

# THE NEW TIMES

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

VOLUME 15, No. 36.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1949.

SIXPENCE WEEKLY.

## THE DOLLAR BOGEY

By J. T. LANG

**Prime Minister Chifley again staged his Dollar Crisis act for the benefit of the State Premiers in Canberra last week. Again he was the prophet of gloom and misery. He had us a nation of mendicants on our knees begging Britain for more dollars. He had predicted a dollar crisis. So a dollar crisis there must be. Even if it has to be Chifley-made.**

It is time someone called the Chifley dollar bluff. It is time that the Prime Minister of this country realised that the people do not believe his tale of woe. They are waiting up to his mulish obstinacy. They are beginning to understand the extreme lengths to which his inordinate vanity as the man who must be right, who must not be thwarted, is taking him.

From the moment that the High Court of Australia ruled against him on petrol rationing, he has been building up a fantastic case to get around the High Court's decision. When the first banking decision went against him he announced the plan to create the Government banking monopoly. His vanity had been wounded. There was a suggestion that he might be proved wrong. So he proceeded to declare total war, without pausing to consider the odds in favour of him succeeding.

### **The Almighty Dollar**

So with dollars. The Almighty Dollar has become the ruling obsession in Canberra. The entire Australian economy is to be geared to the dollar. The youthful experts who surround the Prime Minister's suite spend most of their time preparing the great Dollar Alibi. Any question containing the slightest suggestion of a dollar ingredient is seized upon as the excuse for another Dollar Sermon. This country has been lectured and bullied on the subject of dollars from every known angle.

Sir Stafford Cripps is the architect of this new Dollar Diplomacy. Just as Bruce used to tune into Baldwin, so does Chifley tune into Cripps. If Cripps bungles the British economy, then Chifley would have us committed to a replica on the same bungle here. Cripps has relied on all the crackpot theorists of the London School of Economics. Chifley is satisfied to follow the same blueprint here.

But Cripps has been proved wrong more often than any other living politician who has been entrusted with power in Britain. Cripps made a mess of the Indian question. He made a mess of his Mission to Moscow. Now he is making a mess of Anglo-American economic relations.

### **Bretton Woods**

Bretton Woods was the calamitous blunder that hog-tied Britain to the dollar dictatorship. Cripps fell badly for Bretton

Woods. Chifley fell just as badly at this end . . . The final result must be a collapse in international trade for every country that becomes involved in the war between the dollar and the sterling blocs.

Cripps has adopted a purely negative policy. He has failed to take the initiative to break the stranglehold. Instead, he preaches austerity and more austerity. That means a dwindling standard of living for the British people. Chifley is quite satisfied to accept the Cripps fetish on dollars.

### **Centralised Controls**

The real trouble is that both finance and trade are being regimented through centralised controls. Exchange controls have become the vicious instruments that will eventually paralyse all world trade. It is time the world got back to the old merchant-to-merchant basis of conducting business. Instead, under the present system, trade has to be regulated on a statistical basis. The bureaucrat with his graphs and his statistics determines just how much a country can export or import. If the statistics prove to be wrong, there is no redress, no turning back.

So these wiseacres of Whitehall and Canberra decide just how much we can buy from dollar sources. If an American petrol supplier decided to take a long-range view, and was prepared to provide this country with all the petrol it requires, he would find himself knocked back. He would be accused of black-marketing in dollars. He would be suspected of having some criminal design. But he would not be permitted to sell his petrol to Australia. Yet we need that petrol badly . . .

Australia is not bankrupt. If other countries consider that we represent a good business risk and are prepared to sell us needed dollar goods, why should they be stopped? We have had a huge favourable balance of trade during the past ten years. On that, we should be able to purchase all our needs abroad. We have no need to beg. We are a solvent nation. We are a good investment for any supplier of goods. We can pay for all our needs spot cash in goods. Why then should we be called upon to commit economic suicide by either Cripps or Chifley?

### **Hands Off Imports**

We have had too much Governmental interference with the flow of trade. We should be prepared to buy all the petrol, all the newsprint and all the machinery that the United States merchants are prepared to ship here. Dollars are their problem, not ours. Our problem is to see that United States merchants buy our goods. But if the selling of those goods is to be regulated by bureaucrats, they will never be sold.

If there is a petrol shortage, it will be

(Continued on page 2)

### **OUR POLICY**

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

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

### **Too High A Cost**

In reviewing Bertrand Russell's book, "Authority and The Individual," in the *English Tablet* of June 18, 1949, J. M. Cameron comments:

"Unity and stability, Russell argues, can be purchased at too high a cost. Everything of value in human culture is the creation of exceptional individuals who can only exercise their talents in a society that is relatively free and not so vast as to dwarf the individual. For all, the satisfaction of the intellect and the feelings is greatest in a society, which is small enough for the activities of the individual person and the small group to be seen to have meaning and relevance within the life of the whole society. The danger of our own time is that social and technical changes seem to compel us to organize ourselves into larger units. Within such large units men cannot be happy, for they cannot see the usefulness of their individual contributions, nor can they see that they, as individuals, 'matter'. It is, therefore, of the highest importance that we should, without sacrificing the benefits of large-scale organization, give ever more responsibility to those small groups which are the schools of citizenship and the proper context of human life. Russell points out that it is not true that economic misfortune is the sole cause of totalitarian movements. There has to be a sense of frustration, as well as misfortune; and the mass society of our day brings with it a stronger feeling of frustration than was present in the poorer and more brutal, but more intimate, societies of the past. If we are to avoid those explosions of hatred and despair that are the totalitarian movements of our time, we must learn so to arrange our affairs that the impulses which have in these movements gone sour may be given opportunities to work innocently and beneficently."

