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SIXPENCE WEEKLY

Labour-Socialism Means Monopoly

A Radio Talk by ERIC D. BUTLER

In a recent copy of the *Melbourne Tribune*, Mr. Arthur Calwell, M.H.R., seeks to prove that the Socialisation objective of the Labour Party does not mean complete Socialisation. The minutes of the Labour Party have been quoted in an endeavour to show that by a majority of 15 votes to 13, the famous 1921 Labour Conference interpreted the Socialisation objective as not being opposed to all private property. Mr. Calwell and others claim that the interpretation of the Socialisation objective really means that Socialisation should only be pursued when there is exploitation in the community. Mr. Calwell says that the Blackburn interpretation, named after the late Maurice Blackburn, M.H.R., is "absolutely official and has been publicly declared so by the supreme governing body of the party." Mr. Calwell's statement is not accurate. The Blackburn interpretation was not really official at all. The Labour Party's rules state that no resolution can be considered binding unless it is carried by a majority of delegates. As there were 32 delegates at the Conference, and only 15 voted for the interpretation given by Mr. Calwell, the requisite majority was not obtained.

Mr. Calwell has also affirmed that the Blackburn interpretation was re-endorsed at the 1948 triennial conference of the Labour Party at Canberra. But this report clearly indicates that the motion to affirm the Blackburn interpretation was withdrawn. Now, even if the interpretation given by Mr. Calwell was officially carried 28 years ago, surely electors cannot reasonably be expected to believe that there is no fear of private ownership and free enterprise being destroyed by the policies of the present Federal Labour Government.

An Omnibus Turn

After examining the viewpoints of various advocates of Socialisation, it is obvious that the Socialisation objective of the Labour Party can be interpreted to mean all things to all men; that it is in fact an omnibus term used to recruit support for an objective which is only clearly understood by those playing a leading role in attempting to reach it. While it is true that Mr. Chifley has said that the Labour Party does not want to nationalise such things as pie-stalls, neither he nor colleagues have ever enthusiastically and positively advocated widespread private ownership and free enterprise as the only successful foundation for that genuine liberty and security to which they pay so much lip-service. In fact, one senior Cabinet Minister, Mr. Dedman, said at Canberra on October 2, 1945, that he was not very concerned about helping workers to own their homes and thus become "little capitalists." Every policy pursued by the

present Federal Government makes it progressively more difficult for small and medium-sized enterprises in particular to function satisfactorily. Private ownership of homes, land or industries becomes more difficult to attain.

Big Business Supporter

A party, which has recruited support on the plea that it protects the "small man" against the "big man", is actively engaged in furthering policies designed to crush the "small man" and to concentrate economic power. This is, of course, classical Socialist technique, as bluntly outlined by one Labour member, Senator Large, at Canberra on March 2, 1945. Senator Large said: "I do not object to the formation of trusts, because, as a convinced Socialist, I appreciate the fact that such bodies gather together the threads which will enable us, when we decide to take them over, to do so quite easily and operate them without difficulty."

In other words, the Socialists advocate and are implementing a policy of Monopoly, a fact that should be clearly understood by all sections of the community. Irrespective of whether it is termed Socialism, Communism, Rationalisation, a Planned Economy, or any other label, it is a policy of Monopoly, the concentration of all political, economic, and financial power into fewer and fewer hands, which threatens Western Civilisation today.

The Non-Labour Parties

It is this policy of Monopoly which the non-Labour Parties in Australia must effectively attack if they are to help stem the

totalitarian tide. Unfortunately, however, far too many members of the non-Labour Parties appear to be the unconscious victims of the very disease afflicting the Labour Party. Some even openly suggest that there must be a degree of Socialism, a point of view typified by Mr. Holt, M.H.R., in the following statement at Canberra on June 16, 1948: "That does not mean that we who belong to that group (opposed to Socialism) see no virtue in State guidance and planning, or in ownership by the State of certain utilities and monopoly undertakings. We believe that there can be

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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

Two Sects of One Religion

Apologists for the Labour-Socialists are at present protesting vigorously against any suggestion that their policies are similar to those of the Communists. These apologists are pleading that Labour-Socialists legislation is actually creating a barrier against Communism. But this defence will not stand a moment's investigation.

Didn't Mr. Arthur Calwell share platforms with Communists during the 1944 Referendum? How unkind of Mr. Calwell to turn against his old centralising colleagues.

Didn't the Communists support the 1946 Referendum, Bank Nationalisation, and the Prices Referendum? And now Dr. Charles Byrne, member of the Federal Council of the British Medical Association, charges that half the doctors co-operating with the Government's "Free" Medicine Scheme are Communists.

It is true, of course, that the Labour-Socialists and the Communist-Socialists have their differences. But these differences are merely those of two sects of the one religion.

* * * *

Counting Empty Heads

A striking commentary on "democracy" in Australia: ". . . the statistics of the present Parliament are interesting, and suggest that the theory that many people vote straight down the ballot paper is well based. Of the 75 members of the present House of Representatives, 56 have surnames beginning with letters ranging down the alphabet from A to M, and only 19 members whose surnames begin with letters in the second half of the alphabet have made the grade. The figures for the Senate are equally impressive. Twenty-six of the 36 Senatorial surnames take their first letter from the first half of the alphabet, and only 10 from the second." — E. H. Cox, Canberra political correspondent, in Melbourne *Herald* of August 12, 1949.

