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SIXPENCE WEEKLY

PLANNING BY COPLAND

Speaking to the Canberra Branch of the Economic Society on April 4, 1949, Australia's best known "certified" economist, Professor Copland, outlined his plan for solving Australia's present economic problems. As reported in the *Melbourne Age* of April 5, Professor Copland's views provide further evidence of his totalitarian outlook. We are informed that there is still a chance that Professor Copland may be a Liberal candidate at the next Federal elections. . . What a combination he and "No-policy" Casey would be if the Liberals won the Federal elections!

Professor Copland says that "Australia should develop an overall plan with priorities for industry basic to immediate needs and long-term prosperity." This means, of course, that we need more power for economic planners to do the overall planning. As the present situation in Australia is largely the direct result of the planning we have already suffered from Professor Copland and his fellow-planners, we suggest that more genuine progress would be made if the individual were permitted to do a little more planning for himself. For example, if he were allowed to spend more of his own money instead of the Government spending it, it is certain that he would spend it on that type of production which he desires.

The following are some of the points outlined by Professor Copland "to correct production ills": "Control of capital issues; selective granting of credit by banks; a specific plan to increase production to meet the increased population . . ."

This is complete totalitarianism. It is a plea for controlled production, not by the consumer, but by a group of planners who believe that they know what is best for the individual. Control of production by centralised control of credit policy is exactly what the Labour-Socialists advocate. It is generally recognised that Professor Copland played an important role in formulating the ideas, which resulted in the Labour Party's 1945 Banking Legislation. That Legislation is designed to permit the economic planners, backed with the authority of the Federal Government, to dictate just what industries shall get financial credit from the banking system. Control of the issue of financial credit means control of production and distribution. Bank Nationalisation seeks to complete the centralisation of credit control initiated by the 1945 Banking Legislation. Does Professor Copland favour Bank Nationalisation? It would be interesting to have his views on this matter.

It is, of course, quite true, as Professor Copland says, that the present rapid extension of capital production is at the expense of consumer production. It is interesting to note that he states that real production per man in Australia has not

fallen, as some people contend, but has increased 12.5 percent since before the war.

So long as the present financial rules are permitted to continue unchallenged, excessive capital expansion, mainly for the purpose of the "export drive," and inflation, must continue with the individual being regimented in production, which does not serve his individual requirements. The

THAT MAN AGAIN

One factor that helped the Labour Party oust the old U.A.P. Government was its just criticism of Professor Copland, author of the infamous Premiers' Plan and economic mis-adviser to many Australian governments. The Professor's ideas on economics have not changed, but he is now joining forces with Mr. Abner Mc Alpine (Federal President of the Chifley Labour Party), in advocating the re-introduction of manpower controls, so that labour can be "directed." He also states that the Government should select for "encouragement" certain industries vital to permanent prosperity. If certain industries are to be encouraged, then it is obvious that other industries are to be eliminated. Although expounding such socialistic ideas, and being a "pet" of the Labour Party, the so-called "capitalist" *Melbourne Herald* is giving the Professor plenty of front-page publicity. Even if the present Government was defeated at the next Federal Elections, the Professor's services would, no doubt, still be retained, as Mr. Casey (*Argus*, 15/9/48), said he knew "sufficient of Professor Copland's political views to know that they differ very little from my own." He even went further, and suggested that the Professor should contest a seat as a Liberal!

Some months ago Mr. Chifley appointed Professor Copland Chancellor of the National University at Canberra at a salary of £3,000 a year (plus £400 entertainments allowance, which is free of tax). As the above university exists in name only, the Professor has ample time to think up new Socialistic schemes.

—H.G.

answer to this totalitarian policy is the decentralisation of credit power to the stage where all individuals in the community can control production by having adequate purchasing power to buy what they can produce by the effective use of free enterprise. The sole purpose of production — all production— is consumption. When all individuals get access to their own financial credit as a right, and are left free to spend it as they desire, there will be no need for Professor Copland and his fellow economic planners to worry about their "overall planning."

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.

The excellent letter published below covers very concisely the evils inherent in the National Health Service. We commend this type of action to our readers.

—(Ed. N.T.)

Dear Sir, —

At a meeting of the above League (Subiaco Rate payers) held last night, it was resolved, after hearing the discussion, to write to doctors close to our place of living, and place our views before them.

My organisation is of the opinion that any scheme, which limits our choice of doctors, will not be acceptable to us. Neither do we wish to do business with any doctor who is conscripted, either directly or indirectly, as we feel that this would result in inefficiency.

We object strongly to any proposal to make available our medical history to any outside party. We consider that this leaves the gate wide open to all sorts of abuses, including blackmail.

The right to contract out, that is the privilege of making a private arrangement for medical treatment, must be insisted upon, as being one of our fundamental rights. This is in line with Dr. Evatt's sympathetic statements made upon the question of human rights at U.N.O.

