

THE NEW TIMES

Registered at the G.P.O., Melbourne, for transmission by Post as a Newspaper.

VOLUME 15, No. 16.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 1949.

SIXPENCE WEEKLY.

Should the Secret Political Vote be Abolished?

Although we have said on more than one occasion that it would be a major disaster if the Chifley Government's totalitarian policies were voted for by a majority of the electors at the next federal Elections, we desire to make it clear that we have no illusions about Messrs. Menzies and Casey and the type of policy they are likely to try and pursue.

On present indications it is very probable that the Chifley Government will be returned with a small majority. Unless the Liberals can produce before very long some type of a constructive anti-Socialist policy, the very best that they and the Country Party can expect to accomplish is victory with a very precarious majority. This majority would be all the more precarious when it is realised that rank-and-file supporters of the Liberal Party are growing increasingly restive about the pro-Socialist, outlook of Mr. Casey and other Liberal leaders.

Although we believe we are being realistic in suggesting that the Chifley Government be defeated as the first step towards something approaching sanity, we want to state that it is possible that the results we anticipate from such a defeat may not eventuate. But what is the elector who is worried about the lack of genuine choice to do? Under the present voting system, he is compelled to go to the polling booth or be fined. It is true that he need not vote for any candidate; that he can protest by making his vote informal. We believe that the deliberate informal vote as a vehicle of expressing resentment against the lack of choice in policies has considerable merits. It may be a valuable step in the right direction. But what is the right direction?

We cannot see how any reasonable person can deny the necessity of making the political vote, like the money vote, a responsible vote. Surely it cannot be argued that the political vote should be irresponsible. And yet that is the case today. One individual spends many years in obtaining an understanding of devilish policies, which have all but wrecked civilization. But at the polling booth this man's vote counts for no more than that of the most irresponsible and stupid individual in the community. All genuine progress has come from the action of minorities. But progress is now impossible in an era when genuine economic independence is being rapidly destroyed and where the manipulation of the majority vote is used to destroy any minority, which shows signs of impeding the policies of the totalitarians.

As it is indisputable that the present voting system is being used to drive us to destruction, something drastic must be done about this system in order that the minority might point the way to salvation. As many of the Liberal Party contend that if they came out against all Socialist

policies advocated or being implemented by the Labour Party, they would most certainly lose the Federal Elections, we suggest that they could give a lead towards responsible voting by challenging the Labour party in the following terms:—

You Labour-Socialists contend that the policies you are enunciating will bring the greatest benefit to the individual. All those voting for your Party undoubtedly feel that they will share in the benefits you promise. Now we have no objection to them getting personally the benefits they feel they are voting for. They will, of course, also be prepared to pay most of the money required for your policies. But our supporters will be pleased to forego the benefits you are promising, which naturally means that they cannot be expected to make the total contributions your supporters should make. We therefore suggest that a complete record be made of which Party electors support. This would enable all your supporters to make their contribution in the amount of money required for your policies and enable them to obtain all the benefits. Naturally, of course, if we lose the Elections, we would be prepared to accept our share of the financing of the generally agreed functions of carrying on Government. But we think it a most democratic principle that, if you and those supporting you think that such ventures as T.A.A. are excellent, you should finance them and take all the benefits, if any. And, of course, your supporters should be quite prepared to finance any losses. If we win the Elections, those electors voting for us will naturally have to accept personal responsibility for policies they endorse.

We would be most interested to see the Labour-Socialists' reaction to the above proposition. It will, of course, be argued that the secret vote is some great right, which must not be destroyed. But can there be any virtue in a system of voting which enables an anonymous majority to impose a destructive policy upon the entire community without there being any acceptance of personal responsibility by the majority? Are we really to believe that Australian electors are not prepared to accept personal responsibility for their political votes? This question will, we believe, have to be faced before the battle against totalitarianism is finally decided in favour of genuine individual freedom. Freedom and personal responsibility must go hand in hand. We urge our readers to bring this matter to the attention

of their Liberal friends, whenever the opportunity presents itself.

"HEIL HITLER"

LONDON, Wednesday. —After having been sentenced in Glasgow yesterday to three months' imprisonment for having failed to obey an instruction under the National Service Act, Richard McDade held up his hand and shouted: "Heil Hitler!" adding: "I don't think there is much difference between these methods and the Gestapo."

—Kemsley Newspaper Service.

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

Compromise

Doctors, dentists, chemists, radio stations, shipping companies, and other sections of the community threatened by nationalisation, and who are futilely trying to argue that they should attempt to compromise with the Labour-Socialists, in some cases because they believe that this attitude will save their own particular interests, should recall the words of Adolf Hitler: "Conquer one by one and impose terms little by little" (*Mein Kampf*).

No section can stand aside from the growing battle to decide the issue between totalitarianism and genuine independence. For example, doctors who argue that they cannot come out openly and join with other sections of the community on the socialisation issue because they "must not get mixed up in politics," should realise that, as the opponents of independence are determined to impose more and more political control of everybody and everything, every individual concerned with protecting his independence must take an active interest in politics.

