

# THE NEW TIMES

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SIXPENCE WEEKLY.

## Pressure For Price-Subsidies Must Be Increased

**There is growing evidence that our persistent campaigning for the reintroduction and scientific extension of price-subsidies is bearing fruit. The great danger is, however, that this idea will be deliberately perverted and thus discredited. We appeal to all our readers to co-operate with us in ensuring that this does not happen.**

In a statement issued on January 22, the Premier of Victoria, Mr. T. T. Hollway, hinted that Victoria was likely to take the lead in urging that the Federal Government restore subsidies on vital consumer goods. He also made the following significant observation: "Substantial subsidies from the Commonwealth are the only means at the moment by which retail costs can be controlled." It is reported that other States, including N.S.W., are prepared to support Victoria's request to the Federal Government. The States must all realise that unless rising costs can be halted, the States are in the process of being economically destroyed.

Following Mr. Hollway's above statement, the following news-item appeared in the Melbourne *Sun* of January 26: "As a first step in bringing value back into the pound, the Federal Government is likely soon to subsidise some commodities in the cost-of-living index. Cabinet plans to begin its anti-inflation drive, in fulfilment of election pledges, on February 7.

"Appointment of a Ministerial economic policy committee was announced today by the Prime Minister (Mr. Menzies). The committee, he said, would work next week with a team of experts so that the Government could formulate a policy on price subsidies at once. . . . It was learned officially today that under the new subsidy system no attempt will be made to fix a price ceiling because this might inflate the Budget while wages and other industrial costs were unpegged."

The success of any price-subsidy system introduced by the Federal Government will, of course, depend upon how it is financed and operated. If the finance for the system is to come out of taxation, then obviously no genuine economic progress can be made. It may be that the Federal Government has adequate financial reserves at present, built up by the Chifley Government, to introduce for a period price-subsidies without increased taxation. If this is the case, it is preferable that money taken from the taxpayers in the past be given back to them direct via price-subsidies instead of increasing the inflationary spiral by using them on public works schemes.

However, the Federal Government must

be made to face the fact that they cannot introduce price-subsidies under present financial rules and at the same time honour their pre-election promise of reduced taxation. New financial credits must be specifically created for the financing of price-subsidies. Further, it is essential that the price-subsidy system operate in such a way that the benefits of the free market be retained and extended. All that is accomplished in order to do this is to pay subsidies only on goods bought at the retail counter by the customer. This would ensure that there was no subsidisation of inefficiency. It would also eliminate the bureaucratic management of the subsidy-system, which was so obvious previously.

If the present Federal Government can,

### A Sign of the Times

A system of finger printing for civil identification will be considered soon by the Federal Government.

The use of fingerprints for identification has developed in America beyond the classification of criminal records.

There, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in the Department of Justice, maintains a record of more than 6,000,000 fingerprints.

It was stated in Melbourne yesterday that the making of fingerprints compulsory throughout Australia and for migrants entering the Commonwealth, was under consideration in Canberra . . .

Recently Australian commissioners of police in conference agreed that an extension of the system to all citizens would provide the best means of identification.

Success of the national register in wartime emphasised the value of civil identification. Faster communications and travel in the world have convinced the advocates of universal fingerprinting of its value to the community.

*The Age, Melbourne, Dec. 22, 1949.*

#### OUR HEADING

A shadow of the Police State. The fact that such a proposal is to be even considered by the Federal Government shows how deeply we are steeped in servility.

in spite of any other weaknesses in policy matters, introduce a general price-subsidy mechanism along the lines we have suggested, they will have challenged the forces which seek to impose totalitarianism in this and other British countries. But they must first free themselves of the influence of the London School of Economic planners in the Canberra bureaucracy. These planners will sabotage the subsidy-idea unless public opinion insists that the Government face up to the points we have stressed.

Readers should immediately drop a line to their Federal Members about this matter.

### 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

# Magna Charta, 1215 A.D.

*An English Translation by C. F. Ashton*

**This week we publish the concluding portion of this important document. We are indebted to Mary H. Gray, of *The Vigilant*, Adelaide, for our copy.**

42. From henceforth nothing shall be given or taken for a writ of inquisition from him that desires (an inquisition) of life or limbs—but shall be granted gratis and not denied.

43. If any one hold of us by fee-farm, or socage, or burgage, and holds lands by another, of military service, we will not have the wardship of the heir or land which belongs to another man's fee, by reason of what he holds of us by fee-farm, socage, or burgage, nor will we have the wardship of any man's fee-farm, socage, or burgage, unless the fee-farm is bound to perform military service.