We feel that the issue is the control of the medical certificate; whether it is to be issued by the State, or by an independent individual, is one of the main issues of the National Health Service. If the State should have a monopoly of issuing the medical certificate, then we would be placed

in the same position as the draught horse on the farm.

Therefore we urge that no negotiations should be conducted which in any way jeopardise the issue of the medical certificate by an independent authority.

The matter of Free Medicine exercised our thoughts. We do not know much about the formulary, but believe that the duplicate prescription is a menace. Our view is that good health does not come out of medicine bottles, but derives from a sane way of living. We are lukewarm about the many benefits claimed by the enthusiasts for the Free Medicine scheme.

We warn you to beware of Communist propaganda, as we believe that the Communist Party is pushing the National Health Scheme, as all forms of regimentation are beneficial to the setting up of the Communist State. The Communist Party does not represent the view of the Australian people, but represents the view of a small body of persons in Soviet Russia.

If the views in the above conflict with views held by yourself, will you kindly make a comment on this sheet, and post it back to the undersigned. Should you fail to return it, we will take it that our views meet with approval by yourself.

Yours faithfully,

C. WILLCOCKS, Hon. Sec.,
Subiaco Ratepayers' League.

POVERTY AND PLENTY

In the first two months of 1949, Europe reached a turning point in its post-war economic development. Along with the United States and much of the rest of the world, Europe finds that the problem of producing enough goods, which has been the basic task in factories and on farms throughout the world for the last four years, has now been largely solved.

The Herald Tribune's indices show that Western Europe boosted industrial production by more than a third during 1948. Incomplete information indicates that nine key countries (excluding occupied Germany) were producing almost a fifth more as 1949 began than they were in 1938.

The productive boom is not limited to Western Europe, nor is it confined to industrial products. With a second mild winter in a row, there is every prospect that farmers in Europe will have another record harvest of food products next autumn.

New Problem Arises

As a result, Europe is faced for the first time in more than a decade with the problems of apparent overproduction. The first post-war surpluses must be classified as apparent because in many cases it is not a lack of demand for the products but the lack of the means, usually financial; to move the goods in trade that puts them in the surplus position.

-*New York Herald Tribune*, Feb. 28, 1949.

Page 2 — "New Times," April 14, 1949

"PROGRESS"

The Marquess of Bath announced today that he could no longer afford to live in his famous and magnificent 70-roomed Elizabethan manor, Longleaf.

This is the palatial pile where crowned heads of England — including Elizabeth, who decided to sleep there before the place was completed — had been wont to take their ease for centuries, where there are priceless treasures in each chamber, and where history springs to life before the eyes of the dreamer.

The mansion will be thrown open to visitors to-morrow at half-a-crown each.

To make this possible, the Marquess and Marchioness and their three sons and daughter will live in a smaller house on the estate, thus suffering the fate which many other of the lords of the manor have suffered in England within recent memory.

Lord Bath confesses with admirable candour that he dislikes the thought of the public nosing through the house that has been the family's home for centuries.

"I am one of that ever-decreasing class of people who believe in tradition — whether in human beings, animals or houses," he says. "I was born in this house. It is part of me and I have its atmosphere in my bones."

So burdened down with taxes and high costs, Lord Bath offers Longleaf to the public to save it from disintegrating. He hopes that some day his eldest son and his son's children will be able to live in part of the manor.

—*The Herald*, Melbourne, April 2

ERIC BUTLER'S BOOKS

The Enemy Within the Empire, 10d

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

The Money Power Versus

Democracy..... 10d.

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

The Truth About Social Credit, 1/1

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

Sack The Bureaucrats and Win

The Peace..... 7d.

An exposure of the bureaucratic menace and an appeal for constructive action by all liberty-loving electors.

Democracy Flouted..... 7d.

The full text of a radio script prepared by the author while a member of the Armed Forces. Although the A.B.C. considered the script one of the finest submitted by a member of the Army, a Communist in a key position in Army Education had the talk banned after all arrangements had been made for its broadcast.

A Defence of Free Enterprise

and The Profit Motive.... 7d.

A brilliant exposition of the control of the production system by the money "vote."

Constitutional Barriers To Serfdom..... 7d.

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

TO THE POINT

A Question

It is a notorious fact that, when they are in Opposition, politicians advocate different policies to those they support when they are the Government. At present Mr. Menzies is saying some very harsh things — and rightly so, too — about the menace of nationalisation. He has instanced the effects of coal nationalisation in Great Britain.

But when last in office at Canberra, Mr. Menzies thought that coal nationalisation was a good thing. Addressing a Conference of the Mining Union and the Mine Owners on December 13, 1939, he said: "If the coal mining industry gets itself nationalised, and a number of companies go out of existence and the whole industry is put on an economic basis, it will become a better industry, and there will be less men employed in it."

The Joint Coal Board is the first step towards complete Nationalisation of the coal industry. What is Mr. Menzies going to do about the Joint Coal Board if he wins the Federal Elections? His colleague, Mr. R. G. Casey, has urged that the Joint Coal Board be given a fair chance to prove itself.

