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SIXPENCE WEEKLY.

The Correct Functions of Government First Principles Enunciated

While campaigning in Ballarat the week before last, Mr. Eric Butler was invited by the Ballarat Liberal Party to be their guest speaker over their Saturday evening radio session on 3BA. The following short talk on principles created such favourable comment that it has been republished for distribution in Ballarat and district: —

The basic issue confronting all genuine lovers of individual liberty, is whether Governments are to have more and more control of their lives, or whether, by the decentralisation of all power, political, economic, and financial, individuals are to have greater freedom to determine their own policies. There is no more subtle way of undermining an individual's spirit of independence than by persuading him that he should leave everything to Governments; that they will provide him with security from the cradle to the grave.

A Necessary Evil

The time has arrived when it is essential that electors realise the correct relationship of individuals to Governments. Perhaps the best approach to an examination of the proper functions of Governments is to recognise that they are what our British forefathers considered a necessary evil. In their long Struggle for those great principles, which we are in grave danger of forgetting today, our forefathers insisted that Governments should have the absolute minimum of powers to carry out their legitimate functions. They evolved Constitutional safeguards for the purpose of strictly limiting the powers of Governments.

The Constitution

When the Federal Government was created in Australia, it was clearly recognised by the great statesmen responsible for the Federal system, that this central Government could easily become a great menace unless a written Constitution was drawn up to restrict its powers.

The Federal Constitution is one of the great barriers to complete tyranny in this country. It makes certain that complete power cannot be centralised at far-away Canberra without the electors having the opportunity of expressing their viewpoint at a Referendum.

The instincts of the Australian people have been very sound on the issue of cen-

tralisising power; they have consistently rejected Referendum after Referendum.

Centralised Credit Monopoly

But those who believe in the centralisation of power, the creation of the complete Monopoly State, run from Canberra, have sought ways and means of thwarting the opinions of the electors. Legislation, like Bank Nationalisation has been designed, not as an end in itself, but as a means to an end. A completely centralised credit Monopoly would enable the central Government at Canberra to control production and distribution, and thus by-pass the Federal Constitution, which seeks to prevent the Federal Government from controlling production.

Electors must take far more interest in the necessity of protecting and strengthening their Constitutional safeguards. They must realise that it is not parties and Government, which protect the individual's rights, but constitutions. Constitutions are necessary to lay down what might be termed the rules of the game; rules which Governments, as well as individuals, must be compelled to obey.

A Basic Question

Well may it be asked: "What are the correct functions of Government?" It is necessary to be clear about this matter. First and foremost, no central Government should attempt to do what a State or local Government can do much better. Don't forget that genuine self-government cannot be divorced from local Government, Government close to the people, Government more susceptible to the opinions of the electors it represents.

Secondly, no Government of any description should attempt to do for the individual what the individual can best do for himself. It is not the function of Governments to provide the individual with a carthorse security from the cradle to the grave. Governments should merely seek to remove

all artificial barriers — political, economic and financial, — which prevent the individual, in voluntary association with his fellows, from providing himself with his own security. If the British and democratic way of life is to be saved in Australia, it is essential that the power of Government be reduced and the power of the individual increased. Electors should note carefully which candidates at the coming Federal Elections endorse this principle.

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

Dedman and the Dollar Crisis

Although his proposed "solution" would be worse than the disease, Mr. J. J. Dedman, M.H.R., in the *Labour Call*, of August 12, 1949, at least correctly diagnoses the cause of the "dollar crisis." Mr. Dedman is reported as saying: —

"The immediate cause of the present dollar crisis, which the London Conference was called to consider, was the decline in American employment and business activity which brought about a reduction in purchases from the rest of the world.

"The trouble, however, went much deeper. Its essence was in the spectacular advances in American production which had occurred in the last decade.

"Since 1938, industrial production in the United States had more than doubled, and agricultural production had risen by 30 per cent.

"In all the rest of the world, industrial production had risen by only about 5 per cent and agricultural production had actually declined by nearly 10 per cent.

"The result was that America, with 6 per cent of the world's population, produced more than half the world's industrial output and a surplus of food and other agricultural supplies."

As a good Socialist, Mr. Dedman no doubt feels that a "planned economy" — which necessitates manpower control — is the only way in which the threat of "overproduction," similar to that in the U.S.A., can be averted.

Petroleum Policy

Further to the above comment concerning the "dollar crisis," it is significant to note that the Anglo-American petroleum policy will be discussed at the coming London dollar talks. It is reported that the American oil companies are protesting vigorously against any suggestion that Great Britain and other sterling countries use Marshall Plan dollars to expand their own petrol refineries. It would be cheaper for the sterling countries to import crude oil and do their own refining. However, the American oil companies object to this dollar-saving proposal, as it would interfere with their own trade.

There is no solution of the "dollar crisis" within the framework of present financial rules. The sooner this fact is faced, the sooner a more realistic approach to the subject of dollars will be made.

