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SIXPENCE WEEKLY.

MR. MENZIES AND SOCIAL PLANNING

If Mr. Menzies was reported correctly in the *Melbourne Herald* of March 17, he has provided further striking evidence of his unreliability as an effective opponent of the totalitarian drive. Mr. Menzies was reported as follows:

"The Opposition had not supported the Social Services amendment, carried at the 1946 Federal election, because it favored the free bottle of medicine, said Mr. Menzies. It supported the amendment because it did not want to oppose the Government's power to deal with social services, and that power had been placed in doubt by a High Court decision.

"The Opposition had not supported all the items mentioned in the social services referendum, but had supported child endowment and widows' pensions.

"If the amendment had been divided into two parts, with one part seeking power to abolish private medical practices, these powers would have been refused.

"The Government now claimed that the referendum gave it authority to introduce the Pharmaceutical Bill or some legislation regarding doctors.

"This was the greatest piece of impudence he had ever heard.

"The Government had asked for constitutional power, not for authority to proceed with a legislative programme."

Mr. Menzies must be either very naive or he is trying to "cover up" against strong criticism of his advocacy of a "yes" vote on Social Services at the 1946 Referendum. We find it difficult to believe that a man of Mr. Menzies' legal standing did not understand the implications of what he was advocating. Does Mr. Menzies seriously ask electors to believe that he really thought that the Labor-Socialists were merely asking for greater constitutional powers with-

out any idea of using these powers to further centralised planning? If so, this is an open admission that he has no conception of the real Socialist menace, and that, should by some chance he be the leader of a new Government after the next Federal Elections, he could be easily used by the economic planners to carry forward without hindrance the plans for the complete Monopoly State.

But we cannot believe that Mr. Menzies is an innocent simpleton being used by the planners. Mr. Menzies is a very astute politician who knows that, if he is to further his political fortunes he must follow certain clearly defined paths, all of which are carefully controlled by the powerful anti-social vested interests who work behind the political scenes.

While it is interesting to note that Mr. Menzies affects surprise at the results of his advocacy of greater powers for Canberra in 1946, it would be much more instructive to hear Mr. Menzies state in definite terms what he proposes to do about the National Health Bill and similar legislation if he and his associates are elected to form a new Government late this year.

Mr. Menzies has, it is true, placed it on record that he has repented for his past advocacy of centralisation. But the electors would be more readily convinced of the genuineness of this professed repentance if Mr. Menzies were to enunciate clearly how he proposes to decentralise power instead of trying to explain away his past sins.

NEW COAL MACHINE

Backed by many years of patient labor that was financed by someone — in private enterprise — who was willing to risk money on an idea that might be right, "Colmol," a new coal-winning and loading machine, has passed its numerous tests in U.S.A., and is moving into mass production. The machine, which was demonstrated at New Lexington, Ohio, in October last, and at Finleyville, Pennsylvania in December, revealed how to get more coal out of the ground with fewer men. It also illustrated the formula by which, under the capitalist system of free enterprise, "work can be made easier and the products of industry more plentiful and cheaper." It is claimed for the machines that cut and load in con-

tinuous operations which eliminate both drilling and blasting, that an output of 80 to 100 tons per man shift can be effected as against 6.11 tons in U.S.A., 2.9 tons in Australia, and 1.11 tons in Britain. The machine requires a team of four men, and produces in operation more than two tons of coal per minute!

Well, here is a chance to overcome the coal impasse in Australia, but one that will be fiercely contested by the handful of men in control now of Australia's coal policy, and to whom the Australian Government should turn attention, even if it means leaving the long-persecuted "doctors alone for a time.

—L. WITHALL, "Canberra Letter,"
March .11, 1949.

SOVIET JUSTICE

Egg Board women inspectors went to a shop in Coogee, bought a dozen eggs, and had them weighed.

They pronounced them 2 oz. short, revealed they were inspectors, and said there would be a prosecution.

Then they asked the names of the shop's suppliers.

Invoices were produced proving that the eggs had been supplied by the Egg Board.

There has been no prosecution. —"The Sunday Telegraph," Sydney, Feb. 20, 1949.

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.