* * * *

Human Cattle

In view of the current controversy on the Federal Government's National Health Scheme, the following extract from Dr. Charles Mellick's excellent booklet, *You and the State Doctor*, is very appropriate:

"I have nothing, of course, against the Veterinary Surgeon, as such, but it is undeniable that he regards himself as belonging to a superior class of being to his 'patients,' and holds himself as answerable to, and employed by, not them, but another Superior Being of his own class, the owner. Now this is precisely the position of the Human Cattle under a State Medical Service.

"The interest of 'the State' in your health is much the same as the interest of an owner in his cart-horses (namely, that you should be kept fit enough to work at the minimum cost), except, indeed, that the personal feeling and even affection which may exist between a man and his horse are entirely lacking, since you are merely an entry on various forms."

* * * *

Price Subsidy

Speaking at Canberra on June 24, 1943, Mr. Chifley, at that time Treasurer in the Curtin Government, outlined the necessity for stabilising prices by price subsidies as follows: "Two main advantages accrue from this method of price control. In the first place, subsidies will permit the stabilisation of retail prices generally, and this will be reflected in a new stability in the Commonwealth Statistician's "C" series index which measures retail prices, and by which wages are adjusted."

No doubt acting upon the advice of his economic planners, Mr. Chifley deliberately abolished the price subsidy system last year, and thus fostered the inflation menace and the growing instability resulting from this menace. Even if Mr. Chifley does not know where all this is leading, his "advisers" certainly do.

Quibbling

Mr. John Rodgers, Director-General of Australia-Soviet House, claims that he is not a Communist. This presumably means that he is not an official member of the Communist Party. But Mr. Rodgers knows that his claims about being a non-Communist are mere quibbles. A man who consistently praises all things Russian is obviously concerned with advancing Communist policy.

It is well to recall that back in 1946 Mr. Rodgers was responsible for the distribution of 5,000 copies of a brochure entitled *Facts About the Soviet Union* throughout Victorian schools.

When several prominent citizens whose names are associated with Australia-Soviet House were challenged to debate in public the "Facts" issued by Mr. Rodgers, there were no takers.

* * * *

A Planner's Paradise

The following significant item is from an article in *Smith's Weekly*, of March 26, 1949, by prominent Left-wing intellectual, Brian Fitzpatrick: "Having an eye to the place Labour wants us to go from here, I just mention in passing that, from the

point of view of the would-be nationaliser and socialiser of industry, Australia, with its monopolistic set-up (the most efficient form, of course), is a planner's paradise. Whether it's rubber, or paper (or daily newspapers), gas, wool broking or shipping — and those are only some examples — private enterprise has eliminated key-industry competition to such an extent, and has substituted combination, that public enterprise would find its own appropriate machinery established for it.

"As the late J. P. Morgan said (I can't find the reference, but these are nearly enough his words): We are true socialists. We have realised the advantages of combination, and we are going to take the profits of combination until the people have enough sense to take them for themselves." Those controlling the Credit Monopoly have been largely responsible for the policies leading to industrial monopolies. And, of course, as Mr. Fitzpatrick tells us — quoting the notorious J. P. Morgan in support! — industrial monopoly paves the way for State Monopoly. The fact that Lord Rothschild in Great Britain and James Warburg in the U.S.A., have openly proclaimed themselves as nationalisers, indicates that the international financier welcomes Socialism as a means of consolidating his power.

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Hear

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**Campaign Director of the Victorian
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at

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A well-known Melbourne Doctor will also present the Doctors' viewpoint.

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THE INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY

The Melbourne *Argus* of April 5, 1949, contained the following report:

"The first formal pledge by the Chinese Communists to fight with Russia against Atlantic Pact nations in the event of third world war was broadcast by Peking Red Radio yesterday. The broadcast declared: The democratic parties and groups of China denounced the Atlantic Pact and solemnly declared that if the Atlantic signatories provoked aggressive war the Chinese Communists would unite to march forward hand in hand with China's ally, the Soviet Union.' "

This specific statement should shatter once and for all the myth that the Chinese Communists are not real Communists at all; that they are, as Professor Copland described them upon his return from China, only agrarian reformers. The victory of the Chinese stooges of Moscow was desired by the German-Jewish financial groups who have been responsible for the disastrous American policy in China. The Chinese situation is part of a chain of events leading direct to a World Slave State dominated by the most powerful financial groups in the world — the Zionist bankers of Wall Street, New York.

No understanding of the present world crisis is possible without facing up to the fact that every major event from the start of this century, to go back no further, can be traced directly or indirectly to the policies of Jewish International Finance. The First World War was the result of aggressive action taken by a Germany highly centralised by German-Jewish finance. During the major portion of that war, the controllers of the big German-Jewish banking houses of New York did all in their power to weaken the British Empire. It was only after the Russian Revolution, financed by this financial group, and the British Government had promised to provide a National Home for the Jews in Palestine, that the German-Jewish financiers permitted the U.S.A. to help the Allies. And then only on financial terms that were negotiated on behalf of the British Government by Rufus Isaacs, later Lord Reading.