* * * *

British Example

It is to be hoped that Australian electors have taken careful note of the major points in the recent Budget Speech by Great Britain's Economic Dictator, Sir Stafford Cripps. Socialism in practice is very different from Socialism in theory. Australian electors who are at present enthusiastic about "Free" Medicine and other "free" Social Security schemes, should have their attention directed to Sir Stafford Cripps' blunt statement that, so long as social services are maintained, "whatever Government is in power, a very high rate of taxation will have to continue." Not only does Cripps' Budget increase taxation; the statement that "social service costs would increase over the next five or ten years" is a warning that still heavier taxation can be expected in the future.

It is very interesting that the British "Conservative" press has applauded Sir Stafford Cripps. Australian wage earners should have this very significant fact brought to their attention. All Australians can surely learn a grim lesson from the bitter experiences of their British kith and kin under a Socialist Government, and resist any further socialisation—i.e., centralisation of power — in this country.

* * * *

Dr. Evatt

The Melbourne *Argus* of April 8, 1949 reports that Dr. Evatt has accepted an invitation to speak at a New York dinner and forum arranged by the publishers of *The Nation*, "a weekly magazine, which has been among the strongest critics of Britain's policy in Palestine." In spite of his recent utterances praising the British Empire, Dr. Evatt continues to associate himself with Zionist policies — which are the policies of Zionist financiers — and most other anti-British policies. —The sooner Dr. Evatt is driven from public life, the better for the British Empire — or, more important, the British way of life.

Sound Advice

A headline in the Melbourne Communist *Guardian* of April 8 states that "the time to fight the police state is now." Exactly. That is why every effort must be made to defeat the Socialists, Communists and other Monopolists.

A Minor Loyalty?

A note on Dr. Evatt's foreign policy: "The pivotal point of Australia's policy is loyalty to the United Nations." Apparently loyalty to King and Empire is now considered only of minor importance.

"British" Medicine

"English journalist-author Cecil Palmer, on a 16-weeks' lecture-tour of the U.S.A. In Britain, socialisation of medicine has ruined the relationship of privacy that has always existed between doctor and patient. Case-histories of patients must be turned in to local boards, with the result that in smaller communities the nature of individuals' illness becomes public knowledge."

—*Sydney Bulletin*, April 6, 1949.

How many married men would like to have their wives examined and treated by doctors who, under a Socialist medical scheme, would be obliged to make available to officials information of the most intimate nature?

A Sound Statement

"... he (the Devil) will be so broad-minded as to identify tolerance with indifference to right and wrong, truth and error; he will spread the lie that men will never be better until they make society better, and thus have selfishness to provide fuel for the next revolution; he will foster science, but only to have armament makers use one marvel of science to destroy another; he will foster more divorces under the disguise that another partner is 'vital'; he will increase love for love and decrease love for person; he will invoke religion to destroy religion... his mission, he will say, will be to liberate men from the servitudes of superstition and Fascism, which he will never define; he will organise children's games, tell people whom they should and should not marry and unmarried, who should bear children and who should not; he will benevolently draw chocolate bars from his pockets for the little ones, and bottles of milk for the Hottentots.

"He will tempt Christians with the same three temptations with which he tempted Christ. The temptation to turn stones into bread as an earthly Messiah will become the temptation to sell freedom for security, making bread a political weapon which only those who think this way may eat. The temptation to work a miracle by recklessly throwing himself from a steeple will become a plea to desert the lofty pinnacles of truth, where faith and reason reign, for those lower depths where the masses live on slogans and propaganda. He wants no proclamation of immutable principles from the lofty heights of a steeple, but mass organisation through propaganda where only a common man directs the idiosyncrasies of common men. Opinions not truths, commentators not teachers, Gallup

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.

FOOLS OR ROGUES?

Mr. Walter Lippman, in the most matter of fact words, has explained that all that "Britain" is getting out of "Marshall Aid" is the debt. The goods, or their equivalent, are all going abroad, and much of the receipts is going for interest on 1914-18 Debts.

This country is the sport of High Treason. Whether the ostensible Ministers are fools or rogues we do not know. Both fools and rogues are involved, and we can see no alternative but to put the fear of God into them, and their eager imitators — if it can be done.

—*The Social Creditor*, March 26.

TO THE POINT

(Continued from page 2)

polls not principles, nature not grace — to these golden calves will men toss themselves from their Christ."

—Fulton Sheen, in *Communism and the Conscience of The West*.

A Revealing Statement

"Those who have held the Roosevelt-Churchill 'unconditional surrender' pronouncement to have been a formula straight out of a Hollywood hatchery will find their view supported in *Secret Missions*, by Captain E. M. Zacharias, the U.S. naval officer and Japanese language expert, whose broadcasts to Tokyo hastened the surrender. In his book he writes: 'If the detailed interpretations of the unconditional-surrender formula had been forthcoming in June rather than the end of July, the war would have ended without Soviet participation, and before the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.'"

—*Sydney Bulletin*, March 16, 1949.