* * * *

Election Prospects

Prior to the coal strike, Gallup Poll figures revealed, that, in spite of the unpopular policies of the Labour-Socialists, a majority of electors were not impressed with the policies of the Liberal and Country Parties. However, the latest Gallup Poll figures would appear to indicate the Communist-inspired coal strike has had the effect of swinging sufficient electoral support to the non-Labour Parties to give them a majority at present. It would indeed be ironical if the policies of the Commun-

ists brought Mr. Menzies to office, although there are some grounds for believing that the Communists seek to have Labour defeated at the coming Federal Elections.

However, before Mr. Menzies and his associates conclude that the Federal Elections are now safely won they should remember that the last Gallup Poll figures were taken just prior to the Government deciding to break the coal strike by sending the troops into the mines. Electoral support for the Government has probably strengthened again since the conclusion of the strike. And the proposed indirect tax-cuts, miserly as they are, will no doubt make some appeal.

The problem confronting the non-Labour Parties is still one of producing a policy that is a genuine alternative to that being advanced by the Labour-Socialists. They might carefully consider the following comment, which appeared in the *Mildura (Victoria) Sunraysia Daily* on August 12: —

"Now that the Chifley Government has made what appears to have been a stand against the Communists, and has scored what is claimed as a victory over the Reds, the Liberals are left right out in the cold. It is now presumed that they will concentrate all their propaganda against Socialisation.

"But this constant attacking of the other fellow's policy will get the Liberals exactly nowhere. It would be better for themselves, and for the vital floating vote, if the Liberals were to announce some definite, constructive policy of their own. As things stand, Labour is certain to win the next election."

Irrespective of which Socialist Party wins the Federal Elections — the Labour-Socialists or the Liberal-Socialists — it is most desirable that the victors should have the smallest possible majority in the new Parliament. A weak Government might slow down the centralising process a little. It would be more susceptible to public opinion.

Parents or State

"One of the minority recommendations by Mrs. Douglas Jay on the British Royal Commission on Population is that all fees in all schools, private and public, should be progressively abolished, so that all education should be free and given to the children best able to benefit from it. This is the kind of statement to which unthinking people quickly give their assent without pausing to consider what, in fact, it would entail, and how much anxiety and unhappiness would be created which are at present avoided, now that it is still possible for parents to believe in their children, and to pay for them when examiners do not believe in them. There is a dreadful finality when the door is shut and it is announced that there is no room for a child to receive the kind of education its parents are passionately anxious to give it. That anxiety of parents is more often than not a highly relevant factor, for the kind of home and the kind of parents and what they value are quite as relevant as the precocity of the child, or its proficiency and self-confidence in the arts and aptitudes by which examiners or psychologists are impressed.

"It is not, in fact, possible to say in advance who is going to get most advantage out of a particular school or when just as there is a great deal of difference between the boys who do well at school and the boys who amount to something afterwards, for the two categories, though the overlap, are not at all identical. But the proposal is one more illustration of the current fashion of thought which likes to remove the most important decisions inside the home from the father and mother, and to entrust them to public bodies."

—*The Tablet* (England), June 25, 1949

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"Progress" in U.S.A.

In his bi-monthly News-Letter from Washington, Mr. Gerald K. Smith provide the following information concerning the growth of the bureaucratic menace in the U.S.A.: "In 1929 the Government of the United States cost an amount equivalent to the income of approximately one-half the State of California. In 1947 Federal expenditures were approximately equal to the total personal income of all the inhabitant of California, Washington, Oregon, Nevada Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Montana, Wyoming Colorado, New Mexico, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and about four-fifths of Texas. Federal expenditures amounted to 121 dollars per family in 1929, 250 dollars in 1938, and about 984 dollars in 1948."

Well Over the Line

In 1947 Britain's socialist Prime Minister Mr. Attlee, in a foreword to a book by another socialist M.P., said in effect that the dividing line between democracy and totalitarianism consisted precisely in whether labour was directed or free; when labour was directed, the dividing line between democracy and totalitarianism had been crossed.

As Douglas Reed, the eminent former European Correspondent for the *London Times*, says, "I do not believe that a dividing line can be drawn . . . Socialism has repeatedly been proved to be a runaway wheel on a slippery slope . . . However (assuming) that a halt could be called and a dividing line drawn, Mr. Attlee was perfectly right; this is the line between a free nation's life and death. Once that line is crossed the rest automatically follows."

And yet later in 1947 — actually while this book containing Mr. Attlee's words was at press—the Socialist government passed legislation, patterned closely on Hitler's socialist measures, "directing" labour. Mr. Attlee and his colleagues cannot plead that they did not understand what they were doing when they enslaved the British worker.

Douglas Reed points out that, "One must go back 600 years in English history for a parallel to the government's labour-direction measure; namely, to the Statute of Labourers of 1349, passed after the Black Death, when agricultural labourers were put back to the status of serfs. All history books denounce this Act as the most retrograde in the long history of the British island." . . .

—*Social Credit*, Canada, June 15.

U.S. Palestine Film Unfair to British

LONDON, Monday. —Scenes in an American film, "Sword in the Desert," based on the Arab-Jew conflict in Palestine have caused strong criticism in the British Press.

