the Far East, and Middle Eastern fields. In both of these Great Britain has been, and is being consistently let down by Washington; indeed, the lack of a united front on the part of our two governments constitutes an open invitation to Russia to go right, in there.

The Middle East

A good many people, it is true, have seen the coming clash between the United States and Russia taking place in the Far East. Recent events do not bear this out, however. Though I am not a studier of Bible

prophecy, my own instinct has plumped for the Middle East as the seat of Armageddon. Things are happening there with considerable rapidity, while we are invited to keep our eyes on the mounting tonnages of the Airlift. Oil is vital to warfare, and so is mineral salt, and both are concentrated in the Middle East. And nothing is more likely or possible, I think, than that Russia would suddenly sweep down through Turkey and Persia, and find Palestine in the possession of an already Sovietised population from North-East Europe, and even Russia itself — embryo Molotovs and Vyshinskys sitting astride our pipe-lines!

Perhaps Sir Stafford Cripps thinks it doesn't matter. But I am not convinced that the British Empire isn't something worth while preserving, if it can be preserved — even worth the average American's while. And I am further convinced that, if it is lost, it will be in the Middle East, and for lack of American co-operation. But if Great Britain were to make a stand against the destiny that Washington seems to have planned for her in Europe, and which we are assuming for the purpose of this debate is symbolised by the defence of Berlin, and were to become self-interested for a change, the whole world scene might undergo an alteration also. For such a change of policy, on our part, inevitably involves an arbitrary scrapping of the Bretton Woods undertaking, as well as an invitation to the Marshall Aiders to come on and do their worst, which, if it meant stopping the export of goods to Great Britain and Europe, is the last thing they want to do. It would take courage, and a united front in the beginning, but once challenged I know that the whole situation would be found to be no more than a huge economic bluff, and the only way to deal with bluffs is to call them.

—*The Social Creditor*, Jan. 15.

period. Much more could be done along these lines if sufficient finance were available to guarantee a competent man a reasonable salary for a period.

Money has also been spent in marking and posting copies of the *New Times* to selected people. For example, the issue of the paper containing our constructive criticism of the last Social Justice Statement by the Roman Catholic Church, and Father Coffey's letter dealing with Social Credit, was posted out to several hundred Roman Catholic dignitaries in Victoria. More of this valuable type of work is planned.

The Action Group makes a strong appeal to all *New Times*' readers to consider immediately what they can donate to this year's fighting funds, and to send their donation to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. P. W. Keogh, C/o Box 1226 L., G.P.O., Melbourne, C.I. A small donation from several thousand supporters will provide an adequate sum for this most vital year. We are fighting for survival, and those who realise the dreadful urgency of the situation must make available the financial "ammunition" to intensify the battle.

COMPOST

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By F. H. Billington, N.D.A., N.D.D.

Here is the very book for the gardener or farmer who has had no previous introduction to the subject of compost making. It is a most comprehensive survey of the whole subject of organic farming and gardening. Price 3/8, post free. Order from *New Times* Ltd., Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne.

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ADEQUATE PURCHASING POWER

Under the heading, "3 Million Unemployed in U.S.A.," the Melbourne *Argus* of February 21 states that not until unemployment reached a sustained total of four to five millions, would there be an unemployment problem requiring action. Other reports coming to hand from the U.S.A. make it clear that any required action will have to be taken by the Federal Government.

Advocates of genuine free enterprise and opponents of Socialist controls in any shape or form should take "note of the admission that free enterprise does not automatically provide adequate purchasing power over any given period to buy the total production of that period, and that "Government action" is necessary. It is true, of course, that Government action in the form of hundreds of millions of dollars of new credits for war production, and more new credits for production being exported to Europe under the Marshall Plan, has already been a major factor in preventing "over-production" and widespread unemployment in the U.S.A.

But it appears now that even greater supplies of new credits are required to maintain purchasing power in the pockets of the American people. This will provide the American Government with an excuse for further centralised control and increased strides towards the totalitarian objective, which is being fostered through every central Government in the world. The fear of unemployment is used to frighten people everywhere into accepting the idea that they cannot get access to purchasing power unless they are prepared to submit to more and more Government control.