But the dropping of the atomic bombs and the extension of Russian influence were essential for the furthering of the Big Idea—the creation of the World State.

"Certified" Nonsense

A major feature of the teachings of orthodox economists everywhere has been their opposition to any modifications of orthodox financial rules, and their support of Socialist policies. In spite of having been invariably proved wrong in so many of their predictions, their views are still taken seriously by some people.

The following is a classic example of the dangerous nonsense uttered by these "experts" from time to time: "Sir George Paish, noted British economist, said in an interview to-day that he saw no world menace in Communism, in the event of a Russian victory over Germany. Communism had been abandoned by the Russians because it would not work. Russia was now a Co-operative State. High wages were paid those worthy of them, and farm co-operative schemes gave the workers a share of the profits."

—*Melbourne Herald*, July 23, 1941.

Men like Paish are responsible for the present plight of the world. It is high time that they were made personally responsible for their theories and predictions.

A TRUE ARISTOCRACY

"The word 'democracy' crowds the columns of every journalist, and dribbles from the mouth of every politician. Too often, to paraphrase Dr. Johnson, it is 'the last refuge of a scoundrel.' Except perhaps for 'freedom,' it has been the most over-used, and the least understood, catchword of our time. Ever since the universal franchise, our system of Government has been neither truly democratic nor truly free. The mere exercise of a vote in seasons of hysterical propaganda and mass bribery has little to do with responsibility or choice between good and evil. It is not in the nature of a party caucus, business interest or bureaucratic power that these could make any popular issue unconfused, or would wish it so to be.

"Democracy is only a reality when there is family life; when the family is independent by owning the means of life, and when the individual's responsibility for his own actions is-brought home to him. When there is a good family life, and when status is . . . restored to the individual, there is a chance for the best, among them to carry a real influence. When families know their neighbours, they cease to be lonely fragments and become part of a small, vital community. Then self-government becomes possible because there is understanding of the issues involved, and the power to judge a neighbour's persuasions by the fruits of his character, and way of living. In such circumstances democracy would and should have its complement in aristocracy. Aristocracy denotes the effective influence of the best. A circle merely clinging to power and privilege is oligarchy; coupled with irresponsible power of money it is plutocracy. Both oligarchy and plutocracy have been mis-called aristocracy. Our present so-called democracy is a combination of the two former; hidden rule by the Civil Service, and financial interests manipulating the masses by false propaganda. This is one type of the Servile State; Nazism and Communism are the others.

"Aristocracy has been made into a bogey

like 'Fascism.' It does not, and should never have connoted mere influence by wealth; it does not mean the 'dead-eyed alien lords,' or the scions of well-paunched grocers who have succeeded by the genius of misplaced organisation in rotting the stomachs of the populace. Aristocracy simply means the power of quality. The parents who rear a family of healthy, happy and useful children are aristocrats; the craftsman who will not do shoddy work, and spreads his example to others; the shopkeeper who honourably serves his neighbourhood; the fine ploughman and miner are all aristocrats in their sphere, just as much as the duke who devotes his life to the service of those for whom he is responsible, and lives it in a wider sense for his country.

"Democracy can only be real when men are responsible for their actions. It can only be enduring when it can be guided by love, like that of the wise parent, with the strength of character and independence to take the long and sometimes unpopular view against the clamour of the demagogue . . . In our time, when power is more anonymous, and the preaching of false values easier than ever before; when superficial education divorced from deep-rooted standards and innate comprehensions can make men the prey to facile excitements and appetites foreign to their deeper welfare, true aristocracy is the complement by which democracy can endure. Kingship, which is the apex of sound "civilisation, has been shuttered from the people; they have no protector or guide unless the aristocrat is present in every sphere. The aristocrat in the real sense knows nothing of class or unearned privilege. Secure in his status he is one who can give more to life than he takes from it. We need not one but a thousand kings of all degree in every humble community; as we need them in their hundreds for wider work of national co-ordination and guidance."

—Viscount Lymington in *Alternative to Death*.

LIBERAL-SOCIALISM

Where a product has been declared a commodity and a Board has been appointed in relation thereto, the Governor in Council may by proclamation—

(a) provide and declare that the commodity shall forthwith, upon the date of publication of the proclamation or on from and after a later date specified in the proclamation or upon the fulfillment of such conditions as are mentioned therein, be divested from the producers of the commodity and become vested in and be the absolute property of the Board as the owner thereof, and that upon any of the commodity coming into existence within a time specified in the same or a subsequent proclamation it shall by virtue of this Act become vested in and be the absolute property of the Board as the owner thereof

Section 16 of the Marketing of *Primary Products Act* (Vic.). While this Act remains on the Statute Book, the Hollway Government's claim to be fighting Socialism is so much eyewash.

ANNUAL MEETING

of the

Douglas Social Credit Movement

in Victoria

will be held in ROOM 8, on

THURS. APRIL 28th at 8 p.m.

BUSINESS.—To present Annual Report and Financial Statement. Election of Officers for ensuing year. -

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Nominations are now in order for the office of:—President, Secretary, Treasurer and Auditors.