Under the present system of secret, irresponsible voting, those electors who vote down the ballot paper wield just as much influence in the affairs of the community as do those who try to make a considered vote. Is it any wonder that the system of secret voting has led to greater and greater tyrannies being imposed upon the peoples of every country in the world.

Can any reasonable argument be advanced against the proposition that every individual should be held personally responsible for the political, economic, and financial policies he supports? It is, of course, argued that the secret vote is necessary to defeat the Communists. But wouldn't an open, recorded vote reveal just who are the Communists in the community?

* * * *

A Communist Victory

It is being loudly proclaimed that the Communists have been defeated in the coal-strike. How remarkable. Isn't it a major part of the Communist strategy to disrupt production and to force prices up? This is just what the Communists have accomplished as a result of the coal strike.

Thousands of small businessmen who have set up in business over the past few years are facing ruin. This result is also very pleasing to the Communists.

* * * *

Profit or Force

The following words by a disillusioned ex-Socialist, Mr. Edwards, the British M.P., who left the British Socialist Party some months back, should be studied closely by all those woolly-minded idealists who think that the individual will work harder for "the community" than for himself in a Socialist society.

"In 30 years of Socialist organisation, Russia has not learned how to produce abundance by force. With the whips and the concentration camp among her instruments of compulsion, she had at last to turn to the profit motive. She turned to incentives and, most curious spectacle of all, produced the hardest working man in the world — Mr. Stakhanov — such a miracle of drudgery that he was taken around Russia and exhibited with pride as the world's most profit-driven slave.

"The history of these years must be terrifying to any man who has dreamed the great dream of Socialism's Brave New World. The abundance that we hoped to produce for all can be produced only by hard work. And apparently men will work harder under the spur of only two forces — profit and force."

* * * *

Uniform Tax Undermining States

Addressing the recent All-Australian Constitutional Convention in Sydney recently, one speaker quoted from Mr. Justice Latham's finding in the Uniform Tax Case, the States versus the Commonwealth, and pointed out that the following words by Mr. Justice Latham sounded the death knell of the Federal system in Australia unless action was taken to rectify a constitutional weakness being ruthlessly exploited by the Federal Government: —

"Conclusion as to Tax Act and Grants Act. — Thus, the objections to the Tax Act and the Grants Act fail, whether those Acts are considered separately or as part of a scheme to bring about the abandonment by the States of the raising of revenue by taxation of incomes.

"It is perhaps not out of place to point out that the scheme which the Commonwealth has applied to income tax of imposing rates, so high as practically to exclude State taxation could be applied to other taxes so as to make the States almost completely dependent, financially and therefore generally, upon the Commonwealth. If the Commonwealth Parliament, in a grants Act, simply provided for the payment of moneys to States, without attaching any conditions whatever, none of the legislation could be challenged by any of the arguments submitted to the Court in these cases. The amount of the grants could be determined in fact by the satisfaction of the Commonwealth with the policies, legislative or other, of the respective States, no reference being made to such matters in any Commonwealth statute. Thus, if the Commonwealth Parliament was prepared to pass such legislation, all State powers would be controlled by the Commonwealth — a result that would mean the end of the political

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virtue in such ownership . . ." Now, significantly enough, this is the very interpretation of Socialism given by some apologists for the Labour Party. They claim that Socialisation only means nationalising certain "Monopolies" for what is termed the "common good." But surely it is obvious that once certain key industries have been nationalised under the pretext that they are monopolies or public utilities, the way has been paved to take over and control all industry.

Communist Policy

The Communists clearly understand this, as can be ascertained by reading any of their literature. The Communists realise that the centralisation of power makes their proposed revolution much easier, particularly if anti-Communists do the centralisation. No revolution is possible without the preliminary policies of the moderates.

It is, of course, generally recognised that a Private Monopoly is a bad thing, but to suggest that the creation of a State Monopoly is an improvement is contrary to all experience. While Government is kept strictly separated from industry, it is an instrument which electors can use as a balance against the monopolistic practices of any section of the community, but when a Government takes over a Monopoly it then has a vested interest in protecting that Monopoly.

Victorian Example

The present Victorian Government, elected on a clear-cut anti-Socialist policy, has clearly demonstrated this in its transport policy, which seeks to maintain a transport Monopoly for the State Railways at the expense of private road transport.

Opponents of the Monopoly State must recognise the fact that there can be no further compromising with policies which further monopoly in any shape or form. The false argument advanced by moderate members of the Labour Party, and by far too many members of other parties, that complete Socialism can only be averted by a degree of Socialism, must be exposed and opposed.

Electors must understand that once a policy of centralisation is started, it soon creates a momentum, which automatically increases. Unless a determined and conscious effort is made to halt and then reverse this centralisation, nothing can stay the eventual arrival of the complete Monopoly State. The inherent evils of centralised power: can only be defeated by genuine decentralisation — decentralisation of political, economic, and financial power back to the individual.

independence of the States. Such a result cannot be prevented by any legal decision. The determination of the propriety of any such policy must rest with the Commonwealth Parliament, and ultimately with the people. The remedy for alleged abuse of power or for the use of power to promote what are thought to be improper objects is to be found in the political arena and not in the Courts."

