

# THE NEW TIMES

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MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, MAY 27, 1949.

SIXPENCE WEEKLY.

## Another Depression Threatens!

### DR. COOMBS'S RESTRICTIVE CREDIT POLICY

*Dr. H. C. Coombs, Governor of the Commonwealth Bank, in a statement published in the press on May 18, made it clear that steps are being taken to pursue a restrictive credit policy. As Dr. Coombs is well aware that a restrictive credit policy must lead to another depression, it is obvious that this policy is designed to exploit depression conditions and further the totalitarian objective of the centrally Planned State. Mr. Chifley and his associates, who merely echo the views of Dr. Coombs and the other economic planners, have made it clear that they can save Australians from a depression—but only if they are prepared to surrender more control of their own lives to the planners.*

In his statement, Dr. Coombs said that it was necessary, "as far as was practicable through advance policy, to limit the excessive demand for goods generally, and for capital goods in particular, in relation to supply available." Here is a clear-cut admission that the people's purchasing power is directly affected by banking policies. The Socialists have always been the most bitter opponents of any proposals to decentralise credit control into the hands of the individual. They saw many years ago that a centralised banking system one of the most powerful instruments they could use to create the centrally Planned State.

#### **Socialist Policy**

Now Dr. Coombs is a Socialist, a man specially trained at London School of Economics, an institution financed by Jewish international financiers like the Rothschild's and Cassell. The dose of centralised planning Dr. Coombs and his associates have already imposed upon the Australian people has been largely responsible for the shortage of many goods. Rather than remove all obstacles to greatly increased production in order that what is termed "the excessive demand for goods" can be met, Dr. Coombs blatantly suggests that people have their purchasing power reduced. What else can the advocate limit demand mean?

#### **Insufficient Purchasing Power**

How can the people's purchasing power be reduced by banking policy? As we have pointed out on numerous occasions, the bulk of the people's purchasing power is created by the banking system in the form of what is usually termed bank credit. Purchasing power reaches the hands of the consumer in the wages, salaries and dividends paid out in the course of production. Now, mainly because of the fact that the production today is semi-automatic and powered by solar energy in various forms—steam, electricity and oil—insufficient purchasing power is distributed over any given period of time to buy the total

production of that period. Various literature is available dealing with this matter in more detail. One of the major proofs of the deficiency of purchasing power under modern production is the fact that the industrial system can only continue to function if the deficiency of purchasing power is made good in various ways.

#### **A Deliberate Policy**

One of the ways in which this is done is to create and advance new credit for capital production. This capital production makes money available to consumers immediately without increasing the goods for sale. However, as the capital goods eventually result in production of consumer goods, there is then a still greater deficiency in purchasing power, which must be met by an even greater expansion of credit for still more capital production. An examination of bank figures reveals beyond argument that the present industrial system can only function if there is an ever-increasing expansion of financial credit. If this expansion of credit is restricted in any way, the deficiency in purchasing power becomes very acute, and there is a depression. So when Dr. Coombs states that the trading banks, under instruction from the Commonwealth Bank, should adopt a "cautious" advance policy, and that finance for capital expansion should, as far as possible, be found outside the banking system, he is advocating a deliberate policy of restricting the people's purchasing power.

#### **Public Works**

If money already distributed to people is not used to buy goods, but is invested in capital expansion, this reduces consumer demand on industry. And a reduction of demand means less production and growing unemployment. But at this point the Socialist planners come forward with their suggestion that the situation can be dealt with by increasing Government-controlled production—preferably on big public works, which don't result in any consumer goods.

Financial credit is, of course, made available for this type of planning.

#### **The Alternative**

If financial credit can be made available for Socialist planning, it can just as easily be made available for the purpose of increasing the individual's purchasing power. For example, prices could be reduced by the restoration and extension of the subsidy system. A National Dividend could be distributed to every member of the community. The essence of genuine economic democracy is that the individuals comprising

(Continued on page 2)

### OUR POLICY

1. The preservation of Australia's sovereignty as a part of the British Empire, and the exposure of all internal and external groups which attack that sovereignty.
2. The preservation and extension of genuine local government.
3. The preservation and strengthening of all Constitutional safeguards for the purpose of protecting fundamental individual rights.
4. The encouragement of all activities designed to bring Governments under more effective control by the electors.
5. The preservation and extension of genuine free, competitive enterprise and private ownership, and opposition to all Monopoly, whether it be "private" or State.
6. The support of a financial policy which will (a) permit free enterprise to make available to all individuals an increasing standard of living and greater leisure for cultural pursuits; (b) result in no further increase in the community's indebtedness and the sound business practice of gradually reducing existing debt.
7. Recognising that the basis of any sound economy is agriculture, the encouragement of agricultural policies which will ensure the preservation and building up of soil fertility by organic farming and gardening; and the prevention of soil erosion and the protection of forests and watersheds.

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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

## Labour Election Victory Indicated

The latest Gallup Poll figures, published in the Melbourne *Herald* on May 14, should be causing grave concern amongst the leaders of the Opposition Parties. These figures reveal that the election prospects of the Federal Labour Party continue to recover from the setback caused by the announcement of bank nationalisation in 1947. The percentage of electors who say they are going to vote Labour is approximately the same as the percentage supporting Labour at the 1946 Federal Elections.

All the evidence indicates that until such time as Liberal and Country Party leaders put forward a genuine alternative to the policy of monopoly being imposed by the Labour-Socialists, they are not going to gain enthusiastic electoral support. Even now, many of those supporting the Opposition Parties do so merely because they regard them as the lesser of two evils.