\* \* \* \*

### **Communists and the Secret Ballot**

Under the above heading, the following letter by W. L. Richardson appeared in the *Edinburgh daily, The Scotsman*, on June 10, 1949:

"Sir, —In the informative article on the Australian Labour revolt against Communism from your Melbourne correspondent (May 31), it would appear that what has particularly infuriated the rank and file of the Trade Unionists is the fact that the election of their officers had been manipulated in the best Soviet fashion.

"It is highly significant that the Australian revelations centre upon the manipulation of votes, and that they have led to a demand for 'an honestly conducted ballot,' as the whole question of the secret ballot has been occupying certain schools of British political thought for some time past.

"Many people in this country are beginning to realise that the secret ballot enables electors to vote for a Communist (or other subversive) candidate without showing their hand—or their treason; and that the day has come when, in the interest of national survival, we must reconsider our whole attitude to the secret ballot.

"Members of the other parties, who are patriots before party members, need feel no inhibitions about this: there is nothing either very British or democratic about the secrecy of the ballot. The concept was entirely alien to our forefathers, who had the courage of their convictions and did not believe a man entitled to a voice in the affairs of the nation, if he were afraid of recording his vote openly. The secret ballot was introduced, after a long and vehement opposition, in 1872, the proper 'climate' having been created by decades of pseudo-democratic vapourings of liberal-radical sentimentalists and career politicians.

"The secret ballot is essentially a device for evading responsibility, and much of the lawlessness and degradation of the present political situation can be directly traced to its introduction. It should be abolished and replaced by an open, recorded, and published vote. —I am, etc.,

"W. L. Richardson."

\* \* \* \*

### **Socialism and Christianity**

"It was because of the spiritual nature of man that Karl Marx repudiated democracy. Writing in 1843, he said that the democratic conception of man, namely, that 'not one man alone, but each 'man has a sovereign being', is the essence of democracy—which, indeed, it is. He rejected that kind of democracy by saying it was founded upon 'the illusion, the dream and the postulate of Christianity, namely, man has a sovereign soul'."

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

In his first edition of *Das Kapital*, Marx wrote: "I speak of individuals in so far as they are personifications of economic categories and representatives of special classes of relations and interests". In other words, Marx believed that an individual only had a value because he was the member of a special group.

There are many useful innocents who believe that Socialism and Christianity are compatible!

\* \* \* \*

### **Socialisation by Stealth**

In a recent press statement the Premier of New South Wales (Mr. McGirr) announced that his Government would expend £70,000 on new machinery for the State dockyard, Newcastle, to enable it to manufacture electrical equipment. This announcement will mean that the heavy electrical industry, already seriously short of labour and materials, will have this position made worse to the grave detriment of production of much needed generating and distribution equipment.

Further evidence of socialism on the part of the Federal Government appeared in the *Melbourne Herald* of July 26. Senator Cameron, the P.M.G., then declared that the departmental workshops in Melbourne and Sydney, which were merely repair shops before the war, had taken up manufacture as soon as the war ended.

He said that already about 102,000 automatic and manual telephones valued at an average of £5 each had been produced. Workshop staff had risen from 771 in 1939 to 2,606 in 1949. Expenditure of £519,971 in 1939 had risen to £2,200,000 in the past twelve months.

The Commonwealth Auditor-General in his last annual report revealed that the products of Government workshops were so high in cost that the selling price had to be reduced by a subsidy from general revenue.

—*Canberra Newsletter*, Aug. 10, 1949.

### **"Modern" Government**

In a featured article in the *Melbourne Age* of August 25, Professor W. Friedmann, German-Jewish lecturer at the Melbourne University, very subtly introduces the idea of inevitability concerning Socialism: ". . . no modern Government . . . can afford to govern without a considerable measure of planning and State control. . . ."

The use of the term "modern" is no doubt calculated to suggest progress. The "modern" idea of Governments is in reality most reactionary; the conception of individuals as the mere property of Governments. If this conception of Government is accepted, of course "State control" and the Police State must follow. But, unfortunately for the reactionaries, there is encouraging evidence to suggest that the "modern" Government idea is being doubted by an increasing number of people.

There is no hope for Western Civilization until firm action is taken to put Governments in their proper place. At best all Governments should be recognised as a necessary evil and granted only the minimum of power by electors.

## S.A. LEAGUE OF RIGHTS ACTIVITIES

In addition to the speakers' class (which commenced on the 11th instant, and will end on the 3rd of November) being held every Thursday, under the tutelage of Mr. Blackmore, Principal of Charters Business College, a discussion and study class will commence on the 22nd August, and will be held every Monday except the first Monday of each month, and will end on the 31st October.

The study and discussion of this class will be based on the League of Rights' objectives, which should open up a wide, profitable and interesting field of discussion for all who attend, and will be an excellent opportunity for student speakers to get in important practice.

All *New Times* readers and their friends are invited to attend both classes, which are free.

E. C. Finn, Secretary, League of Rights, National Mutual Building, 91 King William Street, Adelaide, S.A.

## THE DOLLAR BOGEY

(Continued from page 1)

because Chifley interferes with import licences. Hands off imports would be the real test of the dollar position. Get rid of the Departmental red tape. Of exchange controls and all the other official mumbo-jumbo. That is the quickest way to kill the dollar bogey. We were never in a more favourable position to build up American markets. That is the quickest way to restore normal trade.

—*The Century*, Sydney, Aug. 26, 1949.