TO THE POINT

Necessary Evils

"The Opposition has been speaking strongly on the Shipping Bill, but one thing has been missing from their speeches so far. They know that, despite their opposition, Labor has the numbers to force the thing through. It is up to Menzies and Fadden to say, on behalf of their parties, 'there are other ways of encouraging the shipbuilding industry and if we are the Government after the next elections this bill will be repealed.'"

—Sydney "Bulletin," March 9, 1949.

A genuine anti-Socialist Government, if elected at the next Federal Elections, could profitably spend at least twelve months repealing legislation. Less legislation, not more, is required if the people are to be freed from the grip of Governments, and the monopolistic power-lusters who use Governments to further their policies of domination. But many of the Liberals and the Country Party are just as obsessed with the idea of Government as an end in itself, as are the Labor-Socialists.

The most realistic attitude for electors to adopt towards Governments is to regard them as necessary evils to be kept firmly in their proper place at all times.

* * * *

Significant

It was significant that the following letter from the Melbourne "Herald" of March 11 appeared only in the first edition, and was deleted from all subsequent editions;

Mr. R. G. Casey (8/3/49) confirms the viewpoint of many competent anti-Socialists, that some Liberals have themselves partially succumbed to the very Socialist virus they attack.

Mr. Casey writes: "Professor Wright refers to a planned economy, with the inference that Liberals will have none of it. With great respect, this is not the case. It is a question of degree." As the term "planned economy" is synonymous with Socialism, Mr. Casey apparently feels that a degree of Socialism is not dangerous.

A planned economy is impossible without planners possessing great powers delegated to them by Parliament. Once this planning begins, how are the planners to be effectively controlled by the electors?

The correct function of Government is not to be fostering centralised planning, but to pursue policies that enable every individual to do his own planning.

—ERIC D. BUTLER, Campaign Director, Vic. League of Rights.

* * * *

Another Product

The first Chair of Political Science in Australia is to be established at the Melbourne University. Professor W. McMahon Ball has been appointed to take the new Chair. This is only fit and proper, as indicated by the following extract from an article on Professor Ball published in the Melbourne "Herald" of March 9, 1949: "He travelled abroad under a Rockefeller Research Scholarship in 1929, and again, later, on a Carnegie Scholarship. He studied for two and a half years under Laski at the London School of Economics

Revealing

"There began in 1925 a friendship and collaboration between the school (London School of Economics) and the Rockefeller Institute, which grew and flourished."—Lady Beveridge.

* * * *

Liberal Policy?

Mr. Casey, as reported in the Melbourne "Argus" of March 11: "Socialism will not be mentioned by Labor during the next election campaign, but it will be the real issue of the struggle. Labor is probably behind the present whispering campaign that the Liberals have no policy; but we have a policy, worked out in great detail, and it will be secret till the campaign begins."

Of course Labor will not talk about Socialism; they will talk about a "planned economy" and the necessity of Governments providing "full employment." And Mr. Casey's secret policy will undoubtedly be concerned with "planned economies" (only with a different degree, of course), and "full employment." While electors are waiting with bated breath to hear about Mr. Casey's much-mentioned secret policy, they might ask rank and file members of the Liberal Party to enlighten them on that "democratic control of policy" which Liberal leaders speak about.

* * * *

Bureaucracy

The latest figures released by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician, Mr. S. R. Carver, indicate how the march towards Socialism necessitates more and more non-productive officials. In November 1948, the total number of Governmental employees in Australia was 595,000. By December the figure had increased to 599,300, an increase of 3,800 for the month, or over 900 a week. Historians state that just prior to the collapse of the Roman Empire, approximately half the population was on the public payroll. We haven't far to go now!

Over Industrialisation

Mr. Colin Clark, Director of the Queensland Bureau of Industry, and one of the few economists of international repute who should not be certified, recently made some very pertinent comment on statements made at the Liberal Party's Rural Conference in South Australia:

Mr. Clark said: "If Australia develops its agriculture, together with economically necessary industries, it is generally agreed that its natural resources will provide food and raw materials for a population of about 25 millions. That is certainly more than a very few years away.

"If, on the other hand, Australia goes on developing uneconomic industries, it shall soon have hardly any labor left in primary production.