\* \* \* \*

## The Monopoly of Credit

The propaganda of the Labour-Socialists continues to emphasise the fact that while unemployment is steadily increasing in the U.S.A., the Australian economy is providing "full employment" for all. The fear of another depression is being shrewdly used to compel people everywhere to accept the Planned State. Credit supplies are only made available to individuals on the condition that they submit to the power-lusting planners. This policy of monopoly is merely another version of that frankly enunciated by Goering: Guns before butter. What is urgently required is a finan-

cial policy which will enable the individual to control his own financial credit and thus obtain the type of production he desires. Liberal and Country Party leaders should give this issue their attention. But perhaps they are afraid of it?

\* \* \* \*

## The American "Recession"

The Melbourne *Herald* of May 17 reports an American economist, Professor David Faville, as saying: "The country is already in a business recession and the only question now is how far it will go and how long it will last." President Truman, the public relations officer for Bernard Baruch and the Zionist financiers, announces, however that the situation can be met by more Government planning. The "backward" and "undeveloped" portions of the earth's surface are to be "assisted" by the "Fair Deal". The credit monopolists are prepared to make financial credit available for this programme, as it will enable them to regiment the American people under the plea that there must be "full employment," even if increasing Government control is necessary to provide it. And, of course, it will result in the peoples of the countries to be developed under the "Fair Deal" pawning their assets and their futures to the merchants of debt. It is an astonishing fact that the Americans, who pride themselves on being a wide-awake and progressive people, are prepared to accept the proposition that financial credit can be made available to "develop" other countries, but cannot be made available to them in order that they can buy all their own production.

\* \* \* \*

## Communists Support "Free" Medicine

"In assessing 'Free' Medicine and the National Health Scheme, freedom loving Australians must carefully consider the important fact that Communists have played a leading role in supporting this legislation. Week after week, Communist journals have devoted space to the extolling of the alleged virtues of 'Free' Medicine. Communist leaders obviously consider that 'Free' Medicine in practice with help further their objective of the complete Monopoly State.

"Louis Budenz, former editor of the U.S.A. Communist Party journal, *The Daily Worker*, and member of the Communist Central Committee, revealed, after leaving the Communist Party in 1947, how the notorious Manuilsky, secretary of the Communist International, told a gathering of American agents back in 1930: 'In the United States, for instance, Communists must launch a powerful movement for social insurance . . .' Manuilsky went on to explain how compulsory State-medicine could be used to further Communist objectives . . .

"Communists support 'Free' Medicine because they know that it would bring the individual under more State control, and so sap his spirit of independence that he would not effectively resist further control."

—From a new brochure, *The Real Policy Behind 'Free' Medicine and the National Health Scheme*.

## Australian Butter for Canada!

Centralised planning produces some very peculiar results. Butter rationing is maintained in Australia allegedly to help the British people. Canada, which does not have butter rationing, received 1,000 tons of butter from Australia last year. Electors should write to their Federal Members asking for an explanation of this type of "planning". They might also ask for a list of all countries other than Great Britain to which Australian butter is being sent.

\* \* \* \*

In a recent address to the Melbourne Constitutional Club, Professor J. L. A. Matheson, who came to the Melbourne University from the Birmingham University two years ago, said that the importance of politics in Australian university life surprised him. He touched on a fundamental issue when he said: "It was probably because universities depended directly on governments for finance . . . Universities have to consider all matters in the light of their political implications."

By centralised control of finance the Federal Government is slowly but surely preparing the way for Federal control of all education. The subtle technique of the economic planners at Canberra is to use their centralised control of financial policy to destroy the financial independence of all organisations and institutions—as well as individuals—and then to offer financial assistance on their terms.

The Federal Director of Education is Professor Mills, a graduate of the London School of Economics.

## Sovietism by Stealth

Writing in the Melbourne *Argus* of May 17, Landrum Boiling, in a survey of countries behind the Iron Curtain in Europe, stresses the fact that regimentation is worse in Czechoslovakia than in Poland, which is more directly under Moscow control. " . . . whereas in Warsaw the Government had applied its controls gradually over a period of four years — so that at no POINT did any large percentage of people feel that they must resist

—in Prague, the Communist regime, following its *putsch* of a year ago, rushed through its repressive measures with such suddenness as to leave a large percentage of the people stunned and angry."

It is a policy of gradualness, the Hitler technique of conquering one by one and imposing terms little by little, which is the greatest danger to the English-speaking world. Sovietism by stealth is a greater danger than Sovietism by open compulsion.

## "EVERY CITIZEN COUNTS"

"That man does not live by bread alone; that the State was made for man, not man for the State; that every citizen counts; that minorities should have their place in the sun; that liberty is not a mere political contrivance, but a spiritual principle; that ordered liberty is the highest prize of civilised society; that men and women, like flowers, need light and air to have their chance and produce their best; that since all power tends to corrupt, the only way to prevent its abuse is to cut it up into little bits."—Lord Acton, one-time Lord Chief Justice of England.

## Another Depression Threatens

(Continued from page 1)

ing the community should have at all times adequate purchasing power to buy at a profitable price what they can produce. With effective control of credit policy decentralised in the hands of all individuals, consumers would, under a system of free, competitive enterprise, dictate what production they required and in what priority.

## To the Servile State

But Dr. Coombs does not subscribe to this democratic proposal. He states that the Commonwealth Bank, which means in effect a group of planners working under his direction, should determine what shall be produced in the community by directly dictating the credit advance policies of the trading banks. He states that the Commonwealth Bank must have "final determination" of bank advances.