Annual Subscriptions now due.

L. C. HARGREAVES, Secretary.

Room 8, 1st Floor,

The Block, Elizabeth St.

THE NEW TIMES

Established 1935

Published every Friday by New Times Limited, McEwan House,
343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, C.I.

Postal Address: Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne. Telephone: MU 2834.

VOL. 15.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 1949.

No. 16

PUBLIC CONTROL

In spite of its obvious fallacy, one of the most dangerous myths that is widely accepted today is that the "public control" advocated by Socialists really enables the individual members of the public to control Government enterprises. In theory it sounds plausible to say that Government control means that all the electors are shareholders in Government enterprises and therefore get greater benefits than they can get from private enterprise. But, in practice, the "public control" advocated by the Socialists means no control whatever for the shareholders.

The electors of Australia are already shareholders in the Post Office, T.A.A., the Commonwealth Bank, and other institutions. But what effective control do the electors possess? There are no shareholders' meetings. To suggest that effective control can be exercised by changing one set of politicians for another set of politicians once every three years is contrary to all experience and commonsense. One of the major "arguments" used by the Socialists against private enterprise is that the profits made are concentrated in the hands of a comparatively few shareholders. It is argued that under "public control" these profits would go to all the people. But when have the electors ever received, as shareholders, a dividend from the profits of the Post Office, the Commonwealth Bank, and other "publicly-owned" institutions? It will, of course, be argued that the Government, "representing all the people," spends these profits on behalf of the people. This is, of course, simply an argument for an extension of the monopolistic policies followed by that section of industry, which can be rightly termed "Big Business." Instead of profits being distributed to individuals who can spend them as they desire, they are spent in capital expansion which is of no use whatever to the individual. The proposal that Governments should embark upon more and more capital expansion in the form of public works is simply a claim that a Government and its planners can spend the individual's money better than he can spend it himself.

The only form of "public control" which benefits the individual, is when all money-power is in the hands of the members of the public, who can use it to indicate what they want produced and in what priority. If the people collectively have adequate purchasing power to pay a profitable price for the goods and services, they can, without any doubt, easily provide themselves by a free enterprise production and distribution system, and there is no argument that they have effective control of production. Comparatively few people are interested in owning shoe stores and shoe manufacturing plants. What they are interested in is the obtaining of adequate purchasing power to indicate what type of shoes they want. This is effective public control.

When sufficient electors understand this issue clearly, they will resist the Socialist idea of "public control," and, through their Government, insist upon a financial policy which will automatically ensure that they have at all times adequate purchasing power to buy at a profitable price what they can produce. We need not concern ourselves here with the technique of how this could be done. But it is essential that it be clearly understood that, just as production policies of free enterprise must be controlled by the people deciding whether they will surrender their purchasing power in favour of this or that article or service, so must Governments be controlled by electors having the free choice of deciding how much of their money the Government should obtain and for what purposes.

Decentralised control of all money power in the hands of the individuals of the public is the only way to establish genuine public control of production.

HN. SMITH

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STAGNATION OF OBJECTIVE

Any competent engineer knows that the more excellently a machine, a structure or a building is designed to serve a specific purpose; the more difficult it is to adapt it to other uses. The essence of planning is stagnation of objective. It is proper and logical to "plan" water pipes, because water pipes are meant always to carry water; it is one more instance of quackery to plan civilisations, because we have not even begun to learn the object of civilisation, and it most certainly has not attained a final form. And the people whose opinion on civilisation is least worth attention are the Planners.

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

PROFESSOR H. J. LASKI

Under the heading, "States' Rights," Frank C. Hanighen writes to the *Human Events* supplement, *Not Merely Gossip*, of March 2: —

"Senator George reminded his colleagues that the upper chamber was not designed to be merely another legislative body, but a forum in which the forty-eight states should have permanent and equal representation, regardless of population and geography. To buttress his point, George quoted from a speech by the late Senator Frank Brandegee, of Connecticut (who served in the Senate from 1905 to 1924), as follows: 'Mr. President, I look at this right of debate not as a right, much less a privilege, which we are conferring upon ourselves as a matter of favour. I look upon it as a right, which attaches to the sovereign states of the Union, each of which is represented here by two Senators, and whose sole method of putting its case before the people of the United States and before this body is through the voice of its two Senators. So I say that this is the forum of the states. This is a federated government, in which the states reserved the right of equal suffrage in the Senate of the United States, and made that the only provision of the Constitution which never should be subject to amendment.'

"We discussed this point with a learned friend, a student of constitutional law and the literature on the subject, 'I know of only one well-known writer who challenges the point of view stated by George and Brandegee,' he remarked. 'And who could that be?' quoth we. Our friend replied, 'Professor Harold J. Laski.' "

ON RECORD

Mr. Churchill, pro-Zionist, on his recent visit to the U.S.A., was there at the invitation and as the guest of the Jew, Bernard Baruch. By their friends shall you know them.

Printed by W. and J. Barr, 105-7 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, N.6., for New Times, Ltd., McEwan House, Melbourne, on whose authority these articles appear.