The film, starring Dana Andrews as an American sea captain who carried Jewish illegal migrants to Palestine, and Jeff Chandler as leader of the Jewish underground army, has these highlights:

An attack on a British camp by Irgun terrorists, on Christmas Eve, in which almost an entire British battalion is massacred.

A terrorist kissing a land mine before placing it in the path of a British lorry.

A broadcast by a "Free Israeli" radio station in which a woman announcer tells the British: "You have occupied our country and deprived us of our homes and freedom."

An ambush by British troops of a group of helpless Jewish refugee migrants.

The *Daily Express* says: "The film shows the British Army as a burlesque crowd of excitable and ill-disciplined types, incapable even of guarding their own barracks."

The Story of a Cake

Dear to the heart of every Government is the power to make regulations. Throughout the world countless Governments are daily churning out countless regulations to add to the mountains of regulations that have gone before. One can scarcely breathe without breaking some obscure regulation or other.

We call to mind the New Zealand police inspector who once told us that if he felt inclined he could arrest everyone in sight. To prove his point he asked us to walk down one side of a street, cross the roadway and return on the other side. He then informed us that we had broken 15 regulations.

Which brings us to the British Post Office and the wedding cake. An English couple who were married recently decided to send a piece of their wedding cake to a friend in Australia. They duly enclosed it in one of those fancy cardboard boxes made expressly for this purpose, and mailed it.

The other day the box reached Australia. The cake was still in England. Across the box was written, "Cake withdrawn." Another legend stated, "Officially sealed in the Post Office." Yet another purple stamp declared, "Contrary to regulations." It seemed as if some dreadful crime had been committed.

Inside the box was a notice, complete with crest, which said: "The regulations of the country of destination require that wedding cake should be packed in tin boxes. In the circumstances the wedding cake has been withdrawn. RLB 16. R05848Z48." Those figures and letters are essential to all good regulations.

What a dreadful thing if a tiny piece of wedding cake had crept into Australia in a cardboard box. But regulations are regulations, and so a little box came all the way from England with nothing but regulations inside it. What became of the cake? Perhaps it is suffering the torments of the damned in some remote G.P.O. dungeon.

—*Sunraysia Daily*, Mildura, Aug. 10.

The film was shown simultaneously today at a private show in London and a gala premiere in New York. It was previewed privately in London because the makers, Universal International, feared unfortunate comment, and decided that it would be better to allow the British Press to view it at first hand rather than take reviews from New York.

Later the film will be shown throughout Britain with three cuts ordered today by the British censors. One of the scenes cut was one in which a British officer threatened serious reprisals against a Jewish village containing women and children.

—*The Herald*, Melb. Aug. 23.

We are not surprised. The "American" film industry is almost a complete Jewish monopoly. For over 25 years this has been one of their chief instruments in their attack on British culture and prestige. Like all gangsters, they occasionally overstep the mark. This appears to be one of those occasions. We can imagine the effect of this film on Returned Servicemen throughout the British world.

Bernard Baruch's "Mission to Moscow"

Bernard Baruch, the United States Jewish "Elder Statesman," probably the most powerful man behind the political scene in America, has been paying a visit to the Kremlin for important talks with the Moscow boys. Our English contemporary, "London Views and Tidings," comments: "It will be interesting to see if our old friend, Mr. Bernard Baruch, will scurry home from Moscow before people start wondering how an arch-enemy of Communism could be received in earnest conference in the highest Kremlin circles."

Perhaps plans were being finalised among the conspirators to concentrate on the consolidation of a Moscow-controlled totalitarian Asia. Is this the next move?

Dr. Evatt and the Chinese Communists An English Comment

Before we turn from the Far East, here is another trend upon which you should concentrate. We suggest that Australia will give official recognition to the Chinese Communist Government quite soon. The Rt. Hon. H. V. Evatt might be watched with some interest; some of his pronouncements on Greece indicated a tendency to "fellow-travel" with the elements of the far left. We will say no more, except to suggest that certain foreign commercial interests in China will press for early recognition of the Communist Government. It will be most interesting to learn what Dr. Evatt has to propose when the time comes.

—*London Tidings*, June 16.

ERIC BUTLER'S BOOKS

The Enemy Within the Empire, 10d
Over 30,000 copies of this book have been sold in all parts of the English-speaking world. Carefully documented, it is essential for those who desire to understand the background of the present world situation. The policy of the International Financiers in using the Bank of "England" to cripple the British Empire while helping Hitler is dealt with in detail. The origin of what is now known as the "Financier-Socialist" plot is revealed. This book is generally regarded as one of the author's finest works.

The Money Power Versus Democracy 10d.

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

The Truth About Social Credit, 1/1
An excellent introduction to the subject of Social Credit for the beginner. It shows how Social Credit is far more than a "funny money" scheme. The author makes it clear that bank nationalisation and "State control of the issue of credit" has got nothing to do with Social Credit. Social Credit financial proposals are outlined clearly and simply. The 1945 Banking Legislation is revealed as a major part of the policy of totalitarianism being imposed upon Australians. This valuable book must be in the armoury of every Social Credit warrior.

Democracy Flouted 7d.