# The "Dollar Crisis" and Totalitarianism

It is certain that the Socialist totalitarian, both in Great Britain and Australia, are going to try and use the further intensification of the "dollar crisis" to impose more totalitarianism. Mr. Chifley and Mr. Dedman, backed by Dr. Coombs, product of the London School of Economics, are backing Sir Stafford Cripps in his policy of more austerity. Mr. Chifley and his "advisers" must not be permitted to impose more regimentation upon the Australian people under the plea of helping the British people. The Australian people can do little to help the British people until the British people challenge the disastrous financial and economic policies pursued by the British Socialists.

Amidst all the "explanations" by the "experts" concerning the "dollar crisis", very little mention has been made of the basic issue to be resolved. The U.S.A. more than doubled its industrial capacity during the war years, and today has two-thirds of the industrial machinery in the entire world. In various ways the U.S.A. has been exporting far more than has been imported over the past few years in particular.

The suggestion that if Great Britain should devalue sterling, it would mean that British exports might be easier to sell in the U.S.A., completely ignores the fact that there is growing agitation in the U.S.A. to increase tariff barriers in order to try and prevent imports from competing with local products. A new approach will have to be made to international trade if the "dollar crisis" is to be solved.

## Canadian Minister Speaks Out

It is surely madness—or is it something even worse—when the "dollar crisis" prevents the Canadian people from selling food to their rationed fellow-Britisher in Great Britain. Every loyal Britisher should ponder carefully the following extract from *The Montreal Daily Star* (Canada), of December 17, 1948:

"The Rt. Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Canada's Agriculture Minister, said today that Canada's hopes of long-term large-scale food agreements with the United Kingdom were 'dashed to the ground' by currency difficulties. Speaking to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in London, he described how Canada had food to sell and Britain was unable to buy.

"I am convinced that the world is not in any state of mind where it can be expected to agree that the manipulation of any system or systems of currency is going to be allowed to interfere with the will of those who have empty stomachs when it is preventing their purchasing surpluses of food and distributing them," he said.

"He cited these points as difficulties in Anglo-Canadian dealings: —Economic Recovery Programme regulations prevent sale to Britain of Canadian surpluses, such as beans and fish.

"There is no plan for exchange of British cars or steel products for Canadian food, although Britain gives Russia tinplate for fish. Although Canadian production was increased largely during the war when Britain was in urgent need, British negotiators now propose imports, from Canada similar to those of pre-war days." (N.B., or less.)

"It might be a good thing for everybody if they would close down United Nations meetings long enough to permit some of the United Kingdom and United

States experts to get together and settle some basis on which dollars and sterling can be converted to allow nations like Canada to produce food to feed the starving millions and distribute it," said Mr. Gardiner, as the audience applauded . . .

"If the dollar situation had not intervened we should have been in a position to send, in 1949, more than 300,000,000 pounds of bacon, nearly 200,000,000 pounds of beef, 80,000,000 dozens of eggs, several hundred thousand barrels of apples, thousands of bushels of beans, and as much jam as your traders feel you can afford . . .

"We cannot sell apples, beans, jam and salmon to anyone at any price under the present dollar arrangements, and for the moment we are finding it impossible to dispose of millions of bushels of linseed at 30 percent less than you are paying others for it," said Mr. Gardiner.

"He said it was 'difficult for us to understand why anyone should expect us to be other than disappointed with the 1949 contracts for bacon and cheese, with no beef cattle.'"

—*Vic. League of Rights Bulletin*, Aug., 1949.

## LOSS OF SOVEREIGNTY

Dear Sir, —

In the *West Australian*, of August 24, is what appears to be an admission by Mr. Chifley, when he addressed a meeting of Australian Labour Party delegates, at Kalgoorlie, W.A., THAT WE HAD LOST OUR SOVEREIGNTY. This, as I see it, is a consequence of signing the "Bretton Woods" Treaty. Mr. Chifley, among other things, said: ". . . The fact was that the Government had gone specially to the International Monetary Fund for PERMISSION, (my emphasis) to subsidise West Australian Mines, and West Australian Mines only, on the ground of isolation of many of the towns and their dependence on gold."

As it is quite possible that the Eastern States papers have not published the above, I enclose the cutting for your information.

In view of the warnings that appeared in the *New Times* pointing out the dangers implicit in the Bretton Woods' Agreement, which the Chifley Government ignored, the admission by Mr. Chifley that now he has to ask "permission" to subsidise any undertaking is surely PROOF that we are now NOT a Sovereign Nation, but a vassal State, and if any evidence is wanted by the people of Australia that the policy of the *New Times* was, and is, right, Mr. Chifley has produced it. —Yours sincerely,

—Wm. F. Andrews, 544 Hay St., Perth, W.A.

## 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 fair more than a "funny money" scheme. The author makes it clear that bank nationalisation and "State control of the issue of credit" have 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."

*Constitutional Barriers To Serfdom* 7d.

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

# THE NEW TIMES

Established 1935

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

Postal Address: Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne. Telephone: MU2834.

VOL. 15.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1949.

No. 36.