"Australia shall have to export manufactures in order to buy food and raw materials on the world market — a state of affairs which Mr. MacKinnon and presumably The Australian Liberal Party, appears to look forward to.

"Are we going to have to wait for the actual experience to show us what a

frightening reduction in Australia's standard of living that this would involve?" Mr. Clarke asked.

But, of course, large-scale industrial development to enable more production to be given away in the form of exports ensures that "full employment" is maintained. Great Britain has pursued this fantastic policy with the result that the necessity to import large quantities of food, which could easily be grown in Great Britain, has been used by the international planners to enslave the British peoples.

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"Free" Medicine

Under the innocuous heading, "Pressure," the Melbourne "Herald" of March 8, 1949, published the informative letter below. We hate to be suspicious, but it is very strange that this excellent letter only appeared in the first edition of the "Herald." The "Herald" has consistently urged the B.M.A. to compromise with the Federal Government.

"Penicillin, tetanus anti-toxin, insulin, and the agent to prevent diphtheria are made by the Federal Government. Every year since 1940 the people have been paying tax to get them 'free.' Penicillin is 2/- wholesale and 3/6 retail, tetanus anti-toxin 1/6 and 2/9, and insulin 4/8 and 5/8. The agent to prevent diphtheria is free to Municipal councils without a doctor's prescription.

They are all 'free' to patients, but only when a *doctor* prescribes them on a Government form. Prescribed on any other paper they cost the patient retail prices. Each of them has its virtue, but no one takes them *for* the love of taking them.

"And now comes the inquiry: Why are they sold at retail without a form and free with a form? If the Government wants proof of disposal, the prescription on a doctor's own paper is proof as good as his prescription on a Government form. No one tries to steal daylight or darkness — both these commodities are still free, I imagine—and if penicillin and insulin are free no one will try to steal them either. The answer to the inquiry is simple. The Government hoped the retail prices would spur the people on to make the doctors use the forms. Instead, the people have not worried the doctors about 'free' medicine, so now the Government has to show its hand. A law is to be made soon to prosecute doctors who do not use the forms when prescribing any medicine the Government calls 'free' medicine, and Mr. Chifley says he expects 'full support from the party' to carry out the law!

"Turn now to why the Government is itching to make the doctors use the forms. The forms are part of the plan to force the doctors to watch how parents spend the child endowment, to watch how widows spend their pensions, and to watch how the workers put in their time while they are off work on benefits. (See clause 46—the Gestapo clause—of the Federal Benefits Act.)

—M. McKENNA, Sydney Road, N.10."

REVEALING COMMENT

"On paper Israel is tiny, both in size and population, but there is no doubt she is going to make a disproportionate noise in the world," says the "Daily Mail's" special correspondent in Tel Aviv.

"You cannot live here, even for a few days, without realising that Israel is bursting with energy, enthusiasm and ambition.

"She is developing a raging superiority complex. She thinks of herself as the future hub of the Middle East. She believes she is capable of almost unlimited miracles. Arab nations may well wonder whether Israel is going to be a comfortable neighbor."

—"The Age," Melb. Mar. 16, 1949.

Dresden

"The fourth anniversary of the Anglo-American destruction of Dresden has been celebrated in the Eastern zone of Germany by a burst of Soviet propaganda, reciting this and other sins of the West. Oddly enough — or perhaps not so oddly — an anti-Semitic paper in this country seizes on the same horrible episode, attributing it to the Elders of Zion. Now, the fact that both anti-Semites and Communists seek to exploit our bombing of Dresden should not blind us to the fact that it was an atrocity; our atrocity. In these pages two years ago, we described how British and American bombers (the Americans had far the greater responsibility) attacked a city which had virtually no military value, literally burned to death many thousands of non-combatants including war-wounded, and demolished most of Dresden's famous cultural monuments. While reflecting on this sombre fact, we picked up a remarkable report by Justice Robert H. Jackson on the Nuremberg process. Last Saturday the State Department released the report, a thick volume containing the minutes of the negotiations between the various members of the International War Crimes Tribunal, preliminary to the Nuremberg trials. The justices were laying down the rules of procedure and defining the nature of the crimes. On July 25, 1945, at a session of the Tribunal, the members were discussing a draft defining violations of the rules of war, for which violations they were unctuously preparing to try the German leaders. But, at the last moment, Justice Jackson apparently discovered that 'judging in our own cause' might involve some embarrassments. So, (page 380 of the Report) we find him saying: . . . we have left out of our draft the destruction of villages and towns, because I have seen the villages and towns of Germany. I think that you will have great difficulty distinguishing between the military necessity for that kind of destruction from some done by the Germans, assuming the war to be legitimate. It seems to me those subjects invite recriminations that would not be useful in the trial.' We leave to our readers the privilege of examining the rich implications of such a statement."—"Not Merely Gossip" (Supplement to "Human Events"), Washington, D.C.