Coming events cast their shadows before them. The banking policy enunciated by Dr. Coombs is a clear indication of the totalitarian shape of things to come. As many people as possible should be" warned of this new threat by the totalitarians and urged to unite to resist. It would be instructive to hear Mr. Menzies make some definite pronouncement concerning his attitude towards Dr. Coombs' and his credit policy.

# ABOLISH PETROL RATIONING

## MR. FADDEN'S FACTS

The extracts published below were taken from the Melbourne *Herald* of April 10. Mr. Fadden's factual material on the petrol position confirms our suspicions that the maintenance of petrol rationing is purely political. We are convinced that it is closely related to State railway finance and the Commonwealth Government's maneuvering with T.A.A. An adequate supply of petrol would intensify competition for State instrumentalities. It is significant that State Governments, irrespective of party alignment, are passing Transport Monopoly Bills primarily concerned with hamstringing private transport facilities. We also know that the last cut in the petrol ration was deliberately engineered to help railway finance.

We suggest that motorists and their organisations should make this a live Federal election issue.

Australia's petrol usage is relatively so small in the total world picture, he says that she could draw her additional requirements from expanding Middle East and non-dollar supplies with no detriment to Britain.

England's crude oil consumption is about 17,200,000 metric tons; Australia's is 3,200,000.

Figures of other Empire consumption are given as: —Canada, 726 gallons a vehicle each year; India, 664; South Africa, 612; New Zealand, 385; and Australia, 300.

### Supplies are "Wangled"

The Australian ration was cut 10 per cent last September. In the same month the New Zealand ration was increased.

Mr. Fadden says that many cars in Australia are now getting the petrol they need by illegal transfer of petrol or coupons from other users with surplus tickets.

The Australian consumption freed of rationing control would probably increase no more than 2 1/2 million gallons a month. Doubling this estimate, and assuming it would rise five million gallons he says that this quantity is so small in relation to non-dollar petrol availability that it is arguable whether any added dollars would be required.

Eighty-five percent of Australia's petrol in 1947-48 came from non-dollar areas.

Mr. Fadden, summing up this phase of the argument, says:

"To take the view offered by Senator Ashley that extra dollars would ultimately be required of some member of the British Commonwealth - which is probably not correct because of expanding world production—the extra dollars required for five million gallons of petrol a month is only 5 1/2 million dollars a year.

"The small quantity involved in lifting the Australian rationing system can have no effect on England, its economic position, or its dollar problems."

### Never So Much Petrol

Dealing with the world supply position, Mr. Fadden shows that far from there being a world shortage of crude oil, production is reaching new peaks and there has never before been so much petrol for the using.

EXHIBIT No. 1. —Journal of the Petroleum Press Bureau issued in London last March:

It says that with the surplus threatened by a big post-war programme of drilling in every part of the world the U.S. is reducing and controlling its output.

It also mentions an American move to

end imports, but particularly Middle East imports of sterling origin.

Reason for this is the self-sufficiency of oil in U.S.

EXHIBIT No. 2: The Oil and Gas Journal, U.S.A. (which made a special survey of the world oil position) in a special issue last December:

"Surveys of the present situation and forecasts for the next few years show that the world oil shortage is over. We are right now in a period of transition from global stringency to general adequacy.

"The world, as a whole, will have enough proven reserves, enough producing, refining and transportation capacity, to meet its anticipated consumptive demands for the next five years at least."

### Plenty of Tankers

How valid is the excuse that tankers are short and that high dollar freights for tankers are an impediment to the delivery of oil to Australia?

Mr. Fadden says that the peak of tanker shortages ended in early February. He quotes the British Petroleum Times on January 14 last to show that British and United States Government control of tanker freight rates ended in June.

Because of the tanker surplus, tankers are accepting cargoes at less than previously controlled rates and there are heavy building programmes for tankers in British, Continental and Swedish yards.

The Fadden case on this phase may be summarised thus:

The world has more oil than it wants for immediate use. Australia could buy enough petrol from the Middle East and other non-dollar areas to enable rationing to be abolished; the amount would be fractional to the increase in world production.

Two offers to supply the difference have been made to the Australian Government since the extra petrol could be bought in sterling and brought here in sterling tankers.

So many tankers are now offering that the single voyage freight rates have slumped.

### Mrs. Webster's Books

We have a limited number of the following book by Mrs. Nesta Webster:

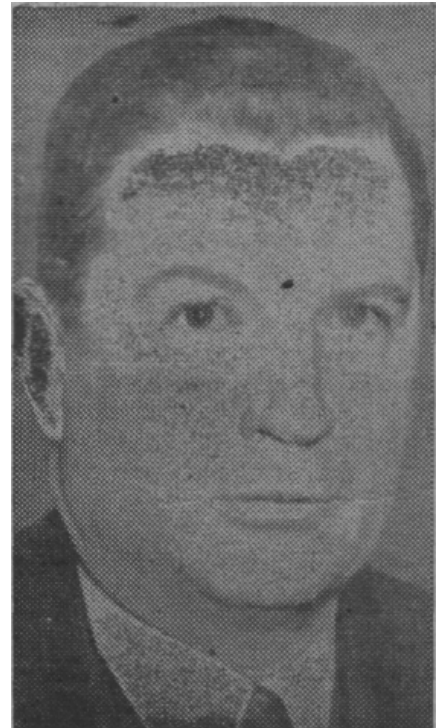
**The Socialist Network.** 7/8.

The above price includes postage.

Order from

NEW TIMES LTD.,

Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne, C.I.



MR. FADDEN, M.H.R.