Freedom-loving people must, if they desire to escape slavery, examine the manner in which the control of the creation and distribution of financial credit is being manipulated to create the complete Monopoly State. If a community produces a certain amount of production over a given period, but has insufficient purchasing power to buy all the production at a profitable price, surely the additional financial credit necessary to allow the production to be sold belongs to the people of the community.

But under the totalitarian policy of "full employment," which means more and more imposed employment by a central Government; the additional financial credits are only made available if people are prepared to work on various Government public works, etc. To make people work to obtain what belongs to them as a right is exploitation.

We are not denying that the building of war equipment, particularly at present, and the construction of various public works may be necessary. But we challenge the preposterous suggestion that before people can get access to bread they have already produced, they must first obtain the financial credit necessary by submitting to Government control.

The fact that every Government in the world is actively advocating a policy of "full employment" is definite evidence of the fact that they are all advancing the totalitarian objective of the international planners who seek to impose a centralised despotism upon the peoples of the entire world.

This totalitarian objective can only be defeated by stripping Governments of their power to control the individual's credit.

ARE YOU A DIRECT SUBSCRIBER?

The direct subscriber is the most profitable financially to the *New Times*. At present a large number of readers obtain their paper through newsagents who have no interest whatever in the *New Times* and who make no effort to display the paper. Forwarding papers to such newsagents involves the *New Times* in a tremendous amount of work and financial cost which would be appreciably reduced if more readers became direct subscribers.

However, it is urged that readers continue to support all those agents who are active supporters of the paper, and who display it regularly; also, of course, the various Movements in the different States.

But, where newsagents do not make any attempt to display and thus assist the paper, readers will help the *New Times* financially if they become direct subscribers immediately.

Direct subscription rates are: —One year, £1/5/-; six months, 13/-; three months, 7/- Order from *New Times Ltd.*, Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne.

SOCIAL PILLARS

Mr. Chifley's social security, like Sir William Beveridge's, rests on two pillars.

Quoting Sir William, one pillar is "that war and peace for a democracy is indivisible" (that is, the same controls in peace as in war, or controls forever, such as directed labor and price control).

The other pillar (quoting Sir William again) is "a health service . . . which will ensure the careful certification needed to control payment of benefits." (Note that the stress is on "Certificates" rather than on "health").

Keeping the pillars in mind, as well as the abuse of endowments, it is easy to see why the politicians and bureaucrats are itching to control the doctors. To protect the pillars they want a police force disguised as a health service.

If they had control of the doctors, they urge, the people could have medicine free and health at half price. The Government holds in one hand a bottle of medicine and 5/3 to lure the patient, and in the other a bundle of fetters to lasso the doctor.

If the Government could secure control of the doctors it could force them to police the social services (such as child endowment) on the spot, and it could make them watch the worker to see he keeps on working.

—M. McKENNA, Sydney Road, Brunswick.

—*The Herald*, Melbourne, Feb. 22.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

In order to reduce its costs of production the *New Times* is now getting most of its routine work done by volunteers. This policy is saving many pounds each week. But, to maintain this policy successfully, a number of regular volunteers must be available.

Melbourne readers of the *New Times* are therefore requested to consider carefully what time they can devote each week to assisting the *New Times* and associated activities. The more volunteers who can devote a few hours' work weekly at the *New Times* office, the greater the progress towards expanding the influence of the *New Times* and the ideas for which it stands.

Volunteers are required for such tasks as the following: Wrapping the *New Times* for direct subscribers and newsagents, wrapping books, addressing wrappers, and envelopes, etc.

Volunteers are required especially for Tuesday and Wednesday evenings every week. Those who are only available on other evenings or on Saturday mornings can also be of great assistance.

Those who can help in any capacity at to call at the *New Times* office, 5th Floor, any time are requested to ring MU 2834, or McEwan House, 343 Little Collins Street.

H. N. SMITH

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TO THE POINT

Digging Their Own Graves

In its latest *Review*, the Victorian Institute of Public Affairs, an organisation that asserts it is concerned about the preservation of individual independence, provides an article entitled, "Free Enterprise and Socialism." This article is a typical example of how many people who really think they are opposing Socialism are, in reality, "softening up" the community for the eventual acceptance of complete totalitarianism by fostering ideas, which further the Socialist policy of gradualness.