The Wall Street German-Jews, and their associates in Germany, dominated the Peace Conference, insisted upon the maintenance of a highly centralised Germany, and thus paved the way for Hitler, whom they actively assisted to power. They were responsible for the demoralisation of the British peoples as the result of the Great Depression. This Depression was the direct result of financial policy. The building up of Hitler was obviously designed to produce war. War is desired, not as an end in itself, but as a means to an end. War, or, as one of the representatives of these German-Jewish financiers has said, the threat of war, is required to create conditions suitable for the building of the World Monopoly State.

The defeat of Hitler merely intensified the threat of war, this time from Soviet Russia. Roosevelt, a tool of the Wall Street financiers, favoured every policy, which ensured that Soviet Russia emerged from World War II in a most powerful position. The present situation in China is the result of those policies, as William C. Cullitt and other American authorities have so clearly pointed out.

Having created the threat of World Communism, the Jewish Financiers are now furthering policies for centralising control of all anti-Communist countries, via Atlantic Pacts, Marshall "Aid," etc.

This progressive centralisation of power must inevitably lead to two highly centralised world blocs and, either by war or other methods, to the World State, which the Jewish financiers are confident they can dominate. The Communist menace can only be dealt with by the elimination of the Jewish International Financier.

H. N. SMITH

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FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In our issue of February 26 we reprinted a review of one of the most significant books of the past twenty years — *The Failure of Technology*, by Friedrich Georg Juenger.

This book, with the contentions of which we agree subject to the qualification which follows, is one more instance of the failure of the deductive method in the absence of a significant premise. In this case, the premise that is absent is that finance controls the exploitation of technology.

We have many times insisted that the whole idea of central banking, *i.e.*, the monopoly of credit, is vicious, and at bottom, evil. Technology has become its servant; it is the swollen cancerous growths of over-financing, over-manufacture, factory and mass-production which, although they *appear* to proceed from technology, in fact derive from the centralisation of initiative, *i.e.*, "Planning" with its financial, legal and police controls, which is responsible for the results which Herr Juenger accurately exposes.

Our whole economic system is tobogganing to disaster because of this monopoly of credit. We have been engaged in saying so for thirty years; what many people still do not realise is that the problem of decentralisation, of disintegration of monopoly is not even contemplated by those who howled loudest for State ownership.

The Fabian-Bloomsbury intellectuals have achieved power without responsibility, their services are at the disposal of those whose contempt of them is unalloyed by the fear in which even a stupid aristocracy was held.

—*The Social Crediter*, Mar. 12, 1949.

AVERTING SLUMP IN U.S.

"United States re-armament and European and other Foreign Aid programmes were mentioned by Economic Authorities in Washington to-day as a means of preventing the current fall in prices and employment in the United States from producing a major slump."

—Washington, February 6.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN U.S.

"The beneficial effects of the re-armament programme on employment in aircraft, shipbuilding and other industries are just beginning to be felt. Officials are confident that defence orders and the European Recovery Programme will create tens of thousands of new jobs by the spring."

—Quoted from the *New York Times*.

D.S.C.M. WOMEN'S GROUP
(VIC.)

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NEWFOUNDLAND

LOSS OF SOVEREIGNTY.

We publish below a portion of a penetrating speech delivered in the British Commons by Sir Alan Herbert, famous for his association with *Punch*, on the confederation of Newfoundland with Canada. We are indebted to *The Social Crediter*, March 19, for our copy.

... Let us look at this Bill in relation to our constitutional practice. Let us first look at the Preamble. All the constitutional safeguards that our ancestors erected are not mere verbal formulae, but are designed to produce statesmanlike results. If we look at the Preamble to this Bill we see what an impossible position we get into when we avoid them. The long Title is very grand,

"A Bill to confirm and give effect to Terms of Union agreed between Canada and Newfoundland."

Then it goes on:

"Whereas by means of a referendum the people of Newfoundland have by a majority signified their wish to enter into confederation with Canada."

For "the people" we should read "44 1/2 per cent of the registered electorate." I have those figures from the Secretary of State. Look at line 2 where it says:

"have by a majority . . ."

The majority was 4 percent of those who voted. Does the right hon. Gentleman say that that is a proper majority whereby a Dominion surrenders its sovereignty?

Mr. George Thomas (Cardiff, Central): Will the right hon. Gentleman say what he thinks would be a proper majority?

Sir A. Herbert: If there is to be a majority at all it should be two-thirds. Not one comma of the American constitution can be changed unless there is a two-thirds majority, and by the wise rules of the M.C.G. even the rules of cricket cannot be altered without a two-thirds majority.

Mr. P. Noel-Baker: Does the right hon. Gentleman think it worked well?