## ERIC BUTLER TO BROADCAST OVER 3SR SHEPPARTON

Readers of the *New Times* will be interested to know that the Victorian League of Rights is starting a weekly radio session over 3SR Shepparton, on Monday, May 30, at 10.10 p.m. Ten-minute talks will be given by the League's Campaign Director, Mr. Eric Butler.

3SR Shepparton is the most powerful country radio station in Victoria, and can be well received in most parts of Victoria and Southern N.S.W.

The League of Rights also has much pleasure in announcing that a special series of seven weekly articles by Mr. Butler were started in the Melbourne *Argus* last Saturday, May 21. Those desirous of reading these articles should make a point of obtaining Saturday's issue of the *Argus* for the next six weeks.

—Inserted by J. R. Johnstone, Secretary, Vic. League of Rights.

## The League of Rights

will be conducting a

## SPEAKER'S CLASS

which will commence on

Thursday, July 2nd,

at 8 p.m.

at the "Caris Club" Rooms, 4th Floor, McEwan House, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne

Even if you do not wish to become a public speaker, but would like to improve your expression and general knowledge of League principles, you will be very welcome. The Course will be conducted weekly for approximately eight weeks. A small charge will be made for room hire and lecture notes.

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## Mr. MENZIES, THE "PRACTICAL SOCIALIST"

*Although we have carefully studied all the recent speeches and statements made by Mr. Menzies, we find no evidence to suggest that he has any genuine political, economic, or financial alternatives to the basic policies of the declared Socialists, But there is considerable evidence indicating that, unless compelled to do so by public opinion and pressure from the rank and file of his own Party, Mr. Menzies does not propose to make any real challenge to the growing centralisation of power. He apparently feels that he can handle the power much more "efficiently" than can Mr. Chifley, which recalls his famous remark of some years ago, that he was "a practical Socialist".*

*At the recent meeting of Melbourne dentists addressed by Mr. Eric D. Butler, Campaign Director of the Victorian League of Rights, a member of the audience, who said he was a supporter of Mr. Menzies, endeavoured to explain that Mr. Menzies had supported the Social Services power at the 1946 Referendum because it would have been "political suicide" to have opposed it. In other words, the desire to obtain office takes precedence over principles. If Mr. Menzies feels that he can only obtain office by refusing to challenge the power monopolists, their agents, and their policies, it is obvious that there is little to choose between Mr. Menzies and Mr. Chifley.*

*We suggest that all our readers immediately contact Liberal Members of the Federal Parliament and ask them for a direct answer on the question of whether the Liberal Party is prepared to support a policy of genuine decentralisation by restoring to the States the taxing and other powers which they have had filched from them. We noticed with some interest that during his recent lecturing tour, Mr. Menzies made no reference whatever to what he thought should be done about Uniform Taxation, Government by regulations made by an ever-growing bureaucracy, or the policies of Dr. H. C. Coombs, Socialist **Governor** of the Commonwealth Bank.*

*When Mr. Menzies gives his views on economics he ably demonstrates the contention of the Labour-Socialists that he is the best "frozen asset" they have. Speaking at Canberra on May 18, he said that "a depression was not made by the wicked planning of political people, but by a boiling up in the price level until it began to collapse." Apparently, prices just grow like Topsy, and neither the planners nor anyone else is responsible for financial policies, which inflate prices. And here is a real gem: "Policies of under-production and indifference to the welfare of the rest of the community are the causes of depressions." This can only be termed as drivel of the worst possible type. The last depression was not caused by "under-production". The major theme of the "authorities" was that there was "over-production".*

*In the U.S.A., where there are no policies of under-production, a recession is developing, and the Americans are concerned about the problem of selling all their production at a profitable price. If Mr. Menzies considers that a recession is the only way to reduce prices, he deserves to stay in the Opposition at Canberra, which he certainly will do if he continues, to endorse the same basic policies supported by Mr. Chifley.*

## LIBERAL-SOCIALISM

My husband and I decided to buy a block of land on time payment at the pegged price of £60. My husband paid instalments of 30/- a month until his over-time was cut out. Then I paid out of my child endowment.

We struggled to hold the land, even throughout a strike forced on my husband, during which we lost more than £40 in wages. About two years ago the estate was acquired by the Housing Commission. We had not finished paying for it. We concluded instalments after moving out here.

We needed money at the end of 1948, so put in a claim for our £60, and were told we would get £50, as the value of the surrounding land had depreciated. Rates however, had increased yearly from 2/6 to 12/6.

I call this downright robbery. They know we have not the money to fight them. My husband and I are struggling to rear five boys, and to be robbed of our own money just about finishes me. When I think of the warm clothes that £10 would buy for my little children, I could cry—and do.

"MOTHER OF FIVE," Reservoir, Vic

While totalitarian acts such as this are permitted to occur in Victoria, the Holloway Government's mouthings in regard to the rights of the individual are a lie and a farce. "By their fruits shall ye know them."

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## LASKI'S INFLUENCE

*Victorian Assembly, April 13*

*Mr. Reid.*—I remind the honorable member that as far as I am aware the Age has no particular bias against the Labour party. If any person wishes to know the line and object of the Labour party in Australia, it is only necessary to take close stock of what the Socialist party in England is doing, because the Labour party in Australia is in tune with the Socialist party in that country, and borrows many of its ideas. It will be found that the political philosophy of all Socialist parties largely stems from the one source—the School of Mr. Laski, the Socialist school which controls most of the Labour and Socialist politicians in English speaking countries. It not only controls members of Parliament but even indoctrinates the minds of many people who act as advisers to Governments of whatever political complexion.