44. We will not have the wardship of an heir, not of any land which he holds of another by military service, by reason of any petty serjeantry he holds of us, as by the service of giving us daggers, arrows, or the like.

45. No bailiff, for the future, shall put any man to his law upon his single accusation, without credible witnesses produced to prove it.

46. No freeman shall be taken, or imprisoned, or disseised, or outlawed, or banished, or any ways destroyed; nor will we pass upon him, or commit him to prison, unless by the legal judgment of his peers, or by the law of the land.

47. We will sell, or deny, or defer, right or justice to no man.

48. All merchants shall have secure conduct to go out of England and to come into England, and to stay and abide there, and to pass as well by land as by water, to buy and sell, by the ancient and allowed customs, without any evil toils, except in time of war, or when they are of any nation at war with us.

49. And if there be found any such in our land in the beginning of the war, they shall be attached, without damage to their bodies or goods, until it may be known unto us, or our chief justiciary, how our merchants be treated in the nation at war with us; and if ours be safe there, they shall be safe in our dominions.

50. It shall be lawful, for the time to come, for any one to go out of the kingdom, and return safely and securely, by land or by water, saving his allegiance to us, unless in time of war, by some short space, for the common benefit of the kingdom, except prisoners and outlaws (according to the law of the land), and people in war with us, and merchants who shall be in such condition as is above mentioned.

51. If any man holds of any escheat, as the honor of Wallingford, Nottingham, Boulogne, (?) Lancaster, or any other escheats which are in our hands, and are baronies, and dies, his heir shall not give any other relief, or perform any other service to us than he would to the baron, if the barony were in possession of the baron; we will hold it after the same manner the baron held it.

52. Those men who dwell without the

forest from henceforth shall not come before our justiciaries of the forest upon common summons, but such as are inpleaded on the pledges of any, for any that were attached for something concerning the forests.

53. We will not make any justiciaries, constables, sheriffs, or bailiffs, but such as are knowing in the laws of the realm, and are disposed duly to observe them,

54. All barons who are founders of abbeys, and have charters of the Kings of England (for the advowson?), or are entitled to it by ancient tenure, may have the custody of them when void, as they ought to have.

55. All woods that have been taken into the forest in our own time shall forthwith be laid out again; and the like shall be done with the rivers that have been taken or fenced in by us during our reign.

56. All evil customs concerning forests, warrens, and foresters, warreners, sheriffs and their officers, rivers and their keepers, shall forthwith be inquired into, in each county, by twelve knights of the same shire, chosen by the most creditable persons in the same county, and upon oath; and within forty days after the said inquest, be utterly abolished, so as never to be restored.

57. We will immediately give up all hostages and engagements delivered unto us by our English subjects as securities for their keeping the peace and yielding us faithful service.

58. We will entirely remove from our bailiwicks the relations of Gerard de Athyes, so that for the future they shall have no bailiwick in England. We will also remove Engelard de Cygony, Andrew, Peter and Gyon de Canceles, Gyon de Cygony, Geoffrey de Martyn, and his brothers; Phillip, Mark and his brothers, and his nephew Geoffrey, and their whole retinue.

59. And as soon as peace is restored we will send out of the kingdom all foreign soldiers, crossbow men and stipendiaries, who are come with horses and arms to the injury of our people.

60. If any one hath been dispossessed or deprived by us, without the legal judgment of his peers, of his lands, castles, liberties, or rights, we will forthwith restore them to him; and if any dispute arises upon this head, let the matter be decided by the five-and-twenty barons hereafter mentioned, for the preservation of the peace.

61. As for all those things of which any person has, without the legal judgment of his peers, been dispossessed or deprived, either by King Henry, our father, or our brother, King Richard, and which we have in our hands, or are possessed by others, and we are bound to warrant and make good, we shall have a respite till the term usually allowed the croises, excepting those things about which there is a suit depending or whereof an inquest hath been made by our order before we undertook the crusade; but when we return from our pilgrimage, or if we do not perform it, we will immediately cause full justice to be administered therein.

62. The same respite we shall have for

disafforesting the forests which Henry, our father, or our brother, Richard, have afforested, and for the wardship of the lands which are in another's fee, in the same manner as we have hitherto enjoyed those wardships by reason of a fee held of us by knight's service; and for the abbeys founded in any other fee than our own, in which the lord of the fee claims a right; and when we return from our pilgrimage, or if we should not perform it, we will immediately do full justice to all the complainants in his behalf.