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

A Defence of Free Enterprise and The Profit Motive 7d.

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

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THE "DOLLAR CRISIS" AND PETROL RATIONING

We have consistently warned that dollar aggression against Great Britain, aggression that the Socialist traitors have made much easier by their Socialist policies, would also affect the Australian economy. In his plea for more dollar cuts by Australia, Mr. Chifley has made it clear that he is primarily concerned with helping fellow-Socialist Cripps to meet some of his problems. While the overwhelming majority of the Australian people are willing to make necessary sacrifices to help their British kith and kin, they must recognise the fact that the passive acceptance of Mr. Chifley's proposed austerity will do nothing effective to solve the British people's basic problems.

Mr. Chifley and his "advisers" are determined to use the "dollar crisis" to have petrol rationing re-imposed as soon as possible. Centralised control of all transport is an important part of the Socialist policy of centralising all power. The "dollar crisis" is being used by the Socialists everywhere to further their policies of monopoly. If Mr. Chifley wants to restrict dollar purchases, and if it is true that adequate petrol supplies cannot be supplied from sterling countries, why should an essential like petrol be rationed when dollar savings can be made on non-essentials? For example, a spell from the baneful influence of Hollywood's Jewish film industry would be most beneficial.

We have carefully examined all the available facts concerning the "dollar crisis" and petrol, and we have no hesitation in saying that Mr. Chifley's statements are deliberately misleading. While it is undoubtedly true that petrol sales have increased since petrol rationing was declared invalid by the High Court it is not possible at present to say how much actual consumption has increased. Because of the persistent attempt by Mr. Chifley to have petrol rationing re-imposed, farmers in particular have been purchasing large bulk supplies of petrol. Mr. Chifley's statement that petrol bowsers may be dry by Christmas has, naturally enough, had the effect of causing more people to buy increased supplies of petrol for storage. These increased sales will no doubt be quoted shortly as further evidence of why further petrol rationing is urgently necessary.

One of the most disturbing features of the controversy about the "dollar crisis" and petrol is the comparative silence by the Federal Liberals. Their only contribution has been to urge a dollar loan. The only Federal Member to come out against petrol rationing, and who has produced considerable factual material to support his arguments, is Mr. Fadden. If the Liberals are going to support the case for petrol rationing, they are in effect saying that Mr. Fadden is attempting to mislead the people. Our opinion is that Mr. Fadden's facts have not been disproved, and that, furthermore, the British Empire's oil resources are more than adequate to supply petrol requirements for all British countries. The re-imposition of petrol rationing should be vigorously resisted by all genuine anti-totalitarians.

That Federal Pay Roll

Rapid Growth of the Army of Occupation

The Story in Figures:

June, 1939	June, 1947	June, 1948	Dec., 1948	Mar., 1949	Apr., 1949	May, 1949
47,043	101,981	120,941	171,100	174,200	175,700	178,900

Playing Politics with Petrol

The States will no doubt think long and hard about the proposal to ration petrol or to grant Canberra constitutional power to do so.

The coal strike imposed a heavy drain on petrol and oil reserves. Intensified use of private and commercial vehicles followed curtailed public transport. Large quantities of petrol and other fuel oils were consumed by emergency lighting plants and auxiliary power units. Though costly, a great deal of additional unemployment was thereby averted.

The obvious course now is for the Commonwealth to give the oil companies permission to import sterling petrol to make good the quantity consumed in the strike.

Because of the strike arrangements already have been made to bring to Australia steel bars, steel products and coal from Great Britain, and other sources — sterling and otherwise — to the tune of some millions of £A's. So far as the dollar question goes there is no difference in importing these basic materials than in importing petrol.

European countries such as Belgium, France, Holland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Italy — to which much sterling oil is now being supplied — do not ration petrol; nor, for that matter, do the Dominions of South Africa and Canada.

The argument used by Mr. Dedman that some sterling petrol has a dollar content because of interlocking investment, is an argument that cuts both ways, for there is considerable sterling capital in dollar oil areas.

There is a dollar content in many importations into Australia from sterling sources — cotton piece goods from Manchester, for example; similarly there is a dollar context in many Australian-made goods by reason of American shareholdings or dollar raw materials — motorcars, tyres, etc.

The more one looks at this petrol question the more *unconvincing* become the political importuning that surround it. The Sydney Morning Herald is on sound grounds in stating editorially that a satisfactory supply and distribution of petrol can best be achieved by leaving the responsibility to the trade. This of course, implies some modification of the sanctions now imposed against sterling oil.

—L. Withall, Canberra Letter, Aug. 18.

Petrol

In the argument about petrol rationing, one question has not been answered:

Why is Australia — with as large an area as Canada to cover — on the lowest supply per vehicle of any Dominion?

Here are the figures:

Canada, 726 gallons per vehicle per annum; India, 664; South Africa, 612; New Zealand, 385; Australia, 300.

—The New Era, Sydney, June 17.

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Preview of the Times

CIRCA, 2049 A.D.

At Bow Street yesterday, John Albert Smith, bookmaker's blower, aged 20, was charged under the Air Nationalisation Act of 1962 with having, contrary to the Law, inhaled air, the property of the State, otherwise than through an approved meter.