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## THE WORLD PLOT

*Over a number of years it has been the unpleasant and unhappy task of this journal to present indisputable evidence proving that revolutions, wars, and economic "crises" of various types, have all been deliberately arranged for the purpose of creating suitable conditions for the centralisation of all power into the hands of a small group of International Zionist power-lusters. These Zionist plotters have made no secret of their support for the worldwide Communist and Socialist conspiracies. They probably regard most Communists and Socialists as dupes who play an important role in helping to centralise power.*

*But the Zionists use not only the Communists; at present they are being particularly successful in encouraging centralising policies by "anti-Communists". Although press reports describe the idea of a "United States of Europe" as a "Churchillian conception", the truth is, of course, that this idea can be traced back to the revolutionary secret societies, which tried to undermine Europe last century. Mr. Churchill's great prestige is being used to foist upon the European people a policy, which will lead to the destruction of their local sovereignty. It is remarkable how a man of Mr. Churchill's perception can attack the centralising policies of Socialism as applied in his own country, and yet at the same time support the same policies by advocating a "United States of Europe". The masters of the Kremlin will, of course, regard with favour all efforts to centralise power in Europe. The Communists welcome the centralisation of power in all spheres—irrespective of who does the centralising.*

*.....A significant feature of the recent European Assembly was a motion submitted by Mr. R. W. G. Mackay, Australian-born Member of the House of Commons. Mr. Mackay said that the European Assembly "should become a European Parliament next year with power to write a Federal Constitution and set up a Federal Government of Europe similar to the United States and Australian federations." Mr. Mackay was the gentleman who visited Australia during the war years and attempted to have the treasonable Federal Union idea accepted. Our regular readers will recall how we exposed Federal Union as a plan by the Zionist financiers to destroy the sovereignty of the members of the British Empire.*

*Once a Federal Government of Europe was established, steps would then be taken—under the pretext of dealing with various "crises"—to centralise power still further. Centralised control of the financial policies of all European countries is obviously one of the major objectives sought. Anyone who doubts this should note the way in which the "dollar crisis" is being exploited to suggest an "Anglo-American economic union." The Melbourne Sun of August 18 quotes the Wall Street Journal as saying that American State Department officials are working on plans for the proposed union. "Economic union" such as proposed would mean the complete subjugation of the British people to the Zionist gangsters of Wall Street.*

*Speaking at Geelong on August 29, Mr. J. J. Dedman, M.H.R., who represented the Australian Government at the recent London Financial Conference, admitted, "a suggestion for a common British-U.S. currency had been advanced at the discussions." With some regret, Mr. Dedman said that the people had not yet reached a suitable "stage of political education" to accept such a proposal. We trust that the peoples of the British Empire never become so "politically educated" that they accept serfdom as progress.*

## Timely Remarks

At a time when most of those in key positions are either advocating more regimentation and centralisation or saying much that means little, it was refreshing to see Sir John Latham, of the High Court, upholding the rights of the citizen. The occasion was the recent annual Convention of the Law Council of Australia held in Melbourne.

He said that in view of the increasing extension of Government activities, it had become all the more necessary to see that the citizen was protected against arbitrary governmental action not authorised by the law. Not only citizens, but governments must obey the law, he declared.

The Chief Justice is to be commended for his timely remarks.

—H.G.

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## SOCIALISM BY THE BACK ROAD

"But there is a considerable group of fuzzy-minded people who are engineering a compromise with all these European infections. They fail to realise that our American system has grown away from the systems of Europe for 250 years.

"They have a foolish notion that the collective economy can at the same time preserve personal liberty and constitutional government.

"Many Americans don't believe in a compromise with collectivism, but they do not realise that through Governmental spending and taxes our nation is blissfully driving down the back road to it at top speed."

—Herbert Hoover, ex-President U.S.A.

Australian Liberals, please take note.

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## RESPONSIBILITY

This contest between the integrity of the individual and the integrity of the state can conceivably last to the end of our lifetime. Theoretically the odds lie with the forces of freedom. For where the state is an instrument of government employed by individuals for their common welfare, the progress of the state is propelled by the progress of the individual. And there can be no doubt in our minds that an unfettered people will advance farther and faster in spiritual truths, social improvement, and material reward than any slave people irrespective of the lash under which they labour.

Democracy cannot be defeated in this struggle; it can only lose by default. It can only lose if people deny through indifference and neglect their personal responsibilities for its security and growth.

—General Omar N. Bradley, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army.

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## CLIVE TURNBULL

Mr. Turnbull, late of the Melbourne Herald, has joined the staff of our new socialist daily paper, the Melbourne Argus. Mr. Turnbull insists that he is not a Socialist, but he almost invariably supports Socialist policies.

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

# The Road to Industrial Conscription

**We are indebted to a recent issue of the *Economic News* for this very sound statement on matters of fundamental importance by Mr. Colin Clark. Mr. Clark is economic adviser to the Queensland Government. We hope that the Queensland Government and others will heed this timely warning on present policies.**

The road along which we are travelling looks a pleasant one, with increasing wages, an abundance of jobs offering, and a system of social services to protect us against all life's contingencies. It comes as a shock to be told that one or two more turns of the road will bring us in sight of its end in the dark prison of industrial conscription—an end which is already nearer than we care to think.

Subject to the observance of industrial laws and awards (and, in the case of a few trades and professions, to the possession of the qualifications necessary for the preservation of public health and public safety), the Australian is generally free to work at any trade or occupation he desires; and, what is more important, he has the right (after giving notice as required by industrial law) to leave his employment, either permanently or temporarily, by way of a strike, if he is dissatisfied with it.

Industrial conscription means a denial of these rights.

A cunning administrator may introduce industrial conscription at first in the form of a prohibition on men leaving their employment, before he goes on to the final stage of conscripting men for employment which they do not wish to take; and he may, at the start, leave the great majority free.

These points are of minor importance. Once the Government's right to compel any man to take employment, or to prevent him from leaving it, has been established as a legal principle, then it is only a matter of time before the whole population, except for a small privileged governing class, becomes subject to industrial conscription.