Sir A. Herbert: In line 8 we find that Canada has "requested and consented" to the enactment of this Bill. That is because Canada comes under the Statute of Westminster. These words do not appear in any reference to Newfoundland. The Secretary of State mentioned that the Dominion of Newfoundland has never adopted Section 4 of the Statute of Westminster. It has never had a chance, because the Act came into operation in 1931, and almost immediately afterwards Newfoundland found itself in difficulty and has never had a Government since. That is one of the points perhaps for the Privy Council, but there is the answer to the right hon. Gentleman.

Towards the end of the second paragraph we read that the agreement containing the Terms of Union

"has been duly approved by the Parliament of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland."

That is rather a descent after the great phrase in the long Title. The Parliament of Canada discussed these Terms, comma-by-comma and Clause-by-Clause for more than a fortnight, and at the end there was a wonderful scene, which I should have liked to see. Members rose in their places and sang "God save the King" and that fine song "O, Canada." What has happened in Newfoundland? The Terms there

have been approved by the Government of Newfoundland, which consists of seven people appointed by the Crown, four of whom are Englishmen. There is not even a majority of Newfoundlanders in the Government of Newfoundland, which approved of the terms by which that Dominion loses its sovereignty. Is that democracy? Is that what we understand by the traditional practices of this country and Commonwealth?

When I went to Newfoundland along with others I went into the old Parliament House. It was not even empty. It was full of civil servants. When we asked where was the Speaker's Chair we were told it was in some stable covered with dustproof wrappings. They did not even know where the stable was. These things are remembered against us in this country. They are going on being remembered. I do not want to cause trouble, but the trouble is there, and I only want to put it right.

Nobody realises over here the feeling there is in Newfoundland against this country. It comes out clearly in letters that are written. I do not mean letters from politicians or the sort of letter that we see in newspapers. I mean letters from ordinary men and women, people who write gossipy letters to friends over here. This is one, talking about the political situation:

"That all looks completely hopeless, and how people are learning to hate! It's not so much actual Confederation which hurts but it's the dirty way the Home Government have sold us."

It may be wrong but that is what they feel.

"This morning in church people refused to stand for the National Anthem — elderly, steady and staid people, normally patriotic to the core. Everywhere, one hears of outport people taking down the inevitable picture of the King and Queen, and one man the other day said he had taken down his Union Jack for the last time."

One man, writing to me the other day ---- . . . said that our name would

"stink in the nostrils of a people who are as British as the lions in Trafalgar Square."

He repeated the story of the National Anthem incident.

I did not start the petitions and I did not lodge the appeal to the King. I say, let us do this thing in the right way. I am tired of hearing people say that we are doing the right thing in the wrong way. If we are doing it in the wrong way, it cannot be the right thing. We do not say that about a forced marriage or a rape. We do not say: "The young lady must go to bed one day. What does it matter what the arrangements are?" We take good care to be sure that she knows what she is doing, that she is willing, and that she is to be properly provided for. Let us do this thing also in the right way. Even now, let us forget all the arguments about

whether the past was right or wrong, and about the constitutionalities. Let us see whether we can make sure. We still have an opportunity of saving to Newfoundland: "Here is your liberty, do with it what you will." There could be a general election in May. There cannot be such a very great hurry about the Bill. What the magic of 31st May may be nobody has yet explained, and, after all, the people of Newfoundland have waited for 15 years. They would have an election in May, presumably when the snows are cleared. There will presumably be some candidates for Confederation and others, perhaps fewer, for responsible government. Suppose that the Federationists are returned. Then, with all the might, majesty and power of Parliamentary authority, Newfoundland will go over to Ottawa, and come back and approve the terms. No doubt there will then be another glorious scene, this time in the Newfoundland Parliament, with the singing of "God save the King," "O, Canada," and perhaps that fine old Newfoundland song, "We'll rant and we'll roar like true Newfoundlanders."

On the other hand, suppose that the Federationists do not win — I believe that the fear that that might happen is at the root of the Bill — and I should not be surprised. Then responsible government will win, and Newfoundland will show that she is capable of running herself forever. So far as I know, her dollar situation is a damned sight better than ours. She has a secure market for her forest products and her fisheries. Labrador may become another Alaska, because it has the largest iron ore deposits in the world waiting to be exploited, and they will be a terrific thing. Whoever runs them; Labrador will be an old age pension for Newfoundland for a very long time. That is what I suggest. For the life of me, I cannot understand why even now the Government cannot say that this is the best way to do the business and why they cannot do the simple, honourable and constitutional thing. However, I know that I am talking to deaf ears.

Let me now glance at the terms. According to the Preamble, the original terms were before the people in the form of a Referendum. It is impossible for any forester or fisherman, even if the effort had been made — and I do not think it was — to explain the terms to them, to get terms like this sufficiently into his head to be able to produce a sober judgment on them. The original terms may have been better or they may have been worse. Some people tell me that these are worse. First of all, Canada takes over the 1933 Loan, which is held in London and which amounts in all to about 72 million dollars. There is a sinking fund of nine million dollars on them. Canada will pay us 61 million dollars for taking over that loan. That sounds very good, but we have to reflect and to remember that the national debt in Canada amounts to 1,500 dollars per head while in Newfoundland it is only about 200 dollars per head. Newfoundland will take over forever a debt about seven times her present national

(Continued on page 7)



THE MENACE OF SOIL EROSION CONDITION OF CATCHMENT AREAS

By R. H. WELLER, Editor, *Victorian Compost News*.