The Attorney General said that the Government took a very serious view of this case for it involved a particularly cunning fraud, which, but for the brilliant work of the Airleak Detection Department of Scotland Yard, might have gone unnoticed for years. Smith, in fact, whilst carrying on his back an approved meter which was apparently perfect in all respects, had made a series of small holes in the tubing near the nose-piece so that, in addition to the 3 cu. ft. of air per minute which was the ration to which he was entitled, he received black market air variously estimated to amount to between 1 and 2 cu. ft. per minute.

Smith, under interrogation, had admitted his fault but had endeavoured to mitigate it by saying that the nature of his work and the size of his frame, together with the extent of his chest development (which had a big expansion), called for an increase in his ration of more than 3 cu. ft. per minute, and he saw no reason why miners should be allowed 6 or, in some cases, 7 cu. ft., whilst he was constrained to make do on 3 cu. ft., on which ration he was unable satisfactorily to carry out his duties. He also added that it appeared to him that there seemed to be plenty of air about and that he could be doing no harm in making a few small holes in his tube.

Smith, having pleaded guilty, was asked whether he wished to say anything before sentence was passed. Having repeated more or less what he had said at the time of his arrest, Mr. Blank, the presiding magistrate, said:—

"The Attorney-General is well justified in saying that this is a most serious case. Not only serious in that a wrongful act has been done by a man old enough to know better, but serious too in showing the depraved state of the mind of the accused. He has the hardihood to assert that there is plenty of air about. One might well ask: what business is that of his?"

"The Air Nationalisation Act of 1952 lays down quite clearly in Paragraph 1977, Section 2 (a) (i) that no one may have more air than is set out in Paragraph 1977, Section 3. Provision is, however, made in Paragraph 1981 for special cases, to which I will refer later.

"Meantime it is to be noted under Paragraph 1978 the air ration must be taken through an approved meter, which has to be taken to the Police Station for examination once a week. It is true that the defendant submitted his apparatus to the Police once a week, but the holes that he made were so small and so numerous that they could not be detected by examination with the naked eye, and no blame attached to the Police for not noticing that a crime had been committed.

"The defendant says that he thought no harm could come from his making a few small holes in his tube. 'His tube' indeed. Section 1979 of the Act to which I have

referred makes it quite clear that the inlet, the meter, the tube, and the nose-piece are all State property, and it is very fortunate for the accused that the National Air Commissioners to whom he presumably, like the rest of us, pays the prescribed rent of £1,000 per week for the apparatus, have not brought an action against him for the mutilation of their property.

"Whilst in view of his comparative youth I have every wish to treat him leniently, I cannot overlook his neglect to present himself to the National Air Board Medical Advisory Committee with a view to satisfying them that his was a case for increased air ration under Paragraph 1981. Had they decided that his was an exceptional case they would doubtless have authorised the issue of emergency ration cards for an additional cube footage per minute. One can only surmise that he concluded that his chances of satisfying that body were not good. One can hardly suppose that he was so poor to be unable to afford, or so mean as to be unwilling to pay, their very modest charge for an examination, which I believe amounts to a mere £25,000.

"Upon the whole I think the case, which is a first offence, can be met by a fine of £200,000."

Smith thereupon asked for time to pay, saying that he had only £300,000 in his pocket and that he had promised to take his fiancée to the pictures that evening.

The Magistrate declined to grant time, saying that he had little sympathy with improvident people who spent their money down to the last penny and that if Smith and his fiancée had in consequence of the fine to go into cheaper seats and go without cigarettes or ices, it was Smith's fault. Smith was a danger to Society, and if he again came before the Bench on a similar charge the fine would be £1,000,000 or ten days' imprisonment in default. —Alfred Hayward, *Tomorrow*, May '49.

INTERESTING COMMENT

It is with regret, but without much surprise, that we note that Quebec's one Federal Social Credit (Union des Electeurs) M.P. has lost his seat in the General Election.

There is in the Roman Catholic Organisation, which is by far the strongest political influence in Quebec, a strong element of centralisation. To what extent this is inherent, or whether it is due to the well-authenticated fact that the finances of the Vatican are managed by the Rothschilds, we do not know. But it is there; and it operates to the disadvantage of Social Credit.

—*The Social Crediter*, Aug. 13, 1949.

H. N. SMITH

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Question Time

We are constrained to ask certain questions of the Leader of the Opposition arising out of his broadcast talk over 2UW 9 p.m., on July 29. Mr. Menzies says TLA the Liberal Party support the secret ballot, because they believe that the rank and file Union members should decide for them selves for or against a strike, and no one outside should be allowed to interfere.

Does Mr. Menzies recognise a strike as legal in spite of Arbitration, and would make it more legal by a secret majority vote of unionists?

If this answer is in the affirmative, would Mr. Menzies advocate that no steps should be taken by any outside authority to end a strike on the ground that it was the legally ordained decision of the majority of unionists?

At what point would Mr. Menzies regard a strike as illegal though declared by a secret ballot? Because a strike is ineffective unless it achieves its objective by its own methods — short of violence.