The following are extracts from the article under discussion: "From the surface viewpoint . . . there are many similarities between the moderate Socialist and the modern progressive supporter of free enterprise . . . In the first place both the moderate Socialist and the progressive private enterpriser recognise the need of a large measure of social security . . . Both support the doctrine of full or high employment. Both, too, would recognise that neither full employment nor social security can be achieved without some degree of governmental control and planning . . ."

"The practical Socialist of moderate complexion" would "venture much further into the field of nationalisation than his opponent, but, even the progressive supporter of free enterprise has shown that he has no objection to State ownership where its virtues over private ownership can be demonstrated beyond all doubt."

It is true that the I.P.A. *Review* contends that the close similarity between "modern progressive private enterprise and moderate Socialism" is "more apparent than real," but the fallaciousness of this contention is made evident by the example of financing social services. It is true, of course, as the I.P.A. says, that the Socialists favour "taxation," with a heavy incidence on higher incomes, to finance social services, while non-Socialists favour "contributions." The non-Socialist "would justify this course on the ground that only if the individual directly contributes to the provision of his own security can he really learn to appreciate it . . ." But the totalitarian principle underlying the two "opposing" methods is clear for all men of independent outlook to see. The State compulsorily takes a portion of the individual's money from him — either by taxation or by "contributions" — and only permits him to get some of it back if he surrenders his independence to the State. Never has there been devised a more subtle method of sapping the manhood of the nation and preparing the way for the complete subjection of the individual.

Unless the I.P.A. and similar organisations can clarify their confused ideas on the Socialist or totalitarian menace, they merely provide evidence to support the cynical Socialist contention that most of the so-called advocates of free enterprise and independence are busily engaged in helping to dig their own graves.

Manpower Control

More and more information is coming to hand from Great Britain showing how Socialism in practice necessitates manpower control to ensure that the central

"planning" is not upset by individuals changing their work as they like.

In the House of Commons on December 7, 1948, Sir John Mellor asked the Minister of Labour why he prosecuted the employer of Sarah Alterkovsky, at Nottingham, on October 22 for engaging her without his consent.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour, Mr. Ness Edwards, replied: "The defendants were prosecuted for engaging a worker otherwise than through the Exchange or an approved employment agency."

"Britons never shall be slaves"!

* * *

Individual Initiative

There could be no more striking confirmation of the deep-seated sickness of Western civilisation than the manner in which so many professing Christians accept and further the idea that the growth of centralisation and monopolies is "inevitable." Acceptance of this idea is surrender to the materialist heresy, which postulates that the mind is rigidly dominated by things; that free will and individual choice cannot effect the "trend of events."

Destruction of the belief in free will automatically paralyses individual initiative. As *The Protocols* say, the planners fear individual initiative more than anything else.

* * *

The Individual and the Group

"The flaw in modern political thought is this: The necessary subordination of the individual to the State (or, indeed, to any organisation, society or club, of which he is a member) has led us all, in various degrees, to a tragic fallacy about the nature of that relationship.

"We hear a great deal about the value of the individual in democratic countries; but that value, once the central value of Christendom, has been made to subserve the political and bureaucratic machines. In almost everything that concerns human beings most — the individual human being of average intelligence and character is necessarily far ahead of any man-made organisation, no matter how large or mechanically powerful. Mentally and morally, the individual human being is bound to be in advance of those larger but far more crudely organised bodies — or abstractions — which we loosely personify as nations, states, bureaucracies, or even political parties.

"It is just as impossible for them to have a common conscience as it is for them to have a child in common, and to feel towards that child exactly as the individual mother does."

— Alfred Noyes in *The Edge of The Abyss*.

* * *

A Half-Truth

The Victorian *Labor Call* of February 18 carries the striking headline: "No More Income Tax." Having overcome his astonishment at this announcement, the reader reads on: "In four and a half months, the majority of Australian workers will cease paying income tax. When the new schedules commence to operate on July 1, all personal exertion incomes under £500 a year will be free of income tax. This limit will apply to single wage-earners."

While this rosy story will undoubtedly assist Labor's Federal Election prospects, it is not a complete story. Half-truths can be far more dangerous than direct lies. In the first place, it is very doubtful if a majority of Australian workers are single men earning under £10 per week. The question of Social Service tax is not mentioned. It has been shown that 85 per cent, of those paying Social Service tax get less from social services than they contribute. The alleged purpose of pay-roll tax, which the majority of employers have to pay, was to pay for child endowment. Employees should look into this matter a little more closely and realise that they are being hoodwinked.