The menace of soil erosion on our catchment areas is a very important matter to every individual in the Commonwealth. On the adequate supplies of water depend the success or otherwise of the proper development of the continent, yet we find that large scale dam projects have been carried out at a tremendous cost without due regard to the condition of the mountain slopes which are the source of the water which feeds these reservoirs. Dams are excellent in their way, but as has been demonstrated already, they are only of secondary importance as a means of conserving water. Because of the neglect to ensure the proper measures of control on the mountain slopes, we now find that rivers and reservoirs are silting up at an alarming rate.

The remedy proposed is to increase the height of dam walls. What is undoubtedly required is that attention should first be directed to the mountain slopes, and we find here that the frequent burning off by graziers, the eating out of vegetation by overstocking, by rabbits and other vermin, is destroying completely the vegetative cover which is absolutely necessary to prevent the run off of the topsoil which is finding its way into the rivers and reservoirs as silt. Officers of Soil Conservation Boards who are fully aware of the seriousness of the position, and know full well how to remedy the situation, are handicapped by lack of money and shortage of trained staff.

To spend millions of pounds of taxpayers' money in raising dam walls before first tackling the cause of the trouble will be disastrous, as the silting will increase as time goes on and the position will be worse than it is to-day.

Jocelyn Henderson (1) writes: "Examples of the siltation of reservoirs in Australia are — Laanecoorie Reservoir, which has had its capacity reduced from 14,000 to 6,000 acre ft. (over half) and the Eildon Reservoir, with an original capacity of 306,000 acre ft., which had its capacity reduced by 1,600 acre ft., in the first ten years of its life, and now contains 5,000 acre ft. of silt — 3,000 acre ft. having been deposited since the 1939 bush fires. It is now proposed to increase the Eildon Weir Reservoir to 2,350,000 acre ft. at a cost of £8,500,000. Surely the wise plan would be first, or at the same time as adding to its storage capacity, to stop excess erosion in the catchment and prevent further siltation. What is the use of building on the top while the bottom is steadily silting up?"

Silting up of rivers is taking place all over the Eastern States, and is the reason of frequent flooding of valuable agricultural land. In the Latrobe River catchment, according to A. V. Galbraith (2):

"Landholders along the Latrobe River are worried about the abnormal growth of rushes on land affected by flood. Clovers and natural grasses are temporarily ousted, and crops failed in spite of four or five sowings.

"In past years. Trafalgar Meadows, of nearly 16,000 acres, produced 108,000 tons of potatoes. As the result of recurring floods, production dropped to 2,750 tons, and in '34 and '35 to less than 20 tons.

"An abnormal rainfall causes damage at any time, but unsound management of the catchment obviously aggravates it. This striking depreciation in value of some of the richest land in the State is typical of what is taking place in many river valleys in Eastern Victoria."

Under natural conditions, the flow of the rivers is controlled by the absorption of rainfall on the mountain slopes by the accumulation of forest litter and the ground vegetation, which prevents excessive runoff. Thus the underground water table in the area is kept high, and springs are able to function all the year round. When the slopes have been stripped of trees and the vegetation ceases to grow, the soil cannot absorb the rainfall, which tears down to the rivers carrying quantities of valuable topsoil, causing gullies to be formed. The soil is deposited in the riverbeds, which results in flooding; the water table over the whole area is lowered and springs dry up. Once gullying has commenced, the situation becomes rapidly worse every succeeding year. Rivers, which normally flow all the year round, become practically dry in the summer, and raging torrents during the rains.

This is of tremendous importance to the farmers in the whole district. They can control the sheet erosion on their farms by practising organic methods of cultivation, but they are helpless in the matter of controlling the water supply above their properties.

H. A. Morgan (3) says in regard to the famous Tennessee Valley: "If we could raise the underground table only six inches, that would mean 26,000,000 acre ft. of

A COMPARISON

Besides some vivid glimpses of the types of Canadian scenery, Professor Siegfried illuminates the contrast in agricultural methods between the essentially peasant-farmer attitude of the French Canadian and the large-scale "agricultural industrialists," who, employing the most modern machinery and a minimum of labour, increasingly make their homes in the cities. Despite the productive advantages, he comments: "It remains to be seen whether man can, without serious consequences, divorce himself from the soil, and treat it not as a mother that he loves and cherishes, but as a raw material which has to be manufactured. Among the grain growers and better-class technicians who have gone into the great adventure of mechanisation, more than one is tormented to-day by this agonising question." It is a prime quality of the author that he thinks always in terms of people rather than abstract trends or institutions.