Would a secret ballot strike still be liable to "a declaration of a state of emergency" and so made ineffective?

In his broadcast Mr. Menzies stated that the trouble began in the higher executive positions held by Communists. Unionists elect their executives by secret ballot. Surely, this demonstrates that the secret ballot fails where it is most needed, and scarcely goes to prove the value of—the secret ballot.

In the wider field of Parliamentary elections does Mr. Menzies argue that the value of the secret ballot has been demonstrated after years of operation? Before answering this question we suggest that he look around upon the state of society, and the ineffectiveness of Governments of all colours to give the people any degree of peace and security with full individual liberty. Such a review would not acclaim the secret ballot as a success in this field.

Why do not Mr. Menzies and the Liberal Party advocate that every Parliamentary Division should be conducted under the secret ballot if he believes in it?

In this case during a Division in the House every M.P. is subjected to Party pressure, and must openly take his stand among the sheep or the goats.

Is the Liberal Party prepared to bring in an Act to amend this method of taking a Division and to provide for a secret ballot by members, in order to remove the form of intimidation mentioned?

When Mr. Menzies has satisfactorily answered these questions, we are prepared to offer some constructive points.

—*The Australian Social Crediter*, Aug. 13

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By Dr. EHRENFRIED PFEIFFER

Well-known American Writer on Organic Cultivation

New insecticides spring up on every hand nowadays, in manifold variety and combination of chemicals. Yet the hosts of insect pests also increase and wax fat and tough. The damage inflicted upon America's crops in 1948 was estimated by the Department of Agriculture at four billion dollars. No wonder it seems necessary to take steps. More and more poisonous chemicals are sprayed out in increasing amounts. Two recent observations have cast a shadow of doubt over this geometric progression. One was the discovery that insects are able to adjust themselves to a poison. From survivors resistant strains spring up and another stronger poison is needed, but then the cycle repeats itself. The second observation is that insecticides are hazardous not only to harmful insects, but also to beneficial ones and, in general, to those who consume the crops thus treated.

D.D.T.

D.D.T. was appraised as a universal and successful fly, mosquito and other bug killer. Then an experimental station in Florida announced that it could breed a D.D.T. resistant fly. This experiment station in Orlando reports "the D.D.T.-resistant insects were tough, darker, larger and more active than the usual susceptible fly." What the experiment station can do Nature can do, too. The agricultural extension service of Los Angeles County, California, reports that the common house fly can no longer be effectively combated with D.D.T. Nature's strain was even 200 times more resistant to D.D.T. than was the laboratory strain. As to the health hazard: D.D.T. is very persistent and has a particular affinity to fat. It is absorbed in fatty substances and migrates from sprayed crops into the fatty part of the animal body, especially into the fatty substances of the nervous system. There it is accumulated. In cows, it can be found in the butterfat of the milk; in steers and hogs, in the body fats, if they eat D.D.T. sprayed feed.

(It is with regret that I write these lines, for I enjoyed the flyless D.D.T. years of 1946 and 1947 in our barn and kitchen. Last fall, we too, observed an increase of flies.)

Care Must Be Exercised

It is evident that we must exercise care in combating insect pests. Except for such standbys as rotenone, pyrethrum, derris, and to a certain extent nicotine (Black Leaf 40), let us hold back on the use of insecticides until they are proven to be harmless. The writer made experiments years ago, demonstrating that even the

last-named products kill earthworms on contact but have no lasting effect. In the same soil new earthworms developed; the effect lasted for only a few days, then the spray had decomposed. Lead, arsenic and copper in excess have a residual effect, which can be counteracted to a certain extent through humus and leaf mould. Apparently the metallic poisons are fixed to organic matter and only slowly released below the toxic level.

Grower Responsible for Pests

It must be admitted that insect pests have got the upper hand. But the grower alone is to blame. His intensive, so-called modern methods of agriculture have fostered the rapid spread of insect pests. The grower has sinned against Nature's laws of balance, and now harvests the results of his omissions. However, a mistake cannot and should not be combated by committing greater errors. The introduction of monocultures growing one particular kind of crop over large areas and of continuously repeating the same crop, with no proper rotation, has given the insect THE chance of a lifetime to develop in abundance. In a mixed culture and when the same crop does not return more than once in four or five years to the same field, lies one of the main safeguards against the excessive development of damaging insects. One hundred acres of apple or citrus trees or 20 acres of celery or onions give a better chance for the rapid development and spread of insect pests than one acre in a mixed culture alternating with other crops. Insects are extremely specialised in their habits, and adaptation; here lies their weakness. It is said, of course, that diversified and mixed cultures are not profitable, that expensive implements pay only if used over large areas. But how much time and money do we

spend in spraying and spraying equipment? This is quite apart from the costly health hazards involved. The argument is used that very few labourers in orchards and intensive vegetable truck areas are killed by sprays. This we answer by the statement that very few of the chemical factory workers who produce the sprays get poisoned and very few of those who produce poison gases and dynamite. The explosive industry has one of the lowest accident rates. And yet explosives have killed thousands of other people.