## Socialism

The question of whether Socialism would bring economic security cannot be answered till we define what brand of Socialism we mean. If Socialism be interpreted in the broad sense, i.e., as the duty of the State to exercise a general supervision over economic life and to intervene under certain circumstances (i.e., the denial of the *laissez faire* principle), then this leaves the problem of economic security very much where we found it.

If, on the other hand, we interpret the word in the strict sense of the ownership of all means of production by the State, then it is obvious that there will be complete economic security, but, at the same time, there must be industrial conscription. If all means of production are owned by the State, no man can undertake work of any kind, nor leave his work, without the State's consent.

As a third alternative, many Socialists (perhaps the majority) have drifted into accepting the kind of society, which actually prevails today—a society in which many enterprises are owned or controlled by Governments, and many others which are not fully Government owned, are

grouped together in large organisations.

But, in either case, the man who owns property counts for very much less than he did. The people who count in this modern society are the executives and managers, whether public servants running nationalised industries, or successful business executives running large-scale private corporations — it is getting harder and harder to tell them apart.

British coalminers, for instance, have found under nationalisation that a National Coal Board staffed by public servants, is just as remote from them as its capitalist predecessors were.

Even if the cash incomes of the aristocrats of the "managerial society" are not so high as those of the old-style capitalist, they are supplemented by allowances for entertaining, motorcars, housing, and privileges of all kinds. And meanwhile the ordinary worker's demand for economic security remains unanswered.

## Security—On One Condition

While we may get a lot of fine phrases about "full employment" and "the new order," and "freedom from fear," those in charge of industry, whether capitalistic or managerial, do not really want to see unemployment disappear. They want to maintain a "reserve of labour"; and the larger and more complex the units in which they organise industry, the more necessary they consider it to have a large reserve of labour so that their plans shall not be disrupted by any labour shortage. They rely on the fear of unemployment to preserve what they call "industrial discipline," and they think that the manual worker, freed from the fear of unemployment, would become too independent altogether, and might no longer be willing to work for them.

There is, however, one condition on which the manual worker is offered security. And that is if he is willing to take the step of sacrificing his freedom.

The whole line of propaganda of recent years has been to tell the worker that his so-called freedom is really only "freedom to starve," and that he should not worry much about having to sacrifice it if he obtains security in exchange. The worker is told (with some degree of justification) that he cannot expect the employer to guarantee him his job unless at the same time he undertakes to work continuously for the same employer, and so, by a gradual series of steps, we come back to the state of affairs where the worker is bound for life to go on working for the same employer.

If his present employer is a good one, the worker may indeed think that there is not much wrong with this arrangement. Little does he realise the degradation of his rights and personal dignity, which will swiftly follow once he has lost his legal freedom to leave his employment; he will have returned to serfdom, with all its ancient evils.

## MILK

## PASTUERISATION

### A DANGEROUS POLICY

The daily press has started an all-out campaign to implement the Milk Pasteurisation Act of 1943. As usual the public has not been consulted. The proposals are that all milk be pasteurised and that the Government, not private enterprise, will establish the depots and carry out the work. This means that many thousands of the taxpayers' money will be spent on expensive machinery to cook all our milk supplies. Should any consumers require fresh raw milk for their children, it just *won't* be available. Another bureaucratic body will be necessary to supervise the scheme. Milk will have to be carted long distances to and from the pasteurisation depots, resulting in more handling and a dearer product. Even if some private dairies are permitted to pasteurise, it must follow that the big dairymen will profit at the expense of the smaller ones. The idea will be welcomed by the unclean milkmen, as, owing to the "keeping" qualities of the processed milk, less care will be required in its handling.

As the treated milk will have very little advantage over powdered milk, there will be a rush to buy the tinned milk now manufactured by one or two monopolistic concerns. This will mean that still more small dairymen will be forced out of business. An eminent physician to the London Hospital for Sick Children recently stated, "Only a fool will cook good milk and only a knave will cook bad milk."

As any milk will be considered "safe" when treated, dairymen will be encouraged to produce inferior milk.

### An Authority

Dr. Ulric Williams, an authority on dietetics, says that pasteurisation spoils good milk and can only make bad milk worse. The minerals are altered and precipitated, vitamins reduced, ferments destroyed, lactic acid bacilli killed and the flavour perverted. Even the killing of germs, which orthodox "scientific" neglect introduces into milk, depends absolutely on so many factors, human and mechanical, that, by the time the resultant rubbish is consumed, it is liable to be actively poisonous.

### An Experiment

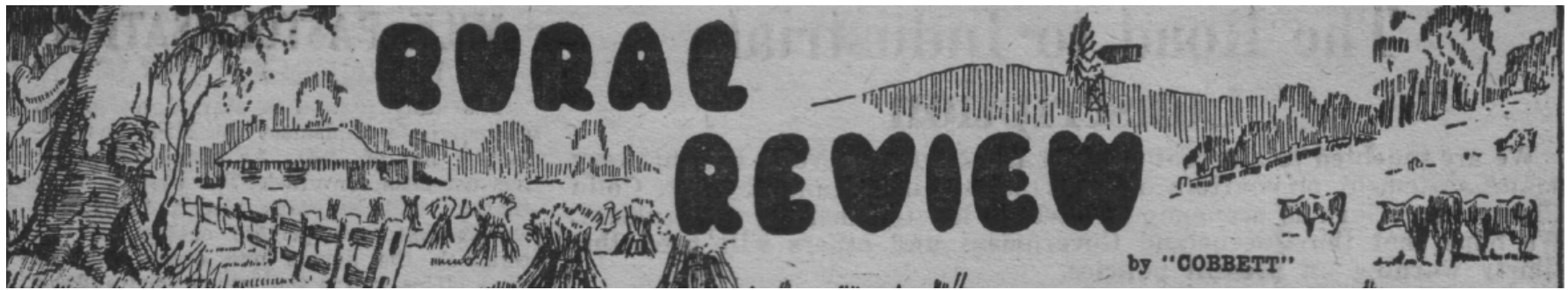
In 1932 the Agricultural College at Auchincruive, near Ayr (West Scotland), conducted experiments on calves. For 90 days, two groups, each of eight calves, were fed—one group on raw, the other on pasteurised milk. All in the first group finished the trial in thriving condition, the second were unhealthy. Two out of this group died before 30 days, one was removed to save its life, and the fourth died on the 92nd day (two days after the end of the trial).