What action, if any, do the Liberals propose in the "political arena"? If the matter is left to the tender mercies of Mr. R. G. Casey and his associates, no action whatever will be taken.

Constitutional Safeguard Against Totalitarianism

Sir Earle Page Urges New States

At a constitutional conference in Sydney recently, Sir Earle Page moved this resolution: "New States are indispensable to the rapid peopling and development of Australia, and will provide safeguards against totalitarian tendencies."

In his speech supporting this resolution, Sir Earle Page said: "A federal system with numerous partners is more likely to preserve the democratic system of Government. Democratic Government, to be efficient and to give content, must not only be government of the people and for the people, it must be within sight and hearing of the people."

Self-Government

"The history of the British Empire and the United States of America shows clearly that the extension of local self-government to communities as soon as they are able to shoulder its responsibilities, stimulates development and keeps democracy alive. The British Empire has not hesitated to give local self-government even to small units such as New Zealand, South Rhodesia, Tasmania, etc. This decentralised administration secured informed control on the spot, and mobilised local knowledge and patriotism.

"The United States began with 13 States, each roughly the size of England. Progressively, as outlying territories were settled, they were converted to self-governing States as soon as their population was sufficient to give them one representative to the Lower House of Parliament.

"It was found that each new government, as soon as formed, mobilised local knowledge and local enthusiasm in utilising and developing local resources, with the result of the rapid, many-sided development of the United States of America.

"For instance, California, which is half the size of N.S.W., became a part of the United States territory 100 years ago, and later a full-fledged State. It has now as many people as the whole of Australia, although its natural resources are no greater than those of N.S.W."

Fetish of Large Size

"The very real impediment to our following these examples in Australia is our obsession with, and worship of, the fetish of large size. A large area of a State and a large population of a city seem to fascinate the Australian people and politicians like a boaconstrictor fascinates a bird. What really matters in a State or a city is not its size, but its social functioning.

"A moment's reflection shows that mere size militates against proper functioning; in fact, it brings about all sorts of social diseases and the ultimate extinction of the State or city through difficulties in transport, distance of men from their work, troubles with supplies of water, fresh milk and fresh vegetables, distance from points of recreation and entertainment, and the absence of personal contacts between classes.

"Let us look in detail at Australia's trends in the illuminating stories told us by the Government Statistician. First, take the population trend in N.S.W. as disclosed by the 1947 census. N.S.W. has an area

of 310,000 square miles — roughly six times the size of England and three and a half times the size of Victoria. Let us contrast the development and population of the area within 100 miles of Sydney — 100 miles long by 60 miles wide, say roughly 6,000 square miles — with the development and population of the remaining 304,000 square miles of the State. This smaller area nearest the capital city is roughly one-fiftieth of the area of the State. It is not any more fertile than many other areas of the same size in the State of N.S.W., yet this small area has over two-thirds of the people and nine-tenths of the electric power of the State.

Personal Freedom

"Let us consider these figures, which are typical of each State, alongside the following facts—

"The tradition of personal freedom in Australia, as elsewhere in the world, is largely dependent on the feeling that a man has some chance of setting up in business on his own account, and need not always be dependent on an employer. In Australia the proportion of all working males who own their own businesses was 22% in 1947, 24% in 1933, and 27% in 1901. In Canada the percentage was 33 in 1947.

"Colin Clark, a distinguished economist, says it is possible to trace in different countries some connection between the independence of outlook and the proportion who are economically independent through owning their own businesses."

"Rural areas and reasonably sized towns are above the Australian average, while big cities are below the average in independent owners. Our lack of balance is exemplified by Australia now having a substantially larger proportion of its working population engaged in manufacture than has the United States of America. Because of the large size of our States and the concentration of their facilities, especially transport and power, into a limited area in the State, Australian manufacture has been developed at the expense of rural industry on the one hand, and on the other of service industries, both of which offer far more opportunities to the independent proprietor....

"The creation of new smaller States in Australia can restore balance. Such action can marry again the town and the country. Out of this union may spring a new hope, a new life, and a new civilisation in Australia that will call a halt to class warfare and unite us as a democratic community into a homogeneous nation through homogeneous culture and identity of interests." —*The Countryman*, Aug. 5.

We congratulate Sir Earle Page on this excellent statement. We hope that he and his friends in the Country Party will translate this into action, if they are returned to office at the next elections. We can imagine some difficulties with Messrs. Menzies, Casey and Co. on this issue.

The Works Of C. H. DOUGLAS

In a review of his latest full-length work, *The Brief for The Prosecution*, the *English Truth* states that C. H. Douglas is undoubtedly one of the greatest minds of this century. In his various works he has provided a penetrating analysis of finance, government, philosophy, constitutionalism, &c. Those responsible members of the community who are concerned with the present increasing plight of the world must study Douglas if they desire to know what must be done to save our civilisation.