LOOKING BACKWARDS

FOOTLE.

My newspaper informs me, I quote, "The Government is still determined to deport Mrs. O'Keefe if she does not leave voluntarily with her family. To effect this, new amendments must be retrospective."

I am always being reminded of my failure to keep abreast of the times. This retrospective business is something I should never have thought of myself. It shows you what can be achieved by modern progressiveness allied to bulldog tenacity. Some of our kings have shown considerable enterprise in dealing with things present; as, for instance, Henry VIII, whose methods, domestic and political, were hardly short of revolutionary. Others again have essayed to deal in futures, but futures seldom pay visible dividends unless some sustained organisation beyond the grave is interested to ensure them.

But I cannot call to mind anyone who hitherto has brought the past into the scope of practical operations. The ordinary fellow, when he uses the past at all, does so in mellow mood, and beneficent Nature assists him in conjuring up the pleasant ghosts and suppressing the others. That's right enough for the ordinary fellow. But Mr. Calwell, of whom the above quoted report was made, is evidently not an ordinary fellow, for he has shown us how to project the present into the past by contemplating an enactment retrospective in effect.

The idea may not be entirely original for I have just remembered that the late trials of the "war criminals" exhibited a good deal of this retrospective principle, the laws under which indictments were made being subsequent to the offences they were framed to try. The retrospective wheeze is going to prove very disconcerting if allowed to flourish. It is so very uncommon; beyond the common man, common law commonsense and common honesty.

I don't want to mislead anyone: I know practically nothing about the law; very few people do, if it comes to that. You can tell that much by the way verdicts of one court are so frequently reversed by the findings of another. This ignorance of the law and the impossibility of becoming acquainted with its mass are so well recognised that the promulgation of a law or the gazettal of a regulation is deemed in law to be knowledge thereof; an assumption which I find flattering but unsatisfactory. Nothing in my education has prepared me for this. No one at school ever deemed that I contained any worthwhile knowledge, even after the most painstaking exposition on the part of my mentors. I am therefore, to put it mildly, as distrustful of this painless acquisition of knowledge as I am of the "mind to keyboard" acquisition of musical skill.

Of course I can understand Mr. Calwell's annoyance, although I don't feel as he does, at any rate so acutely, about the colour of the wives selected by certain of our countrymen. I believe we should try to keep Australia white, but I also believe that our social and political morals should be of the same blameless hue. And I cannot believe that so slight an infusion of alien blood will affect our nationhood to any extent comparable with that occasioned by an infusion of poison into the body

I am, I must confess, apprehensive of a future, which may betray me to a concentration camp or the gallows by the simple device of a retrospective law. It is pure selfishness on my part, of course; I ought to be more concerned for the lot of the common man than for my own. And, of course, I may be exaggerating the danger. I may only be deprived of social service, or tarred and feathered, or branded on the forehead, or something equally trifling. And, at any rate, I don't suppose we shall arrive at such a proletarian paradise in one leap. All the same, we shall have to face the conditioning process. We might find, for example, that a retrospective regulation by the Income Tax Commissioner lays us open to prosecution for arrears which didn't exist the night before. We might find some day that church marriages are illegal, and, the law being retrospective, be frowned upon for possessing illegitimate children. Or, after an unsatisfactory general election, we might find ourselves in a concentration camp for voting for the opposition — all through the opera-

tion of a retrospective law. The field is very wide, as you can see. In fact, it is practically boundless and I confess myself lost in it.

I long for the old familiar things, the casual contract, the pleasure in things well done, the confidence in today as in tomorrow, the hearty unsuspecting voice, the unadvertised equality of men which springs from worth and from naught else. In short, I long for the world that was filched from us by all the saviours of mankind from Cromwell to Hitler.

If only Mr. Calwell could bring these things from the past by his retrospective legislation, I could feel for him as for any other human being, but I know, alas, that we shall never reach the millennium by looking backwards — especially when surrounded by economic experts standing on their heads.

CLEAR ENOUGH

"The taking away, in the future, of the right of the individual to choose his own vocation and EMPLOYER, is only one of the freedoms the Australian people must be prepared to forego in the interests of the State."

Dr. H. V. Evatt, at Canberra School of Political Science.

TONIGHT!

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Campaign Director of the Victorian

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ORGANIC METHODS RESTORED FARM

By HERBERT CLARENCE WHITE.

It was a time of critical drought in many sections of the country. Heavy, even disastrous rainfall in the spring (see *Life Magazine*, August, 1947) had been followed by an almost total lack of moisture in the months that followed.

At the time of our visit to Western Michigan in early August, there had been no rain for more than six weeks. Many farms and gardens were beginning to show unmistakable signs of a water shortage. Cornfields were withered and seared. Other crops were suffering almost as severely as the corn.

Then, like an oasis in the desert we discovered, almost by accident, a thirty-nine acre organic farm! Here's how it all happened. I was conducting a series of illustrated lectures on "Soil and Health" at the Muskegon Y.M.C.A. At the close of the first evening lecture, a tall gentleman pushed his way to the front, and, grasping my hand, introduced himself as Fred Engle, of the Englewood Farms.