A bull's-eye, Mr. Reid.

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## "SOCIAL CREDIT AND CATHOLICISM"

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

Introduction by Eric D. Butler.

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

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# OVERSEAS SHIPPING MONOPOLY

## A STARTLING DISCLOSURE

The matter published below is taken from "Things I Hear," edited by Mr. Frank Browne, the well-known publicist, with the following introduction: —For the confidential information of subscribers: a privately circulated Digest for busy people, Sixty-Five York Str., Sydney. It is under the date line of March 14, 1949. We are not subscribers. We felt compelled to give publicity to the information contained therein, because it discloses a sorry state of affairs. A powerful group of shipping companies have formed an export shipping monopoly to compel all shippers to trade with them or else. This is Socialism. We are appalled at the stupidity of the move. Let there be no mistake about it, the shipping companies will, by this act, if persisted with, eventually destroy themselves as independent organisations, and will confirm the planners at Canberra and their supporters in their cry for a Commonwealth Shipping Line.

While Mr. Menzies was going into bat for the Ship owners, in ; the Federal Parliament, a group of the said ship owners were causing plenty of cursing in Australian exporting circles. This group is making a determined bid to secure itself a monopoly of all goods carried from this country to Europe and the United Kingdom. Its members have bound themselves into an Association, calling itself the Australian Overseas Transport Association. Under the name of a Mr. Norman Kingsbury, an agreement has been drawn up for all shippers to sign. The penalty for not signing it is the payment of 10 per cent higher freight than those paid by the firms who DO sign it. The agreement covers four pages, and contains many clauses that have Australian shippers gnashing their teeth.

This matter should be the subject of debate in the Federal Parliament. The firms party to the agreement have one thing in common. None of them are Australian. They are P. & O., Orient Line, P. & O. Branch Service, British India, Federal Steam Navigation Company, Australind Steam Shipping Co., Shaw, Savill Co., Aberdeen & Commonwealth Line, Port Line, Alfred Holt & Co., Clan Line Steamers, Scottish Shire Line, Ellerman & Bucknall Steamship Company, Blue Star Line, Holland Australia Lijn, Wilhelm Wilhelmsen, Rederiaktiebolaget Transatlantic, Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes, East Asiatic Company Ltd.

A monopoly on the carriage of goods to Britain and Europe, in the hands of these people would mean three things. (1) That Australia would be dependent on their bounty for transit of her goods to the world markets. (2) That freight rates could be jacked up whenever the said companies felt like it. (3) Anybody else who wanted to start in opposition would be automatically frozen out.

However, the agreement itself seems to be heavily stacked one way, which is the thing annoying the Australians who are being called upon to sign it.

In the first place, although the shipper has to agree to ship ALL goods to Britain or Europe, through the said firms (Clause 5), the clause which binds them to provide tonnage to carry the cargoes, (3a), is suspended until "normal conditions return". No definition of normal conditions is given.

Even when "normal conditions" return, the ship owners absolve themselves from having to provide vessels for all requirements in peak periods. (Clause 3a).

In Clause 5, the shipper agrees to ship on no other vessels other than those of the specified ship owners. However, if they do not provide a ship within "reasonable time," they will consent to him shipping through somebody else. They don't specify what they regard as "reasonable time".

Clause 6 sounds rather like one drawn up by Awful Arthur Calwell. "Should the ship owners or any of them have cause to believe that the shippers have not carried out their obligations under Clause 5, the shippers, if requested, shall produce proof to the contrary to the satisfaction of the Australian Overseas Transport Association."

That means, that the unfortunate shipper is guilty unless he can prove himself innocent!

Clause 7 lays down the penalty for the horrible crime of going outside the monopolists. "The shipper, shall, on demand by the ship owners or ship owner, pay to their nominee a sum equal to ten percent of the freight paid by the shipper to all the companies and firms specified above, during the twelve months preceding such breach. Such nominee may forthwith cancel this agreement without notice.

This is a corker. Bloggs, a good Australian, shipping to Europe and Great Britain, has paid this foreign combine, say, £100,000, in freights during a twelve-month period. Then, because his best interests dictate it, or because his idea of a "reasonable time" to wait for the ring to provide him with a ship doesn't tally with the shipping pooh-bahs, ships, say, £5,000 worth of goods in an outside vessel.

According to this, he must pay a fine of £10,000 for his sin. On top of that, they cancel his agreement, which, if he ships his regular quota of goods in the next twelve months, will cost him £110,000, and not £100,000, because he will be paying the penal rate. A fine of £20,000. And 20,000 in the pockets of a shipping ring which has had to provide nothing to get it.

With the amount of stuff being shipped from Australia overseas now, it would pay the shipping ring to fix a few things like this. It would be better than carrying cargoes.

But having put in a real tough clause to punish the wicked shippers, the ship owners show themselves to be men of mercy in the very next clause. This, strangely enough, is the clause, which lays down the punishment of the ship owners. In this case, if the shippers can PROVE any loss, they are entitled to the amount of such proved loss. They can also cancel the agreement without notice. Just what good cancelling the agreement would do

them, when it would involve paying ten percent higher rates, is hard to follow.

The agreement drones on, and leaves no doubt in anybody's mind, that it was drawn up by shipowners, for the especial benefit of shipowners.