—*The Age*, Melb, April 2, a review of *Canada an International Power*, by Professor Andre Siegfried.

water, four times as much as the Norris reservoir will hold. Nature will do the storing."

The necessity for inundating large areas of valuable country to form reservoirs would not be necessary if rainfall were conserved underground by tackling the problem of restoring the vegetative cover to the mountain slopes.

This will present a big problem, but it must be tackled with determination immediately. We feel confident that the technical officers of the Soil Conservation Board are quite capable of carrying out the necessary work provided they get the finance required. Last year the Board received £13,000, which shows how little the State Government appreciates the importance of its work. The damage, which has already been caused through the mistakes of past administrations, can be reckoned in millions of pounds. We do not hold the present Government responsible for this, but they must accept responsibility if they neglect to put in hand a bold, long-range plan to arrest erosion and restore the vegetative cover on our catchment areas. Primary producers who are feeling the effects of flooding and siltation should take the matter up with their Parliamentary Representatives so that this important matter will be brought before Parliament, and action taken.

Support should be accorded by every citizen in the State, because the constant and continuous depreciation of the nation's real wealth — the living soil — is the vital concern of everybody. Water means Life. (Continued on page 7)

ROAD TO SURVIVAL

JOHN MANIFOLD

In his book, *Road to Survival*, Dr. William Vogt (Chief of the Conservation Section of the Pan-American Union), surveys the remaining productive lands of the world — both in regard to their declining area and their declining production. He shows that both these "declines" are due to man's unthinking and insensate attack on his natural environment — not only in the past — but continuing at this moment.

Huge sections of the world's population are suffering from malnutrition not only because sufficient food cannot be distributed; but because *sufficient food for a decent world nutritive standard already does not exist!* The world's population continues to increase at a fantastic rate.

That, too briefly, is the background to this book. To assimilate the vitally important and alarming picture presented, it should be read as a whole. But here are some excerpts, which apply especially to this continent of ours, Australia:

"Australia has reached one of the world's highest living standards by the well-known methods of the drunken sailor; it is throwing its patrimony to the winds — literally — and having a wonderful time. According to E. S. Clayton, 'worse examples of wind erosion are already to be seen in Australia on both grazing and cultivated lands than in the United States or Canada. The position in regard to water erosion is also very serious. It has not progressed so far as in the United States, but the land has only been under cultivation for about one-third of the period.'"

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(Continued from page 6)

- (1) *Fire — or Water?* by Jocelyn Henderson.
- (2) *Soil Erosion and Allied Problems*, by A. V. Galbraith, Chairman, Forests' Commission of Victoria.
- (3) *Climate and Man*, by H. A. Morgan (U.S.A.).

NEWFOUNDLAND

(Continued from page 5)

debt, in addition to the 61 million dollars, which Canada is taking from England. This is the kind of thing that would be discussed very properly in a Newfoundland Parliament.

Secondly, all this talk of subsidies sounds very good. I gather that most of them represent rentals from the taxes which used to go to Newfoundland will now go to Canada. I saw a rather angry letter or leading article in a Newfoundland newspaper the other day pointing out that over the whole range of the Provinces we find that they receive 76 million dollars by way of subsidy, but that Canada takes 342 million dollars. That does not sound a very profitable transaction, the paper said, and we should know more.

There is the question of balanced Budgets. At the moment, and ever since 1944, this island has had a Balance on her Budget. It is surprising to find that since the war it has been even better. I make the prediction that, under the proposed terms Newfoundland is going to show a loss. I will tell the Minister the authority upon which I make that prediction. I have several documents, one from a politician who, some people think, is rather wild, and so I will not quote him. There is also the Ministry Report of a gentleman named Crosbie who was a delegate to Ottawa. He refused to sign these terms. He is a prominent businessman. He said that they were financial suicide. He said that Canada was sitting in the driver's seat and was driving a hard bargain. A document on which I rely even more is a report from a celebrated firm of Canadian chartered accountants, who suggest that, under these Terms — the original Terms which the right hon. Gentleman says have been before the people — Newfoundland will have a deficit of four million dollars every year, and up to 12 years, a loss of about 50 million dollars in all. She will have exhausted her surplus by that time.

I have had that report by this chartered accountant brought up to date by a man who is rather experienced in these matters — that is to say, in making adjustments to bring in the increased transitional grants and so on—and, to my astonishment, he comes out with a worse result. He predicts a loss of 6 million dollars a year on the Newfoundland Budget, and a total loss after 12 years of 70 million dollars. I am prepared to go half way and predict a loss of 5 million dollars. It is all very well for noble Lords in another place and for some hon. Members in this House to say that the terms are generous and favourable. How do they know? The only people who know are the Newfoundlanders. The only people who have said a good word for the terms — I have never heard a good word from the Newfoundlanders — and who have approved them, are the people who negotiated them, and they were appointed by the Newfoundland Government, not half of whom are Newfoundlanders. As the man in the story said, "That seems to be a hell of a way to run a railway."