"I want you to see my organic farm," exclaimed this enthusiastic "doer," as well as "hearer" of the word. "I have a 39 acre truck farm, all of which is farmed the organic way! We began to use the methods you advocate long before J. I. Rodale ever started the *Organic Gardening Magazine*" Then the realisation suddenly dawned upon our dull sensibilities that we were face to face with another leader in America's honour roll of "pioneer" Organic Gardeners — one who had of his own free will mingled with a lot of good horse sense) abandoned the camp of Orthodoxy, to follow nature's "lead" in the restoration and care of "tired," worn out, depleted, lifeless soil.

Yes! When Fred Engle purchased those 39 acres of Muskegon sand in the autumn of 1919, he bought a "dead duck." He didn't know it then, but he soon found out, to his own sorrow, and that of his family.

According to Engle's own story, he thought he was getting one of the best farms in Michigan. His father, a real estate broker, was instrumental in selling this farm away back in 1895 — just 53 years ago. "At that time," Fred recalls, "my father remarked that this 39 acre farm was the best that had ever passed through his hands."

But something had happened during the intervening years to that once mineral-rich, virgin, humus-filled soil. Three times during those 24 years that farm had changed hands. With the continued "mining" of the soil-minerals came the consequent lowering of soil fertility, loss of humus, reduction of the teeming microscopic life, lowering of the water-

holding capacity of the soil, and last, but not least, with the introduction of chemical fertilisers, came death and destruction to nature's perpetual fertiliser factory — the earth-worm population. Thus, the "wheel of life" was gradually, almost imperceptibly, brought to a standstill.

This sad story of soil depletion on a once prosperous American farm is duplicated all the way from New York to San Francisco, and from Maine to Florida, and back again. Everywhere we find the sickening trail of neglect, misuse and "murder" of our most precious possession—the soil!

For decades greedy profiteers in the form of "Suit case" farmers, and others almost as guilty, have taken everything out of the soil and put nothing back. According to *Life* Editor, John K. Jessup, "What we have been begging for since the 18th and 19th Centuries, when a westering man didn't think he was much of a farmer unless he had exhausted two or three farms in a wandering lifetime, we have now abundantly got. The swollen, dirty rivers testify into either sea."

But let's get back to the Englewood Farms, and to Fred Engle's almost super-human efforts to "make a go" of that newly-purchased possession. Came the spring of 1920. With high hopes for the future, and with utmost confidence in the power of the good earth to yield her proper increase, this erstwhile city dweller plowed, fertilised, and harrowed his full 39 acres. Potatoes, oats, corn, and a wide variety of vegetables were planted. Result? — a total crop failure!

Suddenly Fred Engle was brought face to face with the stark realisation that his farm, instead of being the best in the country, was actually one of the worst. He had been living in a "fool's paradise" in his hope that Mother Nature would perform a miracle for his personal benefit.

Twenty-four years of abuse under three different owners had reduced the power of his soil to the point that it could not and would not produce a crop. Fred Engle, like my Alabama friend, Neil Martin, "learned the hard way."

Not only did this near catastrophe jar Fred Engle into the consciousness that something was radically wrong with his soil; it left him on the verge of a dizzy precipice — Bankruptcy! To continue on the farm would be nothing short of financial suicide," reasoned this unhappy, would-be agronomist. So Fred returned

to the city. Here in the growing community of Muskegon he opened and operated the Englewood Food Stores. If he couldn't grow food, he could at least sell stuff that others had grown; and for seventeen years he continued to operate these stores.

During those years of waiting, did Fred Engle forget his 39 acres of no-good, worn-out sand out on Highway 6? No, indeed! During all those years he studied agriculture. The more he studied the greater his conviction grew that something was wrong with American orthodox agriculture. The basic truth concerning the importance of HUMUS as a "restorer" of life to sick, worn-out soils came to him, and Fred began to haul the offal and plant wastes from his food stores on to his humus-starved, depleted land. This enterprising merchant and "would-be" farmer also came to the realisation that it was his responsibility to restore to the soil on his farm all of the important elements that went into the makeup of an animal or human body. How right he was!

It was 1936 before the Engles were ready to start farming again. By now, young Edward was finishing school. He had spent some time in the garden beginning in 1933 while Dad worked in town, but was skeptical regarding the prospect of making it a life vocation. He told his Dad: "Two families just cannot make a living on this old farm. There isn't 1,200 dollars a year income on the whole place." It wasn't long however until young Edward had to "eat" those words." He began to see possibilities in the new method. And how happy he is today that he made the decision to stick by the land.

Through with school, young Ed joined his father full time in this new "soil-building" programme. In addition to the bones, fat, feathers, plus the large accumulation of vegetable wastes from the food stores, they were out searching for other more abundant sources from which to manufacture humus.