The following list of Douglas's works are available:

- Social Credit*..... 6/6
Written in 1924, this is one of Douglas's earlier works.
Credit, Power, and Democracy, 6/9
An analysis of certain aspects of the credit system.
- The Brief for the Prosecution*, 11/
Douglas's latest full-length work. A brilliant exposure of the international groups, which worked to destroy the British Empire between the two world wars.
- The Big Idea*..... 3/2
Exposes the forces working towards World Domination.
- The Programme for the Third World War* 2/2
This book is particularly appropriate at the present time.
- The "Land For The (Chosen) People" Racket*, 2/2
Deals with the politics of the land.
- The Tragedy of Human Effort*..... 1/1
One of Douglas's most outstanding addresses on the principles of human association.
- The Policy of a Philosophy*, 11d.
An address dealing with the definition of Social Credit.
- Realistic Constitutionalism* . 1/1
A special address given to the Constitutional Research Association, London. This address must be read by every individual concerned with the protection and extension of constitutional safeguards of individual rights.
- The Realistic Position of the Church of England*... 1/2
A "must" for every Christian.

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MR. CASEY ON "DIVIDING THE LOOT"

The press of last week featured the eight-point policy of the Federal Liberal Party, announced in Canberra on August 15 at the annual Federal Council of the Liberal Party. If this "policy" is the one, which Mr. Casey has been keeping "in the bag" for so long, it is a great pity, that he did not keep it "in the bag" indefinitely. The old, old platitudes, redressed slightly, are again paraded — platitudes which have been put forward by all parties.

We noted with interest the stressing of the importance of the "majority vote" as the basis of democracy. That's what the Socialists say, too. The majority vote has certain limited uses, but it is merely advocating tyranny to suggest that a majority should be used to impose unwanted policies upon minorities. The fundamental rights of all individuals should be protected by Constitutional safeguards against the manipulation of majority votes.

It is true, of course, that Mr. Casey and other Liberal leaders have much to say about Socialism interfering with individual rights, but the failure of Mr. Casey and many of his associates to challenge the Socialists on fundamental issues is causing grave disquiet, not only amongst electors generally, but also amongst the rank and file of Liberal Party supporters.

At the recent State Council of the Victorian Liberal Party, Mr. Casey, who is, let it be remembered, Federal President of the Liberal Party, left no doubt about his political dishonesty. Mr. Arthur Warner, Victorian Minister for Housing, moved a resolution that the Liberal Party should uncompromisingly advocate the complete abolition of Uniform Taxation at the Federal Elections. This resolution was obviously welcomed by most of the Liberal Party delegates present and, according to our information, would have been carried if the influence of Mr. T. White, M.H.R., Mr. J. Gullett, M.H.R., and Mr. Casey had not been used to defeat the resolution.

The argument was advanced that the resolution, if carried, would embarrass the Liberals in N.S.W., who support Uniform Taxation. Mr. Casey, in urging that the resolution not be put, said that he thought that the only issue so far as Uniform Taxation is concerned, was the method to be adopted for "dividing the loot." This statement clearly indicates that Mr. Casey has the genuine totalitarian outlook. Taxpayers apparently exist merely to be "looted" by Federal Governments. State Governments should have no genuine financial sovereignty.

Several days after the State Council of the Liberal Party had been prevailed upon not to oppose Uniform Taxation, Mr. Warner came out publicly and told the Melbourne Constitutional Club some very necessary truths. The Melbourne "Argus" of August 8 reported Mr. Warner as having charged the Federal Labour Government with having introduced Uniform Taxation "with lies and trickery," and with having maintained it by "blackmail" Mr. Warner said: "Resistance to maintenance of Uniform Taxation is even more important than resistance to Labours attempt to nationalise the trading banks." He also described Uniform Taxation as "the key to Socialism."

We warmly congratulate Mr. Warner on his stand on principles. We only hope that more and more of his colleagues will join with him in insisting that Socialism cannot, be defeated by endorsing fundamental Socialist policies.

THE "B". B.C. THE "B". B.C.

The "B". B.C. (Vice-Chairman, Stella, Mrs. Isaacs, Dowager Marchioness of Reading) is beginning to develop its hand. In *The Listener* of July 14 there appears the first of four "talks" by Mr. Alexander Comfort, of which the title, "Is Christianity True?" appears to be answered to Mr. Comfort's satisfaction without waiting for the other three: Christianity isn't true.

We have no desire to chop theological argument with Mr. Comfort, who is described as a Poet and Novelist, is twenty-nine years old, and "refused military service in war of 1939-45." He also appears to possess good medical degrees.

It is the choice of him by the "B". B.C. to attack Christianity, which is interesting. Put quite shortly, whether Mr. Comfort knows it or not, the "B". B.C. and its controllers know quite well that an attack on Christianity at this time is a blow in assistance to Communism.

We feel fairly confident that we shall not have a series of talks, "Is Marxism True?" but if we have, the first of the series will contend that it is. Which it *isn't*.

—*The Social Creditor*, July 30.

Runnymede

(MAGNA CHARTA, JUNE 15, 1215.)

At Runnymede, at Runnymede,

What say the reeds at Runnymede?

The lissom reeds that give and take,

That bends so far, but never break.

They keep the sleepy Thames awake

With tales of John at Runnymede.

At Runnymede, at Runnymede,

Oh hear the reeds at Runnymede: —

"You mustn't sell, delay, deny,

A freeman's right or liberty.