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"New Times," March 25, 1949 — Page 3

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THE TOTALITARIAN HEALTH SCHEME

While it is very encouraging that the B.M.A. is opening a special fund to fight the Federal Government's totalitarian health scheme", it is essential that the doctors realise that they are fighting at a disadvantage unless they and the general public can unite on basic principles. It appears that a great many of the doctors themselves do not understand the real issues at stake; that the National Health Scheme is merely part of a much larger totalitarian pattern which becomes clearer every day.

Nationalisation is not an end in itself; it is a means to an end. Behind all nationalisation schemes is a plan to create the complete Monopoly State; a State in which the individual will have progressively less control over his own affairs. A report in the Melbourne *Herald* of March 15 states that "The present Act is regarded by the medical profession as an attempt to evade the Constitution and it is felt that the people will never approve civil conscription in peace time." But it has not been made sufficiently clear that conscription, not only of doctors, but also of patients, is implied in the National Health Scheme. This point must be adequately publicised by the doctors if they are to be effective in their fight.

Not only is it very serious that the doctors are not fighting the National Health Scheme as effectively as they could; the greatest weakness in the fight is the attitude of the so-called anti-Socialists at Canberra. While it is true that they have verbally criticised the Chifley Government on the National Health issue, we have watched in vain for some definite and uncompromising statement by Liberal or Country Party Members to the effect that if elected at the next Federal Elections they will abolish the National Health Scheme completely. We are becoming more convinced every day that the drive towards centralised control and exploitation of the individual will not be successfully halted until we get responsible Government. And responsible Government means Members of Parliament responsible to electors, who in turn must accept personal responsibility for the policies they endorse.

A start in the right direction would be made if all those electors who do not desire to be in the National Health Scheme were to suggest to their Federal Members that the present voting system should be altered in order that those who did not desire to receive any of the "benefits" of "free" medicine could indicate this desire quite clearly. Naturally enough, not desiring any of the "benefits," they should not contribute. Those who think the National Health Scheme an excellent idea should be prepared to pay for it and accept personal responsibility.

We would be interested to know just how many "anti-Socialists" would be prepared to subscribe to the fundamental principle of the responsible vote? Until we have a responsible vote, there is little doubt that the manipulation of majorities will be used to destroy minorities. The doctors would be well advised to examine this matter while there is time.

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LYSENKO AND THE NEW GENETICS

By JOHN BYRT

In the list of Russians Who Have Hit the Headlines, a place of honour is rapidly being taken by T. D. Lysenko, the Russian who moulded the science of genetics to fit the framework of dialectical materialism.

Needless to say, Mr. Lysenko is a very popular man with the Powers That Be in the Soviet. At the age of 50, he is a Vice-President of the Supreme Soviet, President of the Lenin Academy of Agricultural Science, Academician and Member of the Praesidium of the Academy of Sciences, and director of four or five research stations — a highly lucrative collection. His popularity is due first to the practical results he has achieved, with consequent boosting of Soviet morale; and, secondly, to his theories on heredity and environment, which have now received official sanction.

Practical Results

There is no doubt that Lysenko is "a shrewd and clever practical agriculturalist." Eric Ashby, in his excellent book, *Scientist in Russia*, describes some of the experiments that have brought fame and fortune to this son of a Ukrainian peasant. One of the most ingenious was the sowing of wheat in stubble so as to catch the thin layers of snow, which were being driven off. He was able to increase the yield of potatoes in the Ukraine by planting in summer and digging in the cool autumn; and to spin out the supplies of seed potatoes during the war by cutting them into smaller pieces — which practices were, of course, by no means new. When his low-temperature pre-treatment of grain proved a hopeless failure, he was smart enough to substitute another treatment, which was virtually a germination test, and for which he got full credit.