They began to clean up poultry houses, made friends with the owner of a nearby Fox Farm, poked their noses into a button factory for possible sources of wastes; got next to a sawmill operator and began to haul off saw-dust by the truckload; found a new interest in stockyards and dairies, and arranged with the managers for cow manure and casein from skim milk. "We had a one-ton truck on the go all the time," declared this busy pioneer soil builder.

Again the Engles attempted to farm ALL the land. Each year four or five acres were treated with compost humus. From 1936 to 1941 some commercial fertilisers were used in addition to humus, but in diminishing amounts. In 1941 Fred was convinced that these "shot-in-the-arm"

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ORGANIC METHODS

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methods were doing him more harm than good, and he quit the use of all artificial manures. Since that memorable day in '41, the Engles have run a 100 percent Organic Farm. At that time, it seemed to all his friends that he had taken a radical step, and many dire predictions were made regarding the outcome. But time has put these simple methods to the test, and Fred has won out on every count.

One of the things that impressed me most was the fact that to-day Fred Engle farms only two-thirds of his total acreage each year. At the time of our visit last August, thirteen of those 39 acres were shoulder high in cover crops.

Fred Engle has proved to his own satisfaction at least, that peak production on a humus-filled soil will bring greater financial returns from 26 acres than will 39 acres with a less concentration of humus. Therefore, sheet composting is the order of the day at the Englewood Farms. In addition to the extremely heavy and vigorous cover crops, 250 cubic yards of compost humus is manufactured each year and spread on to the land, together with huge colonies of domesticated earthworms, which are used to complete the breakdown of the heaps, and are then incorporated into the humus-filled soil.

No longer is the soil on the Englewood Farms "tired" or lazy! What a "sight for sore eyes" were those gorgeous acres of corn, potatoes, tomatoes, cabbage, squash, cucumbers, pumpkin and melons. And berries? Brother, I hadn't seen such raspberries in years! All the other berry patches in Michigan that I saw last summer looked pale and sickly in comparison. In fact, many of them were stunted and appeared half dead. But the Englewood raspberry vines were higher than your head, and were loaded with berries of superior size and flavour.

Here are some of the facts and figures Fred Engle gave me on last year's harvest. To me, at least, they make interesting reading:—

"In Indiana they give a medal to the farmer who produces ten tons of tomatoes to the acre. If they were doing that in Michigan," Fred observed with due humility, "we would be covered with medals, for we took 1,025 bushels, weighing 61,500 lbs, off two acres." Nearly all of those were top quality fruit, with only four or five bushels-of "seconds" in the lot. Engle also reported that, in the fall, just before frost, he stripped the vines, held them in storage for nearly a month, and marketed them as first quality fruit at "off-season" prices. And that, according to my opinion, is something to "write home about."

"Last year we selected 20 bushels of our largest potatoes, one of these bushel baskets weighing 60 lbs, had 28 potatoes! The bushel basket containing the smallest of these contained only 36 potatoes." Engle also reported harvesting Hubbard squash that weighed 33 lbs a piece, and pumpkins up to 46 lbs. "Twenty years ago," continued Engle, "we couldn't grow squash at all in this area because of the squash borer. Today there are no borers on our farm, and no controls are used. In harvesting we found from two to five

EFFECTIVE USE OF STUBBLE

Stubble burning and bare fallowing are two practices which must cease if vast areas of our wheat lands are to continue in profitable production, and more and more farmers are becoming interested in using stubble as a practical way of preventing soil erosion and increasing soil fertility.

One of the strongest opponents of stubble burning is 35-year-old R. W. Adams, who, in conjunction with his father, farms a 2,000-acre property at Carroll, near Gunnedah, in the northwest of N.S.W.

In the 21 years that the Adams have farmed their property, known as "The Ranch," stubble has never been burned unless it proved absolutely impossible to handle it in any other way.

Now, after 21 years of continuous wheat growing, Dr. E. G. Hallsworth, Senior Lecturer in Soil Chemistry at the University of Sydney, finds that the nitrogen content of the Adams' wheat land is much higher than that of any other cultivated land in the district and is only slightly lower than that of virgin pasture land on the same class of country.

The exact scientific reason for this has not yet been determined, but the research workers are convinced that it is associated in some way with the novel manner in which the stubble is handled each year.

Five hundred to six hundred acres of wheat and fifty to seventy acres of oats for grazing are grown each year, but the oats are never sown on wheat land owing to the danger of introducing black oats on to clean land.

Wheat is sown on Mr. Adams' farm during May and June, and is harvested between mid-November and mid-December.

As soon as the crop is off, sheep are turned on to the stubble, and then, after the first substantial rains, which normally come early in the New Year, a start is made to work up the stubble land with tandem disc farrows.

This implement does an excellent job and leaves a good, loose mulch of straw on the surface.

Discing is repeated whenever good rain occurs or whenever weeds start to grow, as control of weeds is essential.

This season up till mid-March three disc harrowings had been given and, owing to heavy crops last year, a large set of stump-jump harrows had also been used to crush the straw.

* * * * *
earthworms under each squash." Which all goes to show what biological soil building will do.