It wakes the stubborn Englishry,

We saw 'em roused at Runnymede!

When through our ranks the Barons came,

With little thought of praise or blame,

But resolute to play the game,

They lumbered up to Runnymede;

And there they touched in solid line,

The first attack on Right Divine—

The curt uncompromising 'Sign!'

That settled John at Runnymede.

"At Runnymede, at Runnymede,

Your rights were won at Runnymede!

No freeman shall be fined or bound,

Or dispossessed of freehold ground,

Except by lawful judgment found

And passed upon him by his peers!

Forget not, after all these years,

The Charter signed at Runnymede."

And still when Mob or Monarch lays

Too rude a hand on English ways,

The whisper wakes, the shudder plays,

Across the reeds at Runnymede.

And Thames, that knows the moods of kings

And crowds and priests and such-like

things,

Rolls deep and dreadful as he brings

Their warning down from Runnymede!

—RUDYARD KIPLING.

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A Damning Indictment

The following speech in full by Lord Milverton is taken from the British Hansard. Coming from a Labour Peer, it is a damning indictment of the totalitarian policy being pursued by the Attlee government.

"LORD MILVERTON: My Lords. I ask for your indulgence in order that I may make a personal statement concerning this Bill. My intervention will be of the briefest nature. I cannot claim to any expert knowledge of the iron and steel industry, and in the circumstances it might be asked why in that case I cannot maintain silence — especially since, as I say, I have no special knowledge to contribute. My reason is that a great deal more than iron and steel is destined for this particular furnace. I have for some time felt, with growing apprehension, that for lovers of freedom, this Bill marks the parting of the ways. For the first time the State is to take over a key productive and competitive industry. There are principles involved, which make it impossible for an honest dissident to remain silent. I was born free, and I have spent the bulk of my life in teaching what freedom means to somewhat reluctant pupils in backward countries. I am very loath at my time of life to reverse this process and to help in selling the advantages of slavery to people who were once free.

"Perhaps it is because my own experience in administration has shown me how unrestricted bureaucracy can strangle enterprise that I feel some doubts about the widening circles of Government controls. I have learnt much during recent months about the lack of administrative foresight and the destructive defects in administration of the National Health Scheme, and other nationalisation measures whose principles and purposes I accepted. There is, it seems to me, a wider gap than the dollar gap which threatens our national stability, and that is the gap between principles and performance in these schemes. If that were all, I might have kept silence, while regretting the decision to add still further to the national indigestion. But as I have listened to speeches in the debate upon this Bill I have grown more certain of three things: That this Bill is not necessary at the present time, if ever; that it jeopardises the efficiency of our most vital industry; and, lastly, that the urgency with which it is pressed strengthens the apprehension of those who fear that control of this industry is itself the end and not the means to an end.

"We have here, naked and unashamed, the time-dishonoured principle that they should take who have the power. The craving to be able to say 'L'Etat, c'est moi' springs to life again whenever the desert soul of man is watered by power. I suppose that is why the price of liberty is said to be eternal vigilance. And it is because I feel that even the present control over the whole of our national life, which is at present legally in the hands of Government, has reached dangerous proportions, especially if that Government itself is ever controlled by irresponsible, malicious or revolutionary persons — and, after all, the possibility of that looms only twelve months ahead — it is because I fear that, that I cannot acquiesce by silence in the passage of a Bill whose credentials are so dubious

and whose effect on our national life will be so far-reaching and so unpredictable.

"My Lords, like the ghost in 'Hamlet' this Bill comes in such a questionable shape that it excites misgivings about its real cause. I have been told that I knew the Labour programme when I joined the Labour Party. That is true. I knew it in outline; but I did not, in joining, sign away my right to think; nor did I anaesthetise my conscience or my principles; nor, I hope, did I lose the power to learn. I had certain aims and ideals, and I thought that the Labour Party could, in vulgar parlance, 'deliver the goods.' I am now appalled at the type of goods which are being delivered under a false trade label — the national interest. I thought I was participating in a crusade, and I found myself a camp follower in a 'rake's progress.' I am one of a large number of people of independent minds who saw the merit of the Labour Party programme of social justice, but who are now beginning to feel uneasy about the lengths to which the rest of that programme is taking them. I have listened to the arguments in this House, and I have read what has been said elsewhere on this Bill. I cannot find that a case has been made out for it.

"In resigning from the Labour Party, I feel it my duty to make my protest in public, especially as I know there are many others of the Party who share my views. The road on which we are travelling leads to a precipice, at the foot of which clearly emerges the totalitarian State. We have heard at Blackpool a prominent Cabinet Minister bewailing the fact that the moral stature of the people has not proved equal to carrying out the measures introduced by this Government — in simple words, that human nature had not seen fit to change itself at his behest. It is at least permissible to ask in reverse whether the moral stature of the Cabinet has proved worthy of the principles they proclaim. I suggest that the Iron and Steel Bill provides a ready answer in the negative.