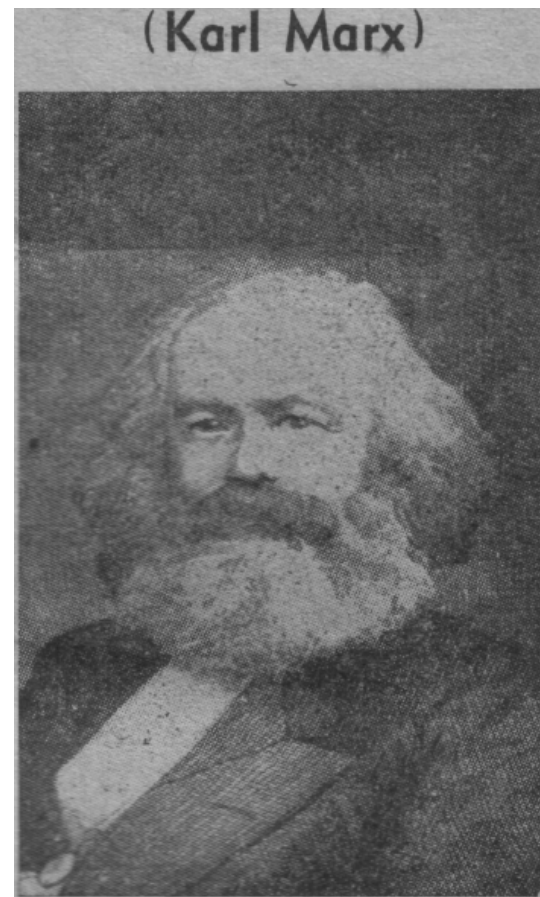
It certainly provides the Government with rather a telling argument in favour of a Commonwealth Shipping Line.

## EVATT AMONG FRIENDS

Dr. Evatt should have enjoyed his proletarian lunch at the swank Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York. It cost 250 dollars a head—or just £78 a head—but the Doc. was on the free list as a speaker, together with the President of Israel. Still, 2,000 paying guests at that charge should be able to take care of a few complimentaries. Fancy asking Chif to foot that bill. Still, it might be an idea for party funds.

—The Century, Sydney, April 29.

## THE RED PRUSSIAN (Karl Marx)



By Leopold Schwarzschild

This is the most powerful debunking of Karl Marx yet published. The author strips away the legend of Marx and reveals Marx the man. The extracts from the private correspondence of Marx and Engels will make bitter reading for Socialists and Communists. Every anti-Communist propagandist must have this book. (19/3 Post Free.)



## FARMING FOR THE FAMILY FOOD SUPPLY

JORIAN JENKS (Writer for the English small lot holder)

Many of us must have wondered at some time or other whether it was really necessary to go through the cumbersome business of selling our services to obtain money to buy food for our families. The whole process seems unduly complicated; the food is stale and over-handled by the time we get it; and all the satisfaction we derive is from the possession of receipted bills. Are the economists really right about the benefits of the division of labour and specialised production? Would not life be simpler and more satisfying if we expended less energy on earning money and more on growing the food itself?

The direct method is usually known as subsistence farming. The term is unfortunate, since it implies bare existence. It is by no means that, nor is it just romanticism; it may well be the clue to a new way of living in the post-industrial era, which is beginning to loom ahead. A few pioneers, both here and in other English-speaking countries, have been experimenting for years. The Land Settlement Association, before the war, achieved quite a fair measure of success with what it called "cottage homesteads". Already town-planning recognises the need for dispersion of population; it may yet appreciate also the fact that the machine must progressively displace the human element from industry and enforce a need for bread-winning occupations outside its wage-system.

Home food growing, however, like statesmanship, depends very much on the art of knowing what is possible. The super-enthusiast who begins by dashing off cheques for seeds, equipment and livestock is just as great a menace as the unimaginative person who thinks it a mistake, to grow even one's own vegetables because one can buy them cheaper. To undertake more than can be given proper attention is simply asking for worry and disappointment, besides being a waste of materials that others could use better.

The two determining factors are land and labour. One acre, well cultivated (but not otherwise), should provide the equivalent of a full diet for one person; if less than this is available for family needs, then a decision must be made as to which foods are best home-grown and which best bought; if more, a market must be found for surplus. Similarly, on the basis of spade culture, an able-bodied man can work thoroughly a quarter of an acre in his spare time, half an acre as a part-timer, and a full acre if full-time or with family assistance. But if ploughing and the heavier cultivations can be done by contract or by neighbours, then these figures can be greatly exceeded.

### Question of Livestock

The type of subsistence-farming one has chiefly in mind at the present time comes midway between spare-time gardening and commercial small-holding on a money basis; and it appeals primarily to a man who already has some income and occupation, and is seeking to augment the first and add variety to the latter. If he is already a gardener, and if he can secure a few acres nearby, he might easily do worse than become a subsistence-farmer.

**Clearly the next step onwards from gardening is the keeping of livestock, this means both a balanced diet for the family and balanced manuring for the land. It also increases one's interest and diversifies one's labours. The additional land is likely to be in pasture of sorts. But even good pasture, by itself, is a poor basis for intensive stock-keeping. Corn or other concentrated food, plus some succulent winter feed, is needed for eggs, pigmeat and winter milk; even geese and rabbits need a little.**

Now it is easy enough to grow corn on small plots and harvest it by hand, though rather laborious. But what with sparrows, mice and threshing difficulties, the game is hardly worth the candle with less than an acre. The one exception—and it looks like proving the solution of the small man's feeding problems—is maize. Golden Standard will definitely ripen in the South below 500 feet, Golden Bantam almost anywhere; and except for the rook menace as the crop comes through, maize is virtually proof against birds and weather. It can be planted, harvested and stripped by hand, or the cobs fed whole; and unlike the other cereals, which tend to run to straw if well done, it responds handsomely to liberal manuring and cultivation. It is, in short, the intensive corn-crop, and there is none better for eggs, milk or meat.