"To convince a few skeptics, among whom was the Manager of the Occidental Hotel in Muskegon, we exhibited medium clover 74 inches in height," continued this enthusiastic farmer, "and our total saleable crops amounted to \$12,000.00!" What a record to chalk up against the dire predictions of the "experts!"

O, yes, I forgot to tell you, that son Edward is now a full-fledged member of the firm, and shares the profits of this one-time "no-account" farm with his dad.

Another real thrill came when I inadvertently dug my heel into that sandy loam out in the melon and squash patch. Mind you, it hadn't rained for over five weeks Drought conditions had resulted in serious losses on adjoining farms, which

As soon as disc harrowing has brought the straw to the stage where the scarifier can be used this implement is put through while the soil is damp after rain.

Once the scarifier can be used the soil is ready for the combine whenever it is desired to sow in May or June.

About one-fifth of the area cropped with wheat each year is long fallowed, and it has been found that this method of treatment will cope satisfactorily with stubble from even the very heaviest crops.

In the case of long fallow, grazing is continued through till August, when a shallow ploughing is given. It is then disc harrowed in September, scarified in October to kill weeds, and disc harrowed again in late December and February. A paddock of 100 acres, which is at present receiving this treatment, is in excellent condition and practically all the straw has de-composed and been absorbed.

In addition to incorporating all crop residues into the soil, Mr. Adams regularly uses grazing lucerne as a rotation crop for wheat.

The lucerne seed is sown with the last wheat crop at the rate of 3 lb. per acre special care being taken to see that it goes into a well-prepared seedbed.

The lucerne is left in for five to six years, and when the land is brought back under wheat it is completely rejuvenated and yields like virgin land, particularly for the second season.

Mr. Adams' cultivated land consists of reddish-brown or chocolate gilgai soil, and although his paddocks are on gentle slopes no erosion occurs, the straw mulch checking soil losses by wind and water.

The farm receives an annual rainfall of 23 inches. No super phosphate has ever been used and even with the old varieties grown before the war the wheat yield averaged eight to nine bags per acre.

Last season Mr. Adams gained first and second prizes in the district wheat-growing competition with a crop of Gabo that yielded between 17 and 18 bags per acre.

Mr. Adams has pioneered a system of wheat growing that is far in advance on that commonly practised by farmers, and both his practical results and the chemical analysis of his soil clearly show the soundness of his methods.

—Smith's Field, Farmer and Farmer's Wife

were drying up. But on the Englewood Farm — the Organic Farm — everything was in the "pink."

And you can well imagine my surprise when I noticed damp earth where my heel had uncovered the thin dust mulch, for actually one-half inch under the surface of that dry, sun-drenched soil it was wet! Wet enough to make a mud ball, if you please.

What further PROOF do we need to confirm the rightness of these heaven-born principles of maintaining soil fertility? When the neighbours' corn fields are drying up or riddled with the corn borer and other pests, and yours are standing up and free from all types of infestation; while your (Continued on page 8)

Organic Methods

(Continued from page 7)

is mellow and full of life-sustaining moisture; when your potato plants in rows four feet apart fill up the row completely with foliage, and bear crops of gigantic proportions, while the neighbours' are seared and spindly — what arguments can the proponents of artificial, shot-in-the-arm methods bring to destroy your faith in Nature's own way of maintaining absolute soil fertility? As for me, it's Q.E.D. In other words, it's conclusive proof, nothing more or less.

—*Organic Gardening*, U.S.A., July 1948.

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THE CONSERVATIVE WEAKNESS

In the latter part of an examination of "Conservatives in Opposition," *The Tablet* touches on what we believe to be the essence of Conservative weakness, which; to avoid a lengthy quotation, we may summarise as its inability to decide whether property is property, or just something labelled property held on a varying and restricted tenancy at the whim of an electoral majority.

Hitler is supposed to have said that any lie can attain belief if only it is big enough, and the sheer nonsense, which has obtained currency in regard to the nature of property, goes some distance to prove the point. It is a mere matter of history that security of person and security of property have always been associated, and it is certain that if the so-called Conservative Party is to have any future it must awaken to the spiritual implications of its special responsibility — the dignity and inviolability of the individual and his inherent interests, of which property is one.

The present attitude of apologising for the institution of private property, and at most waging a feeble rearguard action for its emasculated remnant, leads, where no doubt it is intended to lead, to Moscow, Wall Street and Tel-Aviv.

—*The Social Creditor*, March 26.

A SHIRT TALE

A significant fact, confirmed by investigation just completed by our news editor, is that few men of the great middle class possess an original shirttail! Time was when a shirt could be purchased, coupon free, for as little as five shillings. Now pre-war shirts, still on active service, form the basis of a thriving new industry. Experts flourish by removing shirttails, and fashioning them into collars and cuffs. So pressed is this new industry that in one main shopping centre in London three such experts are refusing any more work; enquiries at a leading London store showed that its "tail twisting" department had closed its doors until after Easter; a prominent valeting service can handle no more such work until their new factory is complete, though one exclusive expert did offer to repair and turn a pair of cuffs for one guinea....

—*London Tidings*, Jan. 27. 1949.

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