### Will Not Prevent Epidemics

The exaggerated claims that pasteurisation will prevent tuberculosis, typhoid and scarlet fever epidemics have induced many well-meaning people to support the scheme. It has now been proved, however, that the "bovine type" of tuberculosis is very prevalent among the Alaska Indians, who are hundreds of miles from any cows. The only milk they get is tinned milk. Epidemics will continue with or without pasteurisation

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## Market Gardening without Plough or "Fertiliser"

By J. CLIFFORD BALDWIN

From the viewpoint of the future health and happiness of the people of this country, it is a most hopeful sign that so many of them feel they would prefer to earn their living on the land. The majority of these are not in a position to achieve their desire, but some do, nevertheless, overcome the initial difficulties and make a start. It has been suggested that although the number of these actual beginners is small, it is still too great and that there are many now embarking upon an agricultural career, who, for various reasons—lack of capital, inexperience, temperament, physique—are doomed to disillusionment sooner or later. I believe this suggestion to be true, unfortunately, and, reviewing my own early efforts, I realise how lucky I have been. It is possible that a brief account of some of my own mistakes might warn others seeking to follow the same path and enable them to profit accordingly.

### Compost the Key

I realise much more clearly now than I did earlier how fortunate it was for me that I recognised, right at the beginning, the value of compost, furthermore, that I had the tremendous advantage of receiving advice and encouragement from Miss Maye Bruce, whose system of composting has proved to be of the utmost importance on my holding. Before I began growing vegetables commercially, it had been my experience all too often to hear farmers and growers complaining of diseases and pests. Neither stock nor crops seemed to possess any innate powers of resistance to these troubles. They could only be maintained in the state of precarious health by the use of sprays and insecticides, which increased in number and complexity each year. Health based on such methods was, I felt, merely the absence of disease, a purely negative condition in which the omission of a particular preventative invited the immediate appearance of disease. I have learned that by treating the soil according to the Law of Return and by putting back into the soil the humus, which belongs to it, a healthy soil will as a natural consequence grow healthy plants. That was my belief when I set out to grow vegetables for market and after eight years of proof it has become a basic principle of our system of cultivation.

### Reduced Disease

I would like to take the opportunity to say at this point that we do not claim to have no diseased plants ever. We do sometimes get one or two, but the trouble ends there, and does not become anything to cause anxiety because the surrounding plants, being disease resistant, do not permit any spreading of the disease.

For my cloche market garden I took over two acres of poor land which, after lying

derelict for four years, had been ploughed much too deeply just before my arrival. The original top soil—a stiffish mixture of clay and sand about four inches thick—had been buried by this deep ploughing under three to four inches of sour clay subsoil. Experienced farmers can easily imagine what the result would have been if I had applied inorganic "fertilisers" to soil in that condition. Farmyard manure was practically unobtainable, and I have not the slightest doubt that without the application of compost, the soil would have quickly lost what little fertility it then possessed.

At first, in our anxiety to treat as large an area as possible, we spread the compost rather too thinly, and gave too light a dressing per square yard. We ought to have made twice as much compost, but our excuse was that everything needed to be done at the same time, and so much was fresh to us. Also, the War Agricultural Executive Committee has a great anxiety to see that the whole of one's holding is under cultivation. A dressing of compost two inches deep is much more encouraging and profitable to the plants on poor land, and incidentally to the grower—than a lighter one. Subsequent dressings when the land is responding to treatment need only be one inch deep.

### No Ploughing Tests

We used to plough this dressing into the soil in the autumn, and when a tilth was required for immediate sowing, followed with cultivating, harrowing and, finally, hand-raking the beds. Otherwise, the breaking down work was left until March or April for Spring sowing. I came to doubt the value of this orthodox ploughing routine, as I felt that the compost was thereby made less accessible to the shallow-rooting vegetables we were growing. We were also trying to plough more deeply each season. Just at this time I read Faulkner's Ploughman's Folly, and was

much impressed with his views on ploughing. We arranged to make a comparative test, and subsoiled all the beds by means of a pair of cultivating tines made stout enough to work down to 15 inches deep. We then allowed half the beds to remain undisturbed until the spring, but the other half were ploughed and then allowed to lie until the spring. We then found that we obtained a better tilth with less labour on the unploughed beds, and obtained slightly better crops, too. Since that time, we have cut out all ploughing, sold the plough and have used a rotary hoe instead. This implement works an annual dressing of compost into the top four inches, and as the depth of fertile topsoil is increasing we work down a little deeper each year. When advisable we shall subsoil, or grow one of the deep-rooting clovers as a compost material crop on all beds in turn.