... I will now say a few words on the American bases. During the war we had a curious habit of giving away other people's property. We leased important bases to

America for nothing for 99 years. *The* Newfoundlanders did not mind that during the war, but there was a clause, which stated that, after the war, there should be some new negotiations. Since those bases are very strong bargaining points, we may be sure that a self-governing Newfoundland would have got some material benefit from the United States in exchange. We may be sure that Canada will do so. Hardly had the Debate been finished that the Canadian Prime Minister went quite rightly to Washington to discuss the; matters. There ought to be some mention of this in these Terms. I may be talking nonsense, but I think I know more about this matter than some people on the Government Front Bench.

I ask the House to remember two things. One is the speech of the Prime Minister of Newfoundland which I have already quoted:

"We trust implicitly their honourable intentions."

After all the arguments and quibbles, do not believe that our pledge has been fulfilled, although I know we have the best intentions in the world. Secondly, I would remind the House that at the present moment there is in this building a petition signed by 50,000 Newfoundlanders to this House asking for consideration. Do not let hon. Members opposite think, as I have heard people say, that the people behind this movement are all wealthy merchants of St. John's. There are not 70,00 merchants in Newfoundland; I do not suppose there are more than seven. I wish hon. Members had seen the names on the pages of the petition; I have some pages here. There are good old English names like Tarrant, Turpin, Blake, Drake-----

Professor Savory (Queen's University of Belfast): And some good Ulster names.

Sir A. Herbert: —a Samuel Butler and a William Churchill who made his mark. There are no Vyshinskys, although there might, I dare say, be a few Stanleys. They are simple and sometimes even illiterate people — not wealthy merchants, but people who are passionately attached to the English idea, who speak words now which we have forgotten but which can be found in our dictionaries — people who look about the world and see us giving Parliaments and liberties to black, brown and yellow men, and who say "All we want is to be able to determine our own future in our own Parliament instead of being chucked across the counter in a tied-up parcel as if we did not matter and as if we had not been governing ourselves since 1855." They are people whose families have been there for 400 years, since Sir Humphrey Gilbert gathered the sailors around him, planted the White Ensign and sang the English songs, especially the National Anthem.

I have done my best for these people, and I can do no more, but I do say this: if the policy of this Bill prevails, I for one shall not be sorry to go out from a Parliament which can so affront a proud, dignified, loyal white people, and the good name and honour of my own beloved country.

"New Times," April 14, 1949

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CONTRACTING OUT

The following important letter appeared in *The West Australian*, Perth, on Dec. 17, 1948:—

Sir, —It appears to me that a vital principle is lacking in the opposition to the National Health Service. I refer to the right of the individual to contract out. The British Medical Association has failed to establish this right, and it would be asking too much to expect the Government to consider that the individual has any rights at all, seeing that one of the main objectives of the health service is to secure more control over the individual. The British Housewives' League recently convened a meeting, which was attended by, between five and six hundred people at the Kingsway Hall, London. The following motion was passed with only four dissentients: — To the Prime Minister, Leader of H.M. Government, and to the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, Leader of H.M. Opposition:—

This meeting protests that both the members of the Opposition and His Majesty's Government have, in fact, supported the imposition of the totalitarian Insurance and Health Service, and demands that the National Health Act be postponed until the rights of individuals to contract out be entirely re-established.

The right to contract out establishes the fundamental difference between a conscripted serf and a voluntary participant. Are we to be serfs or volunteers? Yours, etc.,

V. JAMES.

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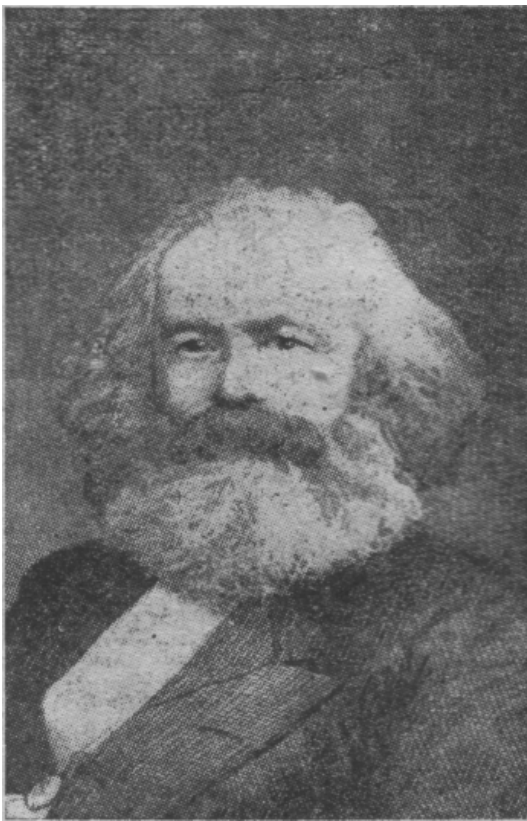
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