Needless to say, there is no suggestion of any worthwhile reductions of the most vicious taxation of all, indirect taxation. When the *Labor Call* can publish the headline, "No More Sales Tax," it may indicate that Government policy is moving in the right direction.

In the meantime, taxpayers can watch prices steadily increasing and estimate just what real benefit they will get from direct tax reductions when they do operate.

* * *

The Monarchy

"The great objection advanced against monarchies has been that they represent a principle of power which can act as a brake on the leaders of political parties representing the will of the people. The twentieth century has shown abundantly how much it is in the interests of the ordinary individual that there should be such checks. It proved a bad, rather than a good day for Europe, when all the German kings were tumbled from their thrones in 1918, and no authority was left to Germany save that of political parties and their leaders; and, within fourteen years, the most ruthless and dangerous of all such parties was the sole and unchallenged authority throughout the Reich."

— *The Tablet*, Nov. 20, 1948.

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by Eric D. Butler

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Disease can be Prevented

Sufficient knowledge has now been gathered from all over the world to be able to say that most diseases in animals, crops and orchards can be eliminated by ensuring that the soil is properly treated.

The evidence collated and presented here by various authorities may come as a shock to those who have been led to believe that man, aided by chemists and Government departments, must spend a lot of his time in waging a full-scale war against disease.

In his *Agricultural Testament*, Sir Albert Howard writes: "More than 50 years have passed since the modern work on diseases of plants began. What has been the general result of all this study of vegetable pathology? Has it provided anything of permanent value to agriculture? Is the game worth the candle? Must agricultural science go on discovering more and more new pests and devising more and more poison sprays to destroy them, or is there any alternative method of dealing with the situation? Why is there so much of this disease . . . Can the cultivators of the East, for example, teach us anything about diseases and their control?"

Howard then proceeds to tell of his work as Imperial Economic Botanist to the Government of India:

"In order to give my crops every chance of being attacked by parasites, nothing was done in the way of prevention; no insecticides and fungicides were used; no diseased material was ever destroyed. As my understanding of Indian agriculture progressed, and as my practice improved, a marked diminution of disease occurred. . . . By 1910 I had learnt how to grow healthy crops, practically free from disease, without the slightest help from mycologists, entomologists, bacteriologists, agricultural chemists, statisticians, clearing houses of information, artificial manures, spraying machines, insecticides, fungicides, germicides, and all other expensive paraphernalia of the modern Experiment Station."

Disease in Oxen

Dealing with how his oxen fed on food from composted soil reacted to disease, Howard writes:

"I was naturally intensely interested in watching the reaction of these well-chosen and well-fed oxen to diseases like rinderpest, septicemia; and foot and mouth diseases which frequently devastated the countryside. None of my animals were segregated; none were inoculated; they frequently came in contact with diseased stock. As my small farm-yard at Pusa was only separated by a low hedge from one of the large cattle-sheds on the Pusa estate, in

which outbreaks of foot and mouth disease often occurred, I have several times seen my oxen rubbing noses with foot and mouth cases. Nothing happened. The healthy, well-fed animals reacted to this disease exactly as suitable varieties of crops, when properly grown, did to insects and fungous pests — no infection took place."

Benefits of Compost

In his book, *This Plot of Earth*, the famous English writer. Mr. H. J. Massingham, states:

"I will give a few examples collected from outside my own garden of the benefits conferred by compost upon soil and plant and beast and man alike. Mr. Chambers, for instance, of the Cheshire Joint Board Institution for Mental Deficiency, Cranage Hall, declared that he had cured celery of leafminer, strawberries of yellow-edge, cordon apples of mealy bug and American blight by the use of compost alone. In Barbadoes, sugar canes, once fed by humus and farmed by peasants, were then cultivated on artificials and big business lines. The result was that the canes began to lose the power of vegetative reproduction from the circulation of protein being interrupted. A plan for restoring the old methods by means of mixed farming, animal husbandry, co-operative marketing and a Peasants' Loan Bank was reported in the *Times* of December 1942.

"Dr. J. W. Scarff reported in September, 1942, that 500 Tamil coolies employed by the Singapore Health Department were granted allotments of 40 acres on condition that they composted and used for themselves the fruit and vegetables grown. All sales were forbidden. At the end of a year, there was 'a surprising improvement in stamina and health and sickness was swept away.'