Biological Control

It is admitted that the biological approach to the insect problem does not provide a complete solution as yet. However, the re-establishment of a natural balance, including all other means of achieving a healthy situation, the protection of birds, the introduction and fostering of natural enemies of damaging insects, a humus content of not less than 2 to 3%, crop rotation, mixed cultures, alternating rows of different species, is a fundamental condition. In fruit tree culture in recent years, again for economic reasons, the fast growing and early bearing varieties have been preferred. Organisms, which grow too fast, we know this from human beings, are the easy prey of disease and weakness. The relationship between rootstock and graft must be investigated and resistant strains must be selected and propagated. Many a split bark (the nesting place for trouble), and cancerous growth is due to the fact that the rootstock pushes forward too much, with too great an osmotic pressure, and the overfed tree grows faster than it should. The opposite relationship also exists, with a too slow growing rootstock underfeeding the quick growth tendency of the graft. Both are cases of malnutrition aggravated by unbalanced soils low in organic matter content. The spray gun does not cure any of these or get at the causes of any other physiological disturbance.

We stand in an intermediate phase right now. On the one hand, there are orchards and vegetable cultures, whose healthy balance is disturbed. Here biological and organic principles can only be applied to a limited extent. The basic disturbance cannot be rectified and a compromise has to be reached. The harmless sprays, as listed, may be used. The introduction of organic methods, of composting, can help to introduce a better balance. On the other hand, the one who starts a new growth could begin at once with a properly balanced system. The writer does not claim that with organic methods there will be no more damaging insects. But he does claim that in a well-balanced system plants will be more resistant and pests will not spread out. He has been farming and

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THE WAR ON PESTS

(Continued from page 6)

gardening on a large commercial scale since 1926. His observation has been that the harmful bugs can always be found, but that they did no appreciable damage, and in particular, did not spread. During this period he has never used any lead, arsenic, or copper sprays or any of the newer insecticides, except in recent years in very small amounts he has used rotenone and pyrethrum in a few cases, but not as a general procedure. He has not used any commercial fertiliser but composted manure and compost. He has followed the biodynamic system because he experienced its superiority. But ordinary composting is good too. His experience has been that he could grow over a ten year period in green-houses covering 2 acres, tomatoes, vegetables, and grapes, without any chemical sprays and without insect pests. The soil in these greenhouses was not removed and renewed. He had, however, the advantage that there were no commercial growers nearby, thus eliminating the possibility of re-infection from the neighbourhood. This factor is quite a handicap for the organic gardener; he usually sits right in the midst of a diseased area.

Natural Philosophy Important

There are many so-called superstitious customs about which the scientist smiles. However, these have often proven their worth in practice, and now one gradually begins to understand their mechanism. Old Scotch people advise putting a handful of oats in the planting hole of a tree. Why? These oats will swell, germinate, create growth hormones, which will be released and absorbed by the roots of the tree. Farmers in the old world used to "paint" their trees with a paste of cow dung and clay. The thick cover protects the bark, the cambium underneath is stimulated, the circulation of sap in the tree is increased and better nourishment of the leaves is effected. Mulching of trees is natural. In the woods, the natural leaf fall produces ideal humus. (But even there we see diseases and pests, particularly with monoculture and if selective cutting is not practised.) A tree, which is forced to production, is weakened, and then disease sets in. The same principle is applicable to any agricultural crop. In techniques we know that each material has a load limit, beyond which it will break. There is a load limit for growth, production and reproduction too, a biological threshold. Once this threshold is passed disease will be the natural reaction. It is because modern agriculture and horticulture have not observed the organic laws that we suffer from all the described disturbances. The introduction of a thorough biological knowledge and philosophy is, therefore, the first condition for successful research, and later on for efficient practices to combat insect pests without health hazards. We are still a long way from reaching this goal. Expressed in dollars and cents, however, the cost of one or two days of World War II, or one-tenth the cost of atomic research, or even the cost of developing poisonous insecticides, would more than pay for proper organic research. The cost of spraying and apparatus to the grower could not be

Soil Fertility

It is a popular belief that the farmer of today with all the latest resources of agricultural science at his command achieves the highest yield ever. That is far from being a general rule

In Harold Massingham's *Where Man Belongs* there are some interesting comparisons of yields in Scotland in the early 19th century and the present. Today the average crop of oats in Scotland is 43 bushels per acre. Sir John Sinclair (the first president of the Board of Agriculture) gave the early 19th century figures "in good seasons and fertile districts" as 59 to 72. Barley now averages 40 bushels per acre; Sinclair gives for his day 47 to 53. A good crop of potatoes then averaged the same as now—7 1/2 tons per acre—but fewer tubers were sown per acre then. Nowadays 17 3/4 tons is the average per acre from turnips. In 1809 48 tons per acre was considered a good crop.