This system of building up the humus content of the soil has had a marked effect. The field is a sloping one and when we first began to cultivate it we found that after a moderate fall of rain the run-off was very heavy. The sandy part of the soil was washed down to accumulate at the bottom of the slope or was carried away to the brook altogether, and the clay exposed as an upper layer on the surface where it baked in dry weather and increased the run-off in wet weather. Now, however, run-off is negligible, the soil takes much longer to dry out in a dry spell, and the clay is giving place to a more crumbly type of soil altogether. In fact, when we mulch crops in the summer with a layer of compost on the surface, it is amazing how well plants will thrive with no watering at all. And, of course, the water-holding capacity of the soil has been considerably increased by the compost we have added so that more moisture is available for gradual release in a period of drought.

### Warmer Soil

The colour of the soil is becoming darker; a circumstance which should help to keep it warmer in winter and to an increasing extent help the cloches to preserve and forward the growth of tender salad crops, no matter how hard our midland winter may be. Even during the record cold spell of February and March 1947, our lettuce and peas came through completely unharmed, and were marketed only a few days later than the preceding year.

For eight years we have used absolutely no inorganic "fertilisers" at all, so there can be no suspicion that we are benefiting from previous dressings of them. We use lime in the process of building compost heaps and the activator is herbal. The results we are getting every season give me very satisfactory grounds for saying that the profitable growing of healthy plants is

(Continued on page 7)

## Market Gardening without Plough or Fertilizer

(Continued from page 6)

most effectively obtained by dispensing completely with inorganics. It may seem to the beginner that compost making involves more trouble and expense than simply ordering delivery of bags of "fertilisers". But one easily creates a routine procedure of composting to meet particular circumstances and requirements. Much of the work can be done when the weather is unsuitable for other kinds of work and helps to provide profitable occupation for labour, which must be retained so that it may be available later on.

### Compost Costs Less

The costing of compost is difficult because so many of the items vary, e.g. the weight per cu. yd. of the finished product, price of the original greenstuff and type of labour used. We arrange matters here so that our material is practically free and the cost per ton is approximately £1. We give compost dressing of 12 to 15 tons per acre annually and our manuring expenses are finished; we have no extra bills for dusting or spraying and can rely—barring accidents—on marketing good quality crops early in their season.

I have purposely refrained from including among the advantages of compost the health-giving quality of produce grown solely on it. I am writing as a commercial grower, and I have not found that the general public, in this district at any rate, is discriminating enough or sufficiently well informed on health matters to pay more for health-promoting produce as such. Size or colour is the usual criterion of the average buyer, and the bulk of vegetable produce is bought on such inadequate and misapplied standards. The points in one's favour from the commercial angle are rather the earliness, appearance, flavour or keeping quality of compost-grown produce. In the case of our own vegetables the earliness is due to the combined use of cloches and compost. When cloches are used the quicker growth enables more crops to be grown in the year, and makes it all the more essential for the soil to be maintained at a higher level of fertility by the use of compost than would be possible otherwise for any prolonged period.

### Materials for Compost

While agreeing that composting is an excellent practice, people occasionally argue that it is economically possible only where adequate supplies of greenstuff or other suitable material are available cheaply. Furthermore they say, that in areas where growers are concentrated, there would be a shortage of material if everyone began compost making. One is frequently aware on listening to such an objection that the real difficulty is the perfectly natural human disinclination to take a new line of action. The bad old way appeals to our mental laziness as the easier route to follow. When a grower is really determined on compost making, he quickly becomes compost-minded so that the amount of previously unnoticed material is amazing in its abundance. All these awkward uncultivated corners, hedge-bottoms, path and roadway edges all yield two or three "crops" a year, and neighbours offer you quantities if you will only cut it for them.

## High Lights of British Empire Conference of Plant, Animal and Soil Scientists

By "COBBETT"

Little attention has been paid in the daily press to one of the most important conferences of our day, which is taking place at Adelaide. Here there are nine top-flight men from Britain, six New Zealanders, two from Canada, two South Africans, one each from India and East Africa, three observers from the United States, and delegates from all Australian States.

Until August 31, delegates and observers will deliberate in Adelaide. On September 1, they will begin a tour lasting ten days through southern South Australia, Victoria and southern New South Wales, and finally will meet in Canberra where they will review the results of the conference and formulate specific recommendations, which will have a vital effect on the future of agriculture in Australia and the Empire.

### Quality Versus Quantity

Professor W. A. Albrecht, one of the visiting U.S.A. observers to the conference, who has spent two months in Australia, gave a very important address at the Melbourne University. He stressed the

All of this in addition to the regular supply of weeds and crop residues from cultivated ground.

But, even if no sources were available, I believe it would be practicable to work on lines suggested recently by the Editor of *The Farmer*, where he advised the growing of a green manure crop to increase soil fertility. This could be done systematically in sufficient quantities to make good any shortages of material. These crops would not, in these circumstances, be worked into the soil immediately, but would be cut and composted.

On my holding we do not hesitate to include any diseased material when building a compost heap, and have never experienced any subsequent trouble from so doing. We are careful to see that any such material is built into a heap which is at the normal temperature of properly made heaps—about 150 degrees F., where the heat will effectively kill disease. We do not have more than a very occasional plant of our own growing, which falls into disgrace, but we have used larger quantities in "imported" material with no ill effects.

Weed seeds are dealt with in the same manner. We prefer to place them in the centre of the heaps where the heat is greatest, but this is not always possible, of course, and if they do germinate later they are few enough to be dealt with when hoeing is in progress. In connection with weeds it should be borne in mind that to compost user weeds have a value they do not possess for the inorganic grower.