On results like these rests Lysenko's reputation — and on his reputation rest his extraordinary theories. In order to appreciate just how unorthodox they are, we will have to take a brief excursion into

Mendelian Genetics

Gregor Mendel was an Augustinian Abbot who carried out numerous experiments on the garden pea. The results of his observations were published in 1866, but were neglected until 1900. Since that time, a vast amount of experimental work has been done all over the world (Russia included), which has served to confirm Mendel's conclusions regarding the laws that govern heredity. The picture that has emerged is somewhat as follows: —In the nuclei of the cells of living things are contained chromosomes, fibre-like structures which can be seen under the microscope. Different species of animals and plants have different numbers of chromosomes in their cells; man, for instance, has 24 chromosomes in his reproductive cells, with double this number in the ordinary body cells. It has been found possible to locate the factors governing various characteristics at definite positions along the chromosome. This has led to the conception of the chromosome as a collection of genes, each of which has a separate function in the growth of the organism. Genes are normally too small to be seen under the microscope, but it is thought that they are giant molecules containing something like a million atoms.

The variety of nature is then explained, in the case of sexual reproduction, by the mixing of the chromosomes from the two parents, no new characteristics being introduced in this process. If the gene is a single molecule, it will remain unaltered, so that certain characteristics may be handed down through many generations. For the same reason, characters acquired by an individual during his lifetime cannot be transmitted to his offspring. Occasionally, new characters appear suddenly in the offspring that were not present in the parent stock; in the plant kingdom, such types are familiar as "sports." These sudden changes or "mutations" are thought to be due to changes in the chemical structure of the genes.

The New Genetics

The whole theory of genes, with all its experimental backing, is summarily dismissed by Lysenko and his school. Dialectical materialism demands that nature be in a state of continual flux. Hence such stable entities as genes simply cannot be tolerated. Similarly, there can be no "pure lines" of plants or animals. In support of this remarkable assertion, Lysenko offers the following evidence. Some plants of what he claims to be a "pure line" of wheat are pollinated by a mixture of pollen from the same variety; the crop is earlier, and the yield higher, than that of either parent. Wouldn't some of our Mallee farmers like to believe this! It is just possible that they would regard these results as evidence, not that there is no such thing as a pure line, but that Lysenko's variety is far from it.

Lysenko attributes to the unfertilised ovum of a plant the remarkable ability to select from an enormous number of pollen grains the one that will best equip it to survive in the "struggle for existence." He further assumes that the developing plant is able to take from its environment just those materials that will prove of the greatest benefit to it. These ideas provide the basis for his main contention, that environment is more important than heredity, and that man can control the character of his crops simply by controlling their environment. It will be recognised that this principle is contrary to the accumulated experience of generations of plant and animal breeders, but that does not prevent the "new genetics" from achieving enormous publicity, not only in the Soviet Union, but in every country where there are men ready to ignore the facts that tell against their all-important theories. For instance, we find the Communist *Guardian* of 10th Dec., 1948, announcing quite confidently: "Soviet scientists have shown that new characters acquired by animals and plants under the influence of conditions of life, can be transmitted by heredity, that it is possible for man to direct at will the evolution of the vegetable world — that is, to change the hereditary traits."

Lysenko's Authorities

As might be expected, the highest authorities on this highly technical subject are Marx, Engels and other expounders of Dialectical Materialism, whose ramblings in the field of science are largely incidental. It may come as a surprise, however, to learn that second place in the list of not-to-be-questioned authorities is occupied by Charles Darwin. This need not surprise us when we remember that Marx and Engels were keen supporters of Darwin. His ideas of a struggle for existence, and of the survival of the fittest, fitted their philosophy very nicely; and of course the evolution theory provided the necessary "scientific" basis for their Godless materialism. It was Engels' proud claim that "just as Darwin discovered the law of evolution of organic nature, so Marx discovered the evolutionary law of human history."