"The Minister of Health, in his new role as the moral leader of the Labour Party, has two aspects. I cannot regard either the intemperate and provocative language of the politician or the emotional appeal of the synthetic evangelist as a suitable substitute for the clear thinking and the calm judgment, which the national interest demands. I speak for thousands of independent thinkers who voted Labour at the last election, and who have a keen desire to see social justice, but who now begin to fear, as I do, that such measures as the Iron and Steel Bill will destroy the only possible basis of social justice, which is surely a prosperous and united nation. My Lords, in this House at least there is no excuse for failing to speak when conscience so dictates. I have no morbid desire to be a martyr, and I find it extremely difficult having to make a public confession that one has made a mistake, but I am unwilling to be a silent passenger on this sinister journey, and I will certainly not betray the principles of freedom which

5/- RATE LIMIT?

The Victorian Government would legislate to increase the municipal rate limit from 3/- to 5/-. Mr. Kennedy, Minister for Public Works, said last night.

"If the councils don't get more money, some will go broke," he said, explaining the decision. "Most councils are already imposing maximum rates."

That did not mean that all rates would be increased automatically, but councils in poor financial circumstances would be able to raise their rates if necessary.

Mr. Kennedy did not think municipalities would make any major increase, "because it would not be politic to do so."

The Renaissance

"Because of the lustre of this genius, the Renaissance is often regarded erroneously as a golden age, whereas, upon reflection, it becomes obvious that such pinnacles of achievement can never be climbed in a single generation. Genius of this order is inevitably a plant of slow growth, the flower of generations of slowly accumulated learning, tradition, and creative power. In the hothouse of the Renaissance the carefully tended mediaeval buds soon blossomed, and as soon became overblown. The artistic glories of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, in fact, represent the final achievement of the Middle Ages, and the expression of the new age is to be found, not in the work of Shakespeare or Ben Jonson, but in the voice of Niccolo Machiavelli."—L. T. C. Rolt, *High Horse Riderless*, p. 57.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, JNR.

"The most powerful Jews on earth, including Joseph Davies, Henry Morgenthau and Bernard Baruch have settled on Franklin D. Roosevelt as their choice for President in 1952. Millions of dollars are being made available to this propaganda campaign. The international Jewish financiers hope to perpetrate a depression and then offer F.D.R., Jnr., as the cure, while mobilising the nation's most radical votes under Jewish leadership. The fact that young Roosevelt flew to Palestine within one week after being elected to Congress from a Jewish district in New York proves beyond doubt that he is playing the Jew game open and above board in the brazen conviction that this is the route to the White House."

—*Exclusive News*, Washington, D.C.

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have made this country great, nor will I help to forge a weapon which, in later and less worthy hands, may strike those principles dead. I therefore declare my opposition to this Bill," and my resignation from the Party which supports it."

"New Times," August 26, 1949 — Page 5



Converting a Farm to an Organic Farm

E. B. BALFOUR.

Lady Eve Balfour is the Organising Secretary of the Soil Association of England and Manager of New Bells Research Farm at Haughley, Suffolk, England, which has been established to demonstrate the comparative effects of organic and inorganic methods of agriculture. This article will be of great value to Australian farmers on those areas where a sufficient rainfall or irrigation is available for establishing mixed arable and grazing farms. —Ed.

Of all the questions we get, I think, perhaps the one, which occurs most often, is how best to convert a farm to organic cultivation.

The first essential to success in any such conversion is to have a thorough grasp of the principles involved. If compost, or any other organic treatment, is simply thought of as an alternative method of supplying the plant with the nutrients usually given out of a bag, many mistakes will probably be made.

An Organic Farm

An organic farm is, among other things, a farm, which is operating the biological nutrition cycle. This means that the prime concern of the farmer is to care for the soil population, and then rely upon it to feed his crops. If it is to do this adequately and maintain yields at the standard required to make farming pay, these underground workers must be protected and fed until the soil is literally teeming with them. This involves, besides supplying them with adequate amounts of organic matter, going to considerable pains to maintain soil cover. Nature does not expose the soil to the direct beating of sun or rain, and bare soils become depopulated fairly rapidly. To demonstrate this, you have only to take a normal earthworm count from a bare fallow and another from a permanent pasture. The aim should, therefore, be, as far as possible, always to keep the soil covered, either with a crop, a catch crop, a mulch, or a good heavy dressing of compost on the surface.

Time Lag in Conversion

It is very important to remember that where soil has previously been clean cultivated and received large amounts of soluble inorganic fertiliser, the number and the vigour of the soil population has been lowered. Obviously it takes time to build this up again. If previous fertiliser treatment has been heavy enough, the biological cycle will have been slowed down to such an extent that plant life will have become

absolutely dependent upon artificial aids. Under such circumstances, crop yields would be bound to drop if fertilisers were suddenly abandoned, because there would be nothing to take their place until the soil population multiplies once more. Even if enough compost were available to treat the whole farm (an extremely unlikely eventuality), the farmer would still be faced with the probability of a time lag, for compost is not a direct plant food. If, therefore, an attempt is made to convert the whole farm in one year, it might take three years before yields were back to standard. This is a time lag, which no farmer can afford.

The Lowly Dandelion

By M. B. CUMMINGS.

Professor Emeritus, University of Vermont, U.S.A.

That pestiferous weed of the lawn wins respect when one considers its value as food when cut in season and carefully prepared for the table.