"How were such figures that so deflate the fashionable statistical arrogance of today achieved?" Massingham asks, and gives the answer:—

First by adequate labour — one Lothian farm of 670 acres was worked by 91 labourers, and another of 702 acres had 163. No labour was considered too laborious if it contributed to the fertility and improvement of the soil. The tenants erected dry-stone dykes at their own expense, and summer fallowing involved six or seven ploughings, together with repeated rolling, harrowing and hand weeding. Secondly, the most liberal applications of dung came from the "mixed middens." But compost, as well as dung, was freely used, and, besides, the residues of the farms were made up of seaweed and town manure, peat and wood-ashes, slaughterhouse refuse and crushed bones. In 1801, in fact, Lord Meadowbank developed the Indore process under another name.

A third reason for this very marked superiority over our own farming was that the farmers themselves knew a great deal about soil, minerals, crops, leys and rotations. Fourthly, the actual workers on the farms were much better fed, worked much harder, and were incomparably more highly skilled. The wages were low, but a high purchasing power more than compensated for shortness of cash. Moreover, each labourer had a house and garden of his own, a cow for which he received rations, liberty to keep pigs and poultry, and an allowance of oatmeal.

Kanimbla (N.S.W.) *The Bulletin*, Sydney, Aug. 17.

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equalled by the expense entailed in following the proper organic method, this last must inevitably be less.

—*Organic Gardening* (U.S.A.), June 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 fanning 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.

"New Times," September 2, 1949 — Page 7

Dollar Diplomacy

By JOHN MACARA

Hon. Sec., Western Suburbs (Sydney) Voters Policy Association

Since the issue of the previous circular of 15/6/49, entitled "DOLLAR DIPLOMACY," there has occurred an incident which liberates a flood of light on this subject; it is the trade agreement whereby Argentine has agreed to provide Great Britain with food to the value of £125 million, in exchange for steel and manufactured goods of an equivalent value.

This agreement has been violently denounced by Wall Street. It constitutes what Wall Street calls BI-LATERAL TRADE. Wall Street staunchly opposes all trade other than what she terms MULTI-LATERAL TRADE.

In truth the British-Argentine agreement constitutes TRUE trade. It is an exchange of surpluses, by which BOTH parties are enriched, and is therefore mutually beneficial. But to Wall Street it is anathema, it is BI-LATERAL trade.

In effect, Wall Street says the transaction should have been arranged on a MULTI-LATERAL basis, in which case Argentina would supply Great Britain with food, and receive a CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY — i.e., gold or dollars. Then Argentine would be free to expend the credits thus acquired, not with Great Britain, where they originated, but with U.S.A., or with some 3rd or 4th party who would finally expend these credits in U.S.A. This is the basis for Wall Street's insistence on MULTI-LATERAL trade.

By MULTI-LATERAL trade, need in Great Britain for food, on being satisfied by Argentine, provides Argentine with credits by which she may draw off goods from U.S.A. (which holds two-thirds of the industrial productive capacity of the world).

Thus, multi-lateral trade, as conceived by Wall Street, ensures that whenever, and wherever, NEED arises in any part of the world, that need, or its substitute, will be satisfied by an outflow of goods from U.S.A.

It is a cardinal point of Wall Street policy, that no two countries will, with

mutual benefit, satisfy each other's need — i.e., there shall be no BI-LATERAL trade. All trade barriers shall be demolished, except those, which protect U.S.A. from the inflow of goods from outside. The U.S.A. tariff wall shall be strengthened and heightened. The only inflow, which shall penetrate U.S.A., is POWER over others — CONTROL. This invisible import is the only one, which shall, in unrestricted volume, flow to U.S.A., and it shall be the compensation sought for UNPAID-FOR goods.

But, strive as she may, Wall Street will fail in her diabolical policy. For, terrified though they be of Wall Street's power, there is a greater power, which the nations will finally obey — i.e., the first law of nature, SELF-PRESERVATION.

The British-Argentine agreement has set a pattern of mutually beneficial bi-lateral trade, which will be more and more followed. For true trade is not a device designed to build power; it is a mutually beneficial exchange of surpluses, and provided MULTI-LATERAL trade also serves this purpose, it, too, is acceptable.

(We published Mr. Macara's circular in our issue of July 8, —Ed., "N.T.")

Modern Art and Society

"There is no longer any art of architecture. Pull down your old Georgian houses; run up your blocks of flats to look like public washhouses and everybody's happy. I am supposed to admire pictures in which a man's mouth is situated in the middle of his forehead, and to make up for having no ears he has three eyes, and a geranium growing out of his nose. In the matter of music I am to admire filthy noises by swing trumpeters, which would make an African witchdoctor blush. You tell me I have talked only of the Arts, which are a decoration upon Life and not its stuff? That the material world is a better place than ever it was? I don't believe it. The young man of today thinks of nothing except dog-

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racing, and the young woman eats, drinks, sleeps, and thinks nothing but nylons. All around me I hear talk of the right to strike and never of the obligation to work. Oceans of talk about higher wages and fewer hours, but never one word about doing one's job thoroughly, accurately, competently. I live in a world where taxi-drivers won't wait, bus conductors are rude. A world in which there are no longer ladies and gentlemen, but merely people with more money and more leisure to spend it in. A world which has not realised that if you abolish distinctions you automatically do away with distinction."

—JAMES AGATE.

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