However, we may well feel some surprise in view of the fact that Darwin's *Origin of Species* was first published in 1859; and we might be excused for thinking that we should have learned *something* since then. In fact, some of his views are now completely rejected, and others are open to serious question. To take but one example: Darwin's name is always associated with the theory of man's descent from the apes; yet we find Professor F. Wood Jones suggesting "that Darwin had no first-hand knowledge whatever of the anatomy of monkeys, apes, or men, that he was unacquainted with or ignored much readily accessible current literature on the subject, and that such information as he possessed at second hand consisted largely of ill-assorted and ill-assimilated odds and ends culled, often enough, from the writings of the anecdotal period of natural history." (This was reported in the *British Medical Journal* of 2nd Oct., 1948.)

Nor is it only the well-known theory of evolution that finds favour with the Lysenko school. What Darwin expressed as purely tentative must now be accepted in the most literal sense. This includes his remarkable theories of reproduction, and his idea that continued self-fertilisation is harmful. The way in which his writings have been erected to the status of a canon has been shown by P. S. Hudson and R. H. Richens, of the Imperial Bureau of Plant Breeding and Genetics, Cambridge, in their recent book, *The New Genetics in the Soviet Union*.

Treatment of Critics

Lysenko does not hesitate to question the sincerity and honesty of anyone who persists in his adherence to the bourgeois-capitalistic Mendelian genetics. On 29th Dec. 1948, the daily press carried the news that Sir Henry Dale, who was for some years President of the Royal Society, had been deprived of his honorary membership of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., for this very crime. It is noteworthy that the Academy (to judge from press reports) made no effort to justify Lysenko's theories on scientific grounds, but condemned his remarks as part of a "political campaign of slander being waged against the whole of democracy, including Russia."

However, the most notable example of
(Continued on page 7)



MILK AND SOIL FERTILITY

By F. SYKES, Chantry, Chute, Andover.

(From *News Letter*, England.)

The subject of milk hygiene is closely bound up with soil fertility, and in the following way:

By "soil fertility," I infer that from healthy soil we are bound to grow a healthy plant, which, in its turn, will prove to contain ingredients of a fully sustaining character. Milk, therefore, which is a product of the soil, just as much as the grass which directly feeds and sustains the cow which eats it, is a subject to be considered in any system of food reform.

For the preservation of milk we ought to copy Nature's methods as nearly as possible. When a calf suckles milk through its dam's teats, that fluid never comes in contact with the air, and thus passes into the stomach of the calf free from any microbic contamination the air contains, and food of the highest quality, suited to infant digestion, reaches the calf in its purest and most life-giving form.

Milk is probably the most valuable food available to mankind; but, because of its peculiar composition, is the most easily assailed and contaminated by bacterial attack. Its preservation can best be secured by allowing it to have a minimum of contact with the air, especially in cowsheds where the atmosphere is impregnated with bacteria arising from the presence of dung and urine in the litter on the floor, on the hair and skin of the cow, and on the teats and udder.

The law should enforce that in dairies producing milk for human consumption all cows should be machine-milked under vacuum, and the milk cooled under vacuum. By this method the milk reaches the sterilised churn without coming in contact with the air until it reaches the dairy in London where the churn is opened. (The lids of the churns are changed at the farm, but that is an operation that takes only a few seconds.)

Thus milk like this is delivered to a London dairy with a bacterial count of technically "nil." (A bacterial count of "nil" is not strictly correct. The term is intended to indicate "negligible.") At the London dairy, in rooms at a low temperature, where bacteria cannot live, the milk is bottled, and eventually reaches the consumer as pure and as good as that suckled by the calf.

If this practice were universal the call for pasteurisation would be eliminated. The most ardent advocate of that process will admit that most of the vitalising qualities of the milk are destroyed by pasteurisation.

No farmer should be allowed to produce milk for human consumption except by

these or equal methods. Few, if any, other methods of milking yield such a safe product as can be regularly delivered under vacuum cooling, and any existing milking machine can be converted at a trifling cost.

Those farmers in the dairy businesses who still persist in hand-milking should be compelled either to instal vacuum coolers, or alternatively directed to feed the milk they produce to the rearing of calves, using the cow as foster-mother and feeding only through suckling.

Rearing calves by the bucket should be forbidden by law, as this is a crime against nature for several reasons: —

(1) It encourages the "gulping" of large quantities of milk by the calves, thus missing the mixture of saliva which should go down with the milk, resulting in indigestion, pot-belly, wind, arch-back and staring coat.