Dandelion greens in early Spring have a high food value. They contain 11 percent of carbohydrates (starch and sugar), 5 percent of ash or mineral ingredients, nearly 3 percent of protein, a food factor in many meats and legumes, such as peas and beans. Furthermore, dandelions are rich in vitamins. The food value in energy and calories is 285 units per pound, not large to be sure, but higher than in asparagus, celery, beets, collards, eggplant, tomatoes, squash, spinach and lettuce. Our grandmothers insisted that the dandelion was a potent spring tonic in its natural state, and they were right. No other vegetable delicacy was sought in the early days more eagerly by country folk; and it was often considered a gift from the gods for the good it did in supplying certain needs of the body, as shown by practical tests and early benefits.

It will not be long now before housewives and their children, armed with pails, pans and long knives, will set forth to cut or pry the succulent dandelion from its moorings for the traditional pot of greens. A wild garden may become in part a good

Balance

Another vital principle to remember is that successful operation of the biological nutrition cycle depends upon right biological balance, and this means balance in the farm as a whole — balance as between arable and grass, balance as between crops and livestock; balance as between cash crops and fodder crops, and in the insect and soil populations.

So far as the balance of crops and livestock is concerned, Mr. Ralph Coward, one of our all-organic farming members on the borders of Dorset and Wiltshire, has summarised this rather well, I think. His view is that straw can be taken as the measurement; if there is too much straw the farm is understocked; if there is too little straw, the farm is under-cultivated. There are exceptions to this, of course; but broadly speaking it is a sound enough guide.

The next thing to remember is the cumulative effect of stamina and health. Even the best managed organic farm will not give maximum results until, as far as possible, it is being sown with compost-grown seed of at least the second or third generation. The organic farmer will, therefore, prefer always to use his own seed.

Deep-Rooting Leys the Key

If all these things are borne in mind,
(Continued on page 7)

garden for victory over famine.

And yet a little later on this looked for vegetable can be bought at the door from sales ladies or even at the grocers at reasonable prices. Dandelions are now grown in frames and sold by the bushel in clean, fresh condition, and worth the price. Sometimes they are bleached in the cold frame by excluding light, and in due time the whitened product is available for salad. Some cultivated varieties resemble endive. Dandelions are more nutritious, however, if green rather than white, and tender not tough.

When cultivated, the seed of this green is sowed in the place where the crop is to grow, and needs little care. The crop is harvested like spinach. The cultivated forms have been derived from the wild species, *Taraxicum officinalis*, of waste places.

What better use can be made of this pernicious weed than to eat it, and benefit from its use as food? To devour an enemy is to exterminate it; and there is no remorse.

—Organic Gardening, U.S.A., April 1949.

Converting a Farm to an Organic Farm

(Continued from page 6)

the problem simply becomes one of how to restore the biological cycle without suffering an economic loss on account of the time lag. This problem, of course, differs with different farms and in different districts. The solution is easiest where there is no insuperable obstacle to the introduction of ley farming. For under present-day economics the four-year deep-rooting ley is the key to successful organic farming, just as the compost heap is the key to successful organic gardening. But it can happen that it is impossible to put this system into operation throughout the whole farm, for example, where a field is too steep to cultivate and crop, or too inaccessible to graze. Absence of water may also prove an obstacle to grazing, but can usually be overcome by substituting sheep for cattle on such fields. Take it all in all, however, there are few farms where the system of alternate grass and arable cannot be put into operation over the greater part of the farm. The exceptions have to be dealt with individually on their merits. For the purpose of a general article of this kind, I am assuming that the would-be organic farmer is able and willing to introduce the four-year ley as an integral part of his rotation. This being so, my advice is:—

A Field at a Time

One whole rotation period should be taken to make the conversion. That is to say, it must be done a field at a time, and the moment when each field becomes organic should always be the year before it goes into ley. The preparatory crop should be a root or some other cleaning crop, for which a really heavy dressing of muck, preferably composted, should be applied, without any additional fertilisers. Possibly that first root crop may show a slight drop in yield, but this will be the only point in the whole conversion at which the effect of the time-lag will be apparent. It is necessary to risk this in order to produce the conditions, which will ensure an ideal take for the deep-rooting ley in the following year. This ley should be sown with two to three bushels of rye, the purpose being that the quick-growing rye enables the ley to be grazed within six weeks of sowing, which consolidates the young seeds without over-grazing them. The seed mixture used must, of course, vary according to the district, but it should contain a wide range of suitable grasses and clovers, together with deep-rooting plants such as chicory, burnet, yarrow, American sweet clover, Akaroa cocksfoot, etc.

The On-and-Off System

According to the previous state of the land, this can be put down with the rye in the spring, or in August, following a ploughed-in mustard crop by the method described in *Humus and the Farmer*, by Mr. Friend Sykes. In the first season, it is managed like any young ley by grazing on the on-and-off system. In the second year it can be halved, or a silage crop take, and the aftermath grazed; the same again in the third year; and in the fourth year it should be heavily stocked before ploughing up in the late summer. During these four years the ley should receive no treatment other than the controlled grazing

by mixed livestock, one species of which should, if possible, be poultry folded on the grass.