Rhodesian Example

"In Rhodesia, witchweed is the main obstacle to maize growing and no satisfactory insect control has been found. But as compost is applied to an infested field and maize is then grown, hardly a plant of witchweed is to be seen. Dr. Nicol says: 'The reason for this astonishingly complete control is not known, but since compost is the product of millions of micro-organisms acting on plant and animal residues, the control of witchweed by means of compost has every right to be included amongst biological methods.' . . .

"*The Rhodesian Herald* of September 4, 1942, reported that potatoes dressed with

five tons of compost per acre for eelworm were completely rid of it in the second year."

Sweet Soil or Sulphur

A doctor writing in the *American Eagle*, of Estero, Florida, in July 1940, said:

"I was taken to a farm recently to treat a sick friend, and as we drove through various orchards, my friend, a citrus grower began talking about citrus groves. He pointed out the various ones that were fertilised with chemicals, how polluted the leaves were. Then he showed me extinct groves that had perished by certain diseases. 'What disease,' I asked him, and he candidly replied, 'stupidity; but they don't learn,' he said, 'for after thirty years, they still pour on the sulphur, brimstone and fire, . . . They burn up everything around the plants; not even bacteria can live, far less earthworms. Look at my grove, the leaves are clean, the ground is 'dirty,' sure; it is full of trash, humus, grass, leaves, all sorts of junk, but the earth is full of bacteria and earthworms. It is moist, mellow and lovely to handle. My fruit is sweet and beautiful. I don't have to spray anything.'"

Healthy Apples

Writing in the *Memphis (U.S.A.) Press Scimitar*, of May 20, 1944, a Rev. Robert W. Jones says: —

"Sir Albert Howard claims that the use of humus in agricultural practice will reduce the bug menace (including the cotton boll weevil) to an insignificant minimum. I have had experiences, which support his thesis. I have been a small mulcher from away back . . . Last year, for example, I dried about twelve bushels of apples from two trees that have not been sprayed in 15 years. I don't claim that I did not have a bug in a bushel, but I can truthfully say that there were not many defective apples on the trees. For the past five years the trees have been mulched with orchard grass. No spraying, no fertiliser, no bugs, but excellent apples."

Foot and Mouth Disease

Lord Portsmouth once tried to get the Government Veterinary Authority in Great Britain to conduct an experiment on foot and mouth diseases along his lines: —

"His idea was that, instead of adopting the slaughter policy, they should prohibit any movement of stock from the island (of Wight), and let the disease take its course, carefully noting the farms that escaped and comparing the system of farming in practice there, with that on the farms to which the disease spread. The 'vets' threw up their hands in horror, and said: 'Do you suggest that half Europe is badly farmed?' 'Yes,' said Lord Portsmouth, 'just that.'

(Continued on page 7)

Disease can be Prevented

(Continued from page 6)

"They then drew his attention to a large wall map. It covered the Continent from the Baltic to the Mediterranean, and from the Atlantic to Russia. It was studded with small flags, each flag representing a confirmed outbreak of foot and mouth disease. Lord Portsmouth told me that he looked from this map to the 'vets' in astonishment. 'Doesn't that map show you something?' he asked. 'Only,' was the reply, 'that the disease is very prevalent.'

"Lord Portsmouth then told me that he had an intimate knowledge of some parts of Southern Europe . . . He said that from his personal knowledge of the farming methods undertaken in this mountain area, he was able to notice that very often the flags stuck into the map stopped where, traditional peasant farming began. He pointed this out to these authorities . . . I asked him what reply was made to this, and he said: 'Oh! They just thought I was mad!'"

—From Lady Eve Balfour's *Living Soil*
The Specialist Approach

The so-called "scientific" approach to agriculture has failed. Far too often the "scientific" approach to problems is very misleading, as the problem is not studied as a whole. The specialist in every field of human activity tends to become narrow without any understanding of where his work may be leading. This is particularly true in relationship to the subject of diseases in plants and animals. The specialists merely take the short view and attack every new disease with new and more powerful chemicals, etc. This narrow, specialist approach completely obscures the fact that every new counter to a particular disease usually creates more problems by further upsetting the balance of nature, which in turn leads to further diseases. If man works in harmony with nature, there are few diseases connected with agriculture. But if man is going to ignore the causes of disease, then more and more "scientific" organisation will be required to cope with disease. The end of this procedure can only result in the complete domination of the individual agriculturist by organisation.