### Three-Year Plan

Another feeding crop I can personally recommend is lucerne or alfalfa. We are inclined to think of it chiefly in association with the prairie and the pampas; but it does well in England, provided the land is well drained and is free from couch and other creeping grasses. It is drought-

resistant, a grand soil-improver, and a perennial; it can be cut several times a year, and has a notably high protein-content. It should certainly not be grazed by goats, who would infallibly nibble out the crowns, but is said to suit grazing pigs and keep them in store condition without other food, though of this I have no direct experience.

With maize for corn, and lucerne for hay and greenstuff, plus as much meal as can be got for egg-coupons and from a pig-club if there is one, there are great livestock possibilities. If a part of the grassland can be ploughed, the ideal plan would be to crop it, and give the main vegetable patch in the garden a rest for a few years under lucerne. A good three-year cropping rotation would be (i) maize, (ii) a one-year ley of clover and rye grass, (iii) potatoes, wintergreens and a few mangel. A total of two acres should be within the capacity of one man half-time, with occasional assistance, and should support two goats in milk, a dozen hens or ducks, and a couple of fatting pigs—milk, eggs and bacon for a family of five or six. If there is any land not used for cropping, or if there is access to pasture adjoining, geese are well worth considering; they do not like being confined, but will virtually look after themselves and are always saleable if not wanted for home consumption. Rabbits are also smallholder's stock, but need a certain amount of meal for fattening, and are not everybody's meat!

**This is going a considerable way towards self-sufficiency, probably quite far enough for anyone who has other demands on his time. But some of us, having grown acutely food-conscious as well as land-hungry, would like to explore the possibilities of going the whole hog, that is, the whole diet. We should be prepared to go to considerable trouble (and it will be considerable trouble) to obtain our own fresh home-ground flour and oatmeal instead of the uninspiring "compromise" National loaf and patent breakfast foods, fresh butter instead of "vitaminised flats," and cheese with real flavour instead of factory Cheddar. How far could one go if sufficient land and labour were available? With Seven Acres**

My own view, and it is not purely hypothetical, is that if one could give one's whole time to it, or alternatively rely on regular family assistance, one could go practically the whole way. The minimum area for average land is about seven acres (more of poorer stuff), of which half an acre would be occupied by the house, outbuildings and garden, and another acre of more or less unploughable land (there is some on most holdings) left in permanent pasture. Of the balance, one acre would be allotted to lucerne for hay

(Continued on page 7)

## SOCIALIST BLIGHT ON SPUDS

It is rather amusing to hear the Potato Board's reasons for the current potato shortage.

I sent potatoes to the board three months ago, and to date have received the handsome sum of £12 per ton for No. 1 grade and £7 for No. 2.

Where is the balance of the growers' money? I understand they were sold to storekeepers for about £23 per ton. I paid £21/5/- per ton for the seed and fertiliser, sacks, labour and cartage. Is it any wonder that the potato industry is dying out?

Now the board is urging growers to plant more potatoes. The growers don't require urgers — they require hard cash to grow potatoes.

If the price and payments don't improve in a year or two there will be no potatoes grown at all. Who would be so foolish to grow potatoes, and wait eight months for their money, and no end of interference? — "Potato Mug" (Yatala, S.C.).

—*The Courier-Mail, Brisbane, Jan. 27.*

Elsewhere in this journal we refer to the fall in potato production in Victoria. It would appear that similar conditions prevail in Queensland. The Queensland Government is Socialistic.

## THE ELUSIVE SPUD

### VICTORIAN ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, March 30, 1949.

*Mr. White* (Allendale) asked the Minister of Agriculture—

1. What acreage of potatoes was planted and what quantity of potatoes was produced during each of the seasons 1944-45 to 1947-48, inclusive?

2. What is the estimated potato production for the 1948-49 season?

*Lieut. -Colonel Dennett* (Minister of Agriculture). —The answers are: — Acreage

	Planted.	Production. tons
1944-45.....	83,238	305,216
1945-46.....	63,000	230,749
1946-47.....	56,400	223,782
1947-48.....	59,400	184,882

2. 160,000 tons.

This deplorable condition is due entirely to Government meddling in the industry via the Potato Board and Price Control. The Holloway Government, of course, is not Socialistic.

## Farming for the Family Food Supply

(Continued from page 6)

and the remaining four and a half cropped on a three-course shift of (i) corn, (ii) grazing ley, and (iii) green crops. This will allow for: —

Wheat.....	1/2 acre
Oats (with a few peas).....	1 acre
Maize.....	3/4 acre
Potatoes.....	1/4 acre
Mangel.....	1/4 acre
Kale.....	1/4 acre

To obviate the hiring or borrowing of drill, binder and thresher, the corn will have to be sown broadcast, and cut with a scythe or fagging hook; neither job presents much difficulty. But the wheat

will need to be harvested nearly dead-ripe so that it can be knocked out with a flail, while the oats will be best cut slightly on the green side and fed in the straw, preferably after going through a chaff-cutter; a few should be left to ripen out and be threshed like the wheat. With the small type of mill that will shortly be on the market, there should be no difficulty in grinding the wheat for flour, oats for porridge, and maize for meal.

Allowing for seed, we shall have for feeding about three tons of corn, three hay (lucerne), some mangel, kale and surplus potatoes, and two and a half acres of grazing, most of which will be ley. But what stock will this keep?