Five-Year Treatment

By the time the field comes once more under the plough it will have had five years of organic treatment, *i.e.*, the muck or compost on the root crop, followed by the four-year ley, treated only with the dung and urine of at least two and preferably three classes of livestock. In those five years so much fertility will have been built up that the soil population will have entirely re-established itself. When this field comes under the plough again in the fifth year, it will be capable of growing four consecutive arable crops without further treatment of any kind and without any loss of yields. It will then come round once more to the preparatory root crop before it goes down to grass again, and at this point a heavy dressing of muck or compost should again be applied.

During this first rotation period, when the conversion is taking place, all the fields will continue to be treated in the orthodox way until each in turn reaches that point when it is under the preparatory root crop the year before the ley; but wherever it is possible to substitute organic fertilisers for inorganic ones, this will help towards establishing the right biological conditions. As each field goes into ley, it becomes an organic field. By the time, therefore that the rotation has gone all round the farm you have an organic farm. Thereafter the whole of the farm's winter output of muck can be composted and applied to one shift in that nine-year rotation—the preparatory crop for the new ley. This means compost only once in nine years, or, put another way, only a ninth of the farm has to be mucked or composted every year. By the time the rotation is going round the second time, the crops from second generation will be from compost-grown seed; and from that point will be, not only as heavy, but heavier than they were in the days before the conversion. This method, or variants of it, enables the conversion to be made without the time lag affecting the farmer's bank balance.

—*Mother Earth*, Spring, 1949.

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Are You An Organic Farmer or Gardener?

If so, the Editor of *Rural Review* would be pleased to hear from you at any time. All over Australia increasing numbers of people are applying organic farming and gardening methods. Readers who have any interesting information concerning the results they are achieving are requested to write in so that other readers can obtain the benefit of their experiences.

Industrial Conscription Approaches

By NEIL MCDONALD

Further evidence of the threat of Industrial Conscription was recently provided by the Professor of Commerce at Melbourne University (Professor G. L. Wood).

In an address to the Melbourne Rotary Club, Professor Wood said that "war and inflation had caused an unbalanced system of international indebtedness, and American industry would deteriorate into unemployment because there were not sufficient solvent customers."

No reason was given why more customers could not become solvent, so that the economic wheel could be persuaded to turn a little longer. However, Professor Wood did explain how the British countries would "solve" the problem.

"Empire business," he said, "would need to plan for an indefinite period for survival, and this would involve Government interference to ensure full employment."

The brand of the Government was not indicated, but of course we should have known that the economic advisers do not worry about the colour of their pawns.

Far too obvious is the approach of Industrial Conscription. With suitable conditions deliberately engineered, those workers not needed in our industrial system will no longer be faced with the spectre of unpaid unemployment. Instead, an application for Unemployment Benefits will bring forth a command to attend a branch of the Commonwealth Employment Office at 8 a.m. next morning, equipped with blankets and eating utensils. Regardless of personal feelings, the attraction of a change of air at the Woomera Rocket Range — or points further north — will soon remove all doubts that a vacation at this little known holiday resort is merely a respite to restore jaded nerves.

Ten years ago, compulsory labour was one of the worst features of Nazi Germany. Seeking its introduction, Adolf Hitler mentioned in a proclamation to the German

people on February 1, 1933, that "Compulsory labour-service and the back-to-the-land policy are two of the basic principles of this programme."

Though World War II was allegedly fought to oppose the totalitarian way of life, the same seeds of despair were flung into the midst of the British peoples. Even before the German war machine was defeated, our supposedly patriotic Professors and politicians openly advocated the introduction of similar conditions into Australia.

Canberra economist, Professor Giblin said that "at a certain point there must come a time when somebody must decide what is a suitable job for a man to do, and he must do it. This is going to be politically very difficult. So, in the last resort, we shall require a power to direct labour to certain things with the penalty of being unemployed without receiving unemployment benefits on refusal."

Dr. H. C. Coombs, now Governor of the Commonwealth Bank, remarked at the Melbourne University on June 11, 1944, "People could not expect complete freedom after the war . . . It would be necessary for some individual to be given the right to say what was best for the community."

In 1944, Dr. H. V. Evatt was reported as saying, "The taking away, in the future, of the right of the individual to choose his own vacation and employer, is only one of the freedoms the Australian people must be prepared to forgo in the interests of the State."

Industrial conscription also threatens the independence of farmers comfortably wedded to home and soil. Emanuel Shinwell, Minister for War, announced at the British Labour Conference, "if farmers did not respond to Government directions they must be dispossessed, and the land acquired for more useful purposes."

The use of the armed services in unloading coal and operating open cut mines is an example of directed labour. However, members of the forces have willingly pledged themselves to be of service wherever needed. Until an individual citizen voluntarily surrenders his rights, no body must be em-

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powered to direct him to forced labour. Unemployment benefits should not be denied any person who refuses to accept being "manpowered" to an unwanted job. Sufficient inducement is the only democratic way of obtaining labour for a nasty job.

Unless a stand is made, compulsory labour will become a grim reality. It is no mere coincidence that Socialist mouthpieces, are already preparing the way. Industrial conscription is part of the totalitarian pattern now being woven in Great Britain. Left unchecked, it will provide us with a standard of security comparable with any of Australia's leading prisons.

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