The individual agriculturist can only defeat the menace of control by organisation by working in harmony with nature instead of trying to exploit her. Properly nourished soil will produce disease-free plants and animals. And disease-free plants and animals will produce healthy human beings.

WHITHER CIVILISATION? EVER-INCREASING INCIDENCE OF ILL HEALTH.

By Harold F. White.

Our civilisation has reached a point where we must take stock of our surroundings; all about is an ever-increasing incidence of ill health, disease, and social unrest; huge areas of soil have been rendered unfertile; erosion is taking an ever-increasing toll.

We have used science to exploit our environment, it has been ill directed and uncoordinated; it has taken the line of specialisation — developing single factors. Individually wonderful things have been done, but the effect on the environment has been neglected. We must realise that all natural forces and life processes are extraordinarily complicated and wonderfully balanced and coordinated; we only know a small part of these forces and processes as yet, any undue interference with the balance inevitably brings repercussions from other sources, though possibly long delayed, as nature sets about restoring the balance.

We have not listened to those more broadminded scientists, such as Sir Albert Howard, who warned investigators against wasting their time investigating some disease or pest, which would disappear as a mist before the sun as soon as sound methods of agriculture were adopted. Disease and pests, he points out, are nature's way of eliminating the unfit; we should use them as an indication that all is not well, the species is out of its place or our methods are wrong.

Or of Sir George Stapleton, who, in *The Way of the Land*, writes: "The ordinary scientist, frequently through no fault of his own, is too often confined to the mere part of a great problem which he is perhaps compelled to approach out of its natural context, and without any reference to human context — yet there must always be human context. The scientist who approaches every problem, both great and small, largely as a means of search for further problems can never be finished with his ultimates, and therefore it perhaps follows that if he is a good scientist he will be precluded from being a man of action. For my own part I never would have improved a yard of ground, if I had been a good scientist, and if I had waited on ultimates. I cannot begin to explain — nobody can — anything more than a fraction of the biochemical ultimates of the soil. But I know from my experiments and trials when I do certain things I get certain results, and that is quite good enough for me."

Or again of Lord Horder, who, in a presidential address, warned against being misled by single factors, as there is so much we do not know.

Or again of Lord Louis Mountbatten who, in an address to radio engineers, said: "The scientist has been too much inclined to sit in his ivory tower, washing his hands of the results of his discoveries and inventions. The world is moving fast,

and it is up to the scientist to see that it does not move downhill."

That splendid research, work by Dr. Weston Price — *Nutrition and Physical Degeneration* — surely is the greatest castigation of our vaunted civilisation that has yet been written up. He found, all over the face of the earth, groups of so-called primitive peoples who had learned to live in harmony with their surroundings, enjoying splendid physique, health and happiness; they undoubtedly would go on living thus for many centuries yet, but as soon as they come into contact with civilisation and its modernised foods, they wilt and become a prey to that physical degeneration and ill-health to which the so-called civilised peoples are heir.

Surely some scientists can help us to live in harmony with our environment, while at the same time making use of the natural laws to increase production, of health-giving foods, which are the basis of all physical and mental well being.

Turning to food production — it is becoming ever more certain that decomposing organic matter is fundamental to soil use, and is the starting point of all life processes. We can say with absolute confidence — keep the soil plentifully supplied with organic matter and all will be well.

But, the question is raised; can enough organic matter be provided? Here we are up against one of the tragedies of civilisation with its congregating of populations in cities and towns and the disposal of their organic wastes. Modern investigation and practice has shown the way to process these wastes and return them to the soil, where they will become the source of still more and better food crops.

The problem of moulding public opinion to adopt these practices is probably the most urgent problem facing civilisation today; with this must go the realisation that the quality of food is of more importance than the quantity, and that the conditions under which it is grown decide the quality.

Parents must be made to realise that the physical and mental well being of their offspring depends to quite a large extent on the way they nourish themselves, prior to and following conception. How many parents realise their responsibilities to their offspring and to the nation? How many producers realise their responsibilities to their fellow man? Alas, all too few; until this realisation is brought about Christianity is only a hollow sham.