(2) The foundations of most of the diseases of the dairy cow are undoubtedly laid in the mischief of bucket feeding.

(3) The old saying is: "A gallon suckled is worth two out of the bucket."

(4) The buckets and utensils are not nearly sufficiently sterilised with steam. Their condition is usually most disgusting. Here is disease put right into the stomach of the calf at its most delicate age. It is surprising that any percentage of calves survive.

But the most striking of all evidence is as follows: —

Nearly all our beef breeds suckle their calves.

Most of our dairy calves are bucket-fed.

Our beef breeds are practically disease-free.

Eighty percent, of the dairy animals passing through our markets are diseased. The milking-life of the beef cow is from 10 to 20 years.

The milking-life of the dairy cow is reduced to 2 1/2 years.

Surely these plain facts ought to be the subject of the most urgent examination by any civilised Government, which professes to have the health of the nation as its basic consideration.

But man does not live on milk alone. Other features of farming are calling for remedy if we are to survive, let alone

create a race of people, which will have a chance of fighting the onslaught of disease which medicine so far has failed to overcome.

To take but one case — the common cold, which annually takes a heavier death toll than any other disease. So far this has proved beyond the abilities of the medical faculty to deal with. Where does all this disease originate? It arises from the food we eat being of such a composition that it fails to build a bodily resistance against the germs of "cold."

Can this be remedied? Yes, definitely.

A healthy soil — which means a soil, re-fertilised by natural organic manures and residues — will grow a healthy plant, which in turn will produce a healthy animal and man, both of whom in turn will be disease resistant.

This unutterably simple solution of the greatest of all human problems is not so simple of achievement because: —

1. We have had enormous vested interests engaged in artificial manure making, whose convincing and extremely clever propaganda is advocating the use of chemicals rather than natural fertilisers.

2. We have other powerful interests engaged in the production of oil cakes and other concentrates for cattle instead of Nature's food in the shape of oats, peas and beans grown on the healthy soil of the farm.

3. We have other interests employed in the making of artificial concentrates for humans, sold in packets and tins.

4. We have further powerful forces engaged in depriving the natural wheat of its whole germ and life-giving qualities by the system of modern milling.

5. We have yet others who tin the extracts of wheat (the germ) and sell these foods at ridiculous prices as real vitalising foods.

6. And we have endless other interests, like aperient makers, pill and drug trades, whose immense wealth is built upon the simple fact that plain, wholesome, healthy food is not available to man direct from the soil, the plant and the animal.

These manifold forces, of immense power, stand right in the way of food reform.

What is needed to begin with is Government enforcement of: —

(a) The return to the soil of some twenty million tons (official estimate) of straw, muck, and other vegetable refuse now lying on our farms by composting processes using animal residues for their activation.

(b) An enlightened system of education for our farmers who are still unfamiliar with the virtues of new leys, where deep-rooting leguminous plants, mixed with

(Continued on page 7)

MUNICIPAL COMPOST

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I was interested in the comments under this heading in your issue of March 11th. I can supply a little information about the processing of wastes by the Sydney company.

The system is, I believe, known as the Earpe-Thomas method. I understand that the municipal wastes of Durban, S. Africa, are treated similarly.

Some 12 months ago the A.B.C. in "The Country Hour" gave an actuality broadcast from the "plant." At the time, I wrote to the director of rural broadcasts, complaining that too little detail was given about the process. He replied, in effect, that it was a commercial undertaking, and that they could give only such information as they were allowed to give.

The broadcaster reported the continuous arrival of lorries at the "plant." Those containing tins, old iron, etc., were directed to a dump; those containing organic matter (abattoir and fish offals, contents of household rubbish bins, etc.) delivered their loads into a large container. From time to time, as the container filled, lime was spread over the contents.

From the container, the organic matter is carried by conveyor belt to a large cylindrical vessel, any tins or metal scraps having been picked out by a magnetised pulley en route.

The contents of the cylinder are continually stirred by a large propeller turning at about one revolution in 15 minutes. At some stage here, thermophyllic bacteria are introduced. The reporter stated that the company cultivated these in its own laboratory. He stated that the finished product was friable, odorless and pleasant to handle.