**Clearly there will be ample feed for a cow, or better, two, a solitary cow being a lonely creature, to say nothing of the awkward hiatus that occurs as calving approaches. But they must, I think, be Herseys, a breed which, having been bred for generations on and for miniature farms, is economical to feed, easily tethered (an important consideration), and unequalled for small-scale butter making. It might also be possible to rear a heifer-calf occasionally.**

The next consideration must be a working animal, for there will be some carting as well as cultivation, and even a miniature tractor, which means a set of special implements, locks up a lot of capital. If the husbandman is also a born mechanic he may think a tractor worthwhile for

the pleasure of tinkering with it. But undoubtedly a strong cob will fit better; he grows his own fuel, needs no expensive paraphernalia, and can be put to any sort of job, including a light plough for a few hours at a time— which is all that will be necessary.

## Heavy Stocking

Two cows, a heifer and a cob will consume all the hay and oats, most of the grazing and some of the maize. The rest of the maize, plus the skim-milk, chat potatoes, tail wheat and household scraps should fatten four pigs and half a dozen geese each year, and maintain 25 hens (with some young stock) on free range. It might even be possible to keep a breeding sow, in which case the surplus shuts could be sold (there is usually a good demand among small-holders), and money invested in a few cull lambs to run on the autumn grass.

**This is heavy stocking for seven acres and in these days there is no cake-merchant to fall back on. It would be wise to start off at this level. But there is no reason why it should not be attained within a year or two; for where the management is good and waste is reduced to minimum, stock increase fertility, and increased fertility means more feed.**

What would the yield be in terms of human food? Farming forecasts are always a bit risky, but in an average season there should be: —

Wholemeal flour.....	1,100 lbs.
Oatmeal.....	140 lbs.
Potatoes (excluding Chats)	35 cwts
Milk for liquid consumption	350 gals.
Butter.....	230 lbs.
Soft or cream-cheese .. ..	190 lbs.
Bacon, ham and pork .. ..	640 lbs.
Goose meat.....	150 lbs.
Poultry-meat.....	100 lbs.
Eggs.....	3,000 lbs.

In addition, of course, there would be other vegetables, some fruit and honey, and a quantity of lard.

Even allowing for the needs of growing children, this should mean good living for a family of seven or eight persons, the only essential food not included being sugar. Beet can, of course, be grown on a small scale, but since its conversion in sugar presents certain technical difficulties and is regarded with suspicion by the Excise authorities, it is not recommended.

Is subsistence-farming economic? That depends upon what values you attach such things as leisure, freedom from ties and cash income on the one hand, an wholesome food, elemental satisfaction and independence on the other. It depends, too—very much—on character and temperament in the family.

But that it is feasible, and that it will become increasingly popular in the years that lie ahead, there seems very little doubt.

(*A Country Living Book, No. 2.*)

## H. N. SMITH

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"New Times," May 27, 1949 — Page 7

## DAIRY FARM FOR SALE

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## Mr. Keon and Monopoly

Victorian Assembly, April 13

*Mr. Keon.* —I do not desire to debate it at this stage, Mr. Speaker. Obviously the House should defer Government business so that priority can be given to my Bill, which has for its purpose the restriction of monopolies and trusts. It is ready for presentation to the House whenever the Premier will make the time available for the purpose. Another reason why I feel that my Bill should be given precedence over Government business is that the second largest monopoly in Australia, the Imperial Chemical Industries of Australia and New Zealand Limited, had no difficulty in reaching an arrangement with the Communist-controlled Federated Ironworkers' Association of Australia in victimizing those of its employees who were opposed to Communist control of that Association. I intend to bring that matter before the proposed Royal Commission, which is to inquire into Communist activities in Victoria; then perhaps a reason will be disclosed for the peculiar conduct of that company.

I feel sure that I shall have the support of at least the honorable member for Hawthorn in dealing with the liquor trade monopoly. I do not know its order of precedence in existing monopolies, but it stands high, and I expect the honorable member for Hawthorn to support my request that my Bill should be given precedence in order that that combine can be dealt with. If I were to go further and cite other monopolies, perhaps it would be too embarrassing for the Government. The Liberal and Country party Speakers' Group, and the Federal leader of the Liberal party, Mr. Casey, have announced their support of legislation to control monopolies and trade combinations, which are exploiting the public, and as the Government seems to be at one with the Labour party on this matter, I think it should agree to my proposition. I think I can also speak for the Country party on this subject.

*Mr. Hollway.* —I am sure you can.

*Mr. Keon.* —Apparently the House is united in its desire to have legislation introduced to deal with monopolies and trade combines; therefore there seems no justification for the Premier's motion to delay the introduction of my Bill, and to give precedence to Government business, which discloses an entirely innocuous pro-

gramme. I hope the Premier's motion will be negated.

N.T. comment: We hope Mr. Keon will persevere with this Bill. The attitude of Members to it should be most revealing. We trust, but not hopefully, that Mr. Keon will include State monopolies in his Bill. Further, we hope that he will include the necessary clauses to break up and decentralise control of these monopolies. We hope we are not hoping too much, but here's hoping.

A matter of particular interest is Mr. Keon's reference to the deal between I.C.I. and the Communist controlled Ironworkers' Union. We suggest, that if Mr. Keon wants a line upon the policy of this monopoly, he should study a little recent history. The deal in 1926 between Mond, the Jew founder of this organisation, and Ben Turner, chairman of the British Trade Union Congress, since known as Mond-Turnerism, would be a good starting point. It set the seal on the final enslavement of the British people to modern industrialism, and we are rapidly following in their footsteps.

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