—*The Cobden Times*, Vic., Jan. 26.

IS DIGGING NECESSARY?

By F. C. KING.

This important booklet must be in the hands of every organic farmer and gardener. The author, one of England's most famous gardeners, has proved over a long period that better and healthier vegetables can be grown without digging. He outlines the methods he has used.

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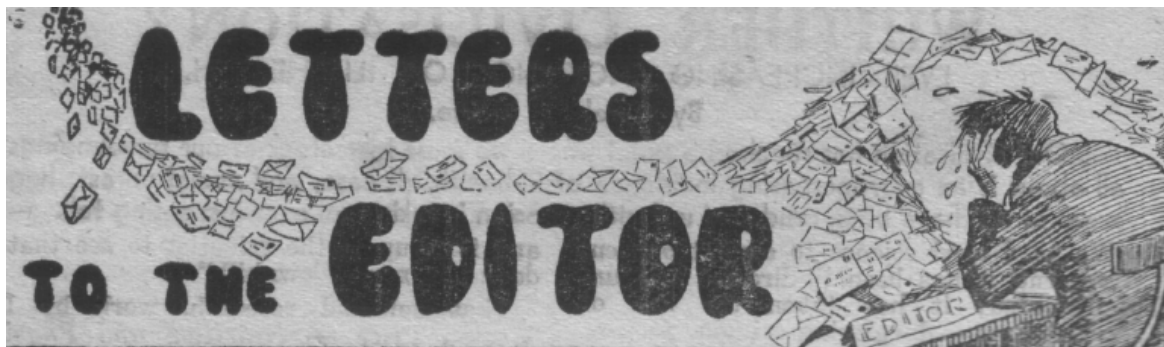
"SOCIAL CREDIT AND CATHOLICISM"

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

Introduction by Eric D. Butler.

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Sir,—At the time the British Medical Association rejected association with the National Health Service, I was of the opinion that their action was rather hasty. Now that Hansard has come along, the reasons that actuated the rejection are quite apparent.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Senator McKenna) when introducing the second reading of the National Health Service Bill said, "The Bill is an enabling measure, in which may be seen only the broad outline of a proposed national health service, the details of the service and its administration being left to progressive development which will be implemented by regulations." (Hansard No. 80, page 3372).

So really the measures put forward by the Government must be regarded as only a softening up process in an attack on the medical profession. The real attack will come later, when regulations may be sneaked through while Parliament is not sitting, and when officialdom has full control as per Section 5 para. (1) of the Bill, which gives the Minister power to delegate his functions to any Tom, Dick or Harry. The power of delegation has led to some peculiar experiences in England, where medical practitioners have been shocked at hearing the peculiarities of a patient's disease, being discussed by laymen, the information obviously having come from the official files. It does appear certain that privacy in our medical matters will become a thing of the past. In this regard, I am rather touchy; I prefer to keep my diseases to myself, but perhaps this is due to the fact that I am an unwilling participant in the New Order. I notice that the Social Services Act, Section 16, gives the Director-General power to call, summons persons to attend his office, power to compel a witness to be sworn, power to compel a witness to answer any question, and power to compel the pro-

duction of any document. This of course invalidates the Oath of Hippocrates, and compels a doctor or other person to make public among other things, details of any persons private history. Similar provisions appear certain to be added to the National Health Service Act, possibly by way of regulation.

It appears to me that the British Medical Association has a golden opportunity to bring forward an alternative scheme to the Government set up. Bearing in mind the good service rendered by doctors in the lodge medical services, I am of the opinion that the medical profession could supply a health service, which would outclass the Government proposal, which must inevitably carry a lot of bureaucratic dead weight.

I do not for a moment consider that the Federal Government would welcome this proposal, as it is my opinion that the National Health Service is part of a world wide scheme. Support for this view has been put forward by Douglas Reed, and by the introduction into the Federal Parliament of a Bill for a World Health Organisation.

As all existing political parties have decided that our medical needs can be best catered for by adopting the pattern carried out in armed forces, the general public is left completely undefended in the socialistic onslaught on the medical profession.

To safeguard the interests of the public, it is vital that some *sort* of organisation be formed, to examine and pass judgment on matters connected with a national health service.

Yours etc.,
V. James,
Subiaco, W.A.

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