It is sold under the trade name "Orgarno." Some months back, I know it was priced at £5/19/- per ton, bagged, f.o.r. Sydney.

A few weeks ago "The Leader" had an article about a banana plantation near Coffs Harbor. Bananas are gross feeders and probably mycorrhiza associates. I was interested to note that the owner used, amongst other organic fertilisers, "Orgarno." It struck me that the cost of "Orgarno" used at that distance from Sydney was evidence of its practical worth.

Weeds, apparently, are the bane of the banana grower. On this property poison sprays were tried against them; but it was found that these killed the earthworms. Until the earthworms were cajoled into existence again, the soil markedly declined in fertility.

Yours etc. JOHN MANIFOLD,
Weerite, Vic.

MILK AND SOIL FERTILITY

(Continued from page 6)

deep-rooting grasses, are substituted for the old disease-ridden permanent pastures, and upon which, by controlled grazing, immeasurable stores of new fertility can be accumulated by the excrement and urine of the animals and the resultant bacterial activation.

(c) The universal use of the subsoiler (where the soil is deep enough to admit of its use).

SOCIALIST FARMING

The Brisbane "Courier-Mail" of March 2 contains a very interesting report from Murgon, Queensland, where members of the Queensland Dairymen's Organisation have criticised the British Food Corporation sorghum-growing and pig-raising project as part of a Socialist plan. It is claimed that the cost of production would exceed the present fixed price of pig feed. One speaker said that 70 men had been stood by at Peak Downs for some time waiting for rain before planting, and that these men were not usefully employed while waiting. Farmers contended that, if they were given a reasonable price, they could produce adequate pig foods.

Fancy these practical farmers having the audacity to criticise this big — yes, really big — Socialist food-raising project which has had the blessing of Mr. R. G. Casey, a very shrewd gentleman who is busy trying to persuade the unwary that he is fighting Socialism!

COMPOST EXHIBITION

The Victorian Compost Society will hold its 3rd Annual Autumn Exhibition on Saturday, Mar. 26, at Old Colonists' Homes, Rushall Cres., North Fitzroy.

Compost-making demonstration will commence at 3 p.m. Exhibits will be open to inspect at 3.45 p.m. Afternoon tea will be available, admission free. All interested are invited.

BEER AND TAXES

Mr. C. G. Pearson said the barley grower should not be blamed for pushing up the cost of beer.

"A bushel of barley makes 35 gallons of beer. At 3/9 a gallon for excise, the Government collects £6 from a bushel of barley used for making beer, while the grower gets 6/7."

—"The Argus," Melb., March 16, 1949.

THE STATE OF THE WORLD

This brilliant analysis of international affairs should be given the widest possible circulation amongst responsible members of the community. It shows how the "Big Three" are all being used by the Fourth Great Power, International Jewry, for its own ends — World Domination. The role of the controllers of Soviet Russia in the present world drama is clearly revealed.

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GENERAL BOOKS

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By C. S. Lewis. We specially recommend this book by one of the most penetrating of English writers. "A fairy story for grown-ups," which shows how the weaknesses of the human being are exploited to further the policy of creating the Supreme State. One of the most important books of recent times.

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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.

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

LYSENKO AND THE NEW GENETICS

(Continued from page 5)

Lysenko's technique is seen in the case of the Russian biologist, N. I. Vavilov, whom Lysenko succeeded as President of the Lenin Academy. We cannot do better than quote Professor Ashby: "Vavilov probably went beyond safe limits in condemning the new genetics as an outbreak of medieval obscurantism. He paid a high price. He was accused of dilatoriness in getting practical results, of lending support to fascists by his theory of centres of origin of crops, and of aligning himself with Bateson, the leader of genetics in England. In 1940 he was deprived of his directorship of the Institute of Plant Industry. He was subsequently imprisoned and he died, without any announcement or explanation, probably in 1943."

If these are typical of the tactics employed behind the scenes, it will be interesting indeed to see whether Russia's achievements in agriculture will put those of the capitalist countries to shame. For ourselves, we feel that, in the words of the inimitable Jeeves, "the contingency is remote."

"New Times," March 25, 1949 — Page 7