It is a source of continual encouragement to see how quickly interest in compost is growing and how enthusiastic growers become when they have once seen for themselves the effect on their crops of the compost they have made. With some exceptions, the official attitude to those of us who have forsworn inorganics is, at best, lukewarm. However, the increasing number of ordinary growers and farmers who require no further proof than their own experience will, sooner than we imagine, leave the laboratory experts with no other

(Continued on page 8)

necessity of a change of attitude on the part of scientists. Less attention, he said, should be paid to increasing quantity and more on the feeding value of crops grown. Decline in food quality was not limited to food and fodder grains, but pastures, hay and forage crops were deteriorating year by year owing to the loss of soil fertility.

"What is necessary is a more intense study of soil fertility designed to answer the question—how can we lift the level of valuable proteins and minerals in our farm crops and thus improve the health of our farm animals and ourselves?"

Here is an admission of the vital factor, which organic farmers are constantly stressing—the relationship between the fertility of the soil and the health of the community.

### Pests and Diseases

In regard to pests and diseases he had this to say: "To feed adequately was to be healthy. Perhaps we have to think less in terms of fighting many diseases and pests with sprays and powders, and more of making our crops resistant to attack by assuring the fertility of the soil on which they are grown." He also suggested that more attention should be given to the inoculation of legumes with bacteria in Australia.

He considered that lime should be used more frequently, although Australian soils are more alkaline than acid, as better response would be obtained, especially if we judged the results on the basis of quality rather than quantity. He believed that in some cases the crop improvement, which in Australia was attributed to, the use of superphosphate was partly due to the calcium in the fertiliser, "an expensive way of making up soil calcium deficiency."

### Delegate Supports "No Digging"

Dr. B. A. Kean, from East Africa, who gave a warning to the delegates against over-cultivation, said that the capillarity theory of moisture rising in the soil had collapsed, and the practice of frequent cultivation of the soil to preserve moisture was a wasteful expenditure of time and energy. So long as weeds were controlled in the early stages of the germination of the crop and its establishment, no useful purpose could be served by cultivation. He gave examples of a three-year potato cultivation experiment, which was carried out in England.

In one group of plots no cultivation of any kind was carried out. Beyond chipping away weeds the land was left undisturbed. A second group was treated according to normal practice, i.e. one early cultivation or "grubbing", followed by a second before ridging or earthing up.

The third group received three or four

(Continued on page 8)

"New Times," September 9, 1949 — Page 7

## BRITISH EMPIRE CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 7)

additional cultivations between the normal early grubbing and the final ridging. The results of the trials showed that the three plots yielded the same average crop.

Dr. Kean concluded by saying, "Since every cultivation means an expenditure in time, fuel and wear and tear of implements, the economic aspect of avoiding unnecessary cultivation is most important, quite apart from the urgent danger of deteriorating soil structure by repeated mechanical stirring."

### **Importance of Soil Life Stressed**

Dr. R. J. Swabey, of Sydney University, warned delegates that all farming practices should be judged not only on their capacity to improve crop yields, but also by their effects on the soil organisms so intimately associated with soil fertility.

"A new understanding of the dominant roles played in nature by soil micro-organisms is essential to avoid disturbance of the biological equilibrium in the soil, with consequent decline in soil fertility, loss of soil structure and soil erosion."

While the application of artificial manures, he said, was a short cut in the supplying of nutriment to the plant, the production of most farm products depends upon the end products of decomposition.

He instanced that the "mychorizzal" association between fungi and plant roots was an important contributory factor in the nutrition of some plants and that nitrogen bacteria, both free living and nodule forming, were vitally important in agriculture.

### **Unscientific Statement**

However, when it came to the question of the effects of artificial fertilisers on the quality of crops, Dr. Swabey condemned the notion that there was any difference between crops raised on organically manured soils and those grown with the aid of artificials. He said, "There seems to be not the slightest difference between the quality and food value of fruits and vegetables and cereals grown with the association of 'organic' or 'inorganic' fertilisers so long as no essential minerals are missing in the soil." This statement is unscientific in itself. The use of the word "seems" leaves the question open. Dr. Swabey is not the first scientist to try to demolish the claims of organic farmers, which they have repeatedly stressed that there is a distinct improvement in the produce grown organically without the aid of artificials.

Professor Leeper, of Melbourne University, also made a similar statement; but it is quite ridiculous for our learned professors to imagine that repeating the statement often enough will convince those who have proved the matter for themselves. Non-scientists prefer to accept the evidence of their own sense of taste and smell and the satisfaction that comes from eating organically grown produce. The scientist cannot measure quality in the laboratory, but human beings and animals, too, are able to discriminate, and there is sufficient evidence to prove that not only do they prefer the organically grown food but that the results of eating it are shown in improved health.

## MILK PASTEURISATION

(Continued from page 5)

until such time as more attention is devoted to our own diet and that of cows, which supply the milk. Too much of our milk (and other foods) is produced from soils deficient in humus and fertilized with artificial manures.

If some dairymen are careless and unclean there should be stricter supervision by our dairy inspectors.

Instead of wasting huge sums on this machinery, it would be far better to spend only portion of this amount on subsidising, if necessary, assisting and advising milk producers to supply only good quality, clean, fresh raw milk.

—H.G.

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## Market Gardening

(Continued from page 7)

audience than the manufacturers and salesmen of the chemicals, the use of which they advocate. In my own district, I have seen most unlikely people becoming keen on the value of compost, and the correct treatment of our soil. Like myself, they do not attempt to explain satisfactorily why these things are so, but are content with the evidence of their senses that these things are so. I often meet disgruntled and bewildered users of "fertilisers", but, although we are all agreed that the weather and prices ought to be better, the compost users are enthusiastic and confident. —*The Farmer, Eng., Autumn, 1948.*

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