63. No man shall be taken or imprisoned upon the appeal of a woman for the death of any other man than her husband.

64. All unjust and illegal fines, and all americiaments imposed unjustly and contrary to the law of the land, shall be entirely forgiven, or else be left to the decision of the five-and-twenty barons, here after mentioned, for the preservation of the peace, or of the major part of them, together with aforesaid Stephen, Archbishop of Canterbury, if he can be present, and others whom he shall think fit to take along with him; and if he cannot be present, the business shall, notwithstanding, go on with out him; but so that if one or more of the aforesaid five-and-twenty barons be plaintiffs in the same cause, they shall be set aside as to what concerns this particular affair, and others be chosen in their room out of the said five-and-twenty and sworn by the rest to decide that matter.

65. If we have disseised or dispossessed the Welsh of any lands, liberties or other things without the legal judgment of their peers, they shall immediately be restored to them. And if any dispute arise upon this head, the matter shall be determined in the Marches by the judgment of their peers; for tenements in England, according to the law of England; for tenements in Wales, according to the law of Wales; for tenements in the Marches, according to the law of the Marches, the same shall the Welsh do to us and our subjects.

66. As for all those things of which any Welshman hath without the legal judgment of his peers been disseised or deprived by King Henry, our father, or our fathers, or our brother, King Richard, and which we either have in our hands, or others are possessed of, and we are obliged to warrant, we shall have a respite till the time generally allowed the croises, excepting those things about which a suit is depending, or whereof an inquest hath been made by our order before we undertook the crusade, or whereof an inquest hath been made by our order before we undertook the crusade; but when we return, or if we stay at home, and do not perform our pilgrimage, we will immediately do them full justice according to the law of the Welsh, and of the parts afore-mentioned.

67. We will, without delay, dismiss the son of Lewelin and all the Welsh hostages, and release them from the engagements they entered into with us for the preservation of the peace.

68. We shall treat with Alexander, King of Scots, concerning the restoration of his sister and hostages, and his rights and liberties, in the same form (and manner) as we shall do the rest of our barons of England, unless by the engagements which his father, William, late King of Scots, hath entered into with us, it ought to be other-

# MAGNA CHARTA

(Continued from page 2)

wise, and this shall be left to the determination of his peers in our court.

69. All the aforesaid customs, privileges, and liberties which we have granted to be holden in our kingdom, as much as it belongs to us towards our people, all our subjects, as well clergy as laity, shall observe as far as they are concerned towards their dependents.

70. And whereas, for the honour of God and the amendment of our kingdom, and for quieting the discord that has arisen between us and our barons; we have granted all the things aforesaid. Willing to render them firm and lasting, we do give and grant our subjects the following security, namely, that the barons may choose five-and-twenty barons of the kingdom, whom they think convenient, who shall take care with all their might to hold and observe, and cause to be observed, the peace and liberties we have granted them, and by this our present charter confirmed; so that, if our justiciary, our bailiffs, or any of our officers, shall in any case fail in the performance of them towards any person, or shall break through any of these articles of peace and security, and the offence is notified to four barons, chosen out of the five-and-twenty aforesaid, the said four barons shall repair to us, or our justiciary, if we are out of the realm, and, laying, upon the grievance, shall petition to have it redressed without delay. And if it is not redressed by us, if we should chance to be out of the realm, if it is not redressed by our justiciary, within forty days, reckoning from the time it hath been notified to us, or to our justiciary, if we should be out of the realm, the four barons aforesaid shall lay the cause before the rest, and the five-and-twenty barons, and the said five-and-twenty barons, together with the community of the whole kingdom, shall distrain and distress as all the ways possible—namely, by seizing our castles, lands, and possessions, in any other manner they can, till the grievance is redressed according to their pleasure, saving harmless our own person, and the persons of our queen and children; and when it is redressed, they shall obey us as before.

71. Any person whatsoever in the kingdom may swear that he will obey the orders of the five-and-twenty barons aforesaid in the execution of the premises, and that he will distress us jointly with them to the utmost of his power; and we give public and free liberty to any one that will swear to them, and never shall hinder any person from taking the same oath.

72. As for all those of our subjects who will not of their own accord agree to join the five-and-twenty barons in distraining and distressing us, we will issue our order to make them take the same oath, as aforesaid.

73. And if any one of the five-and-twenty barons dies, or goes out of the kingdom, or is hindered any other way from putting the things aforesaid into execution, the rest of the five-and-twenty barons may choose another in his room, at their discretion, who shall be sworn in like manner as the rest.

74. In all things that are committed to charge of these five-and-twenty barons, if, when they are all assembled together,

they should happen to disagree about any matter, or some of them, when summoned, will not or cannot come, whatever is agreed upon or enjoined by the major part of those who are present shall be reputed as firm and solid as if all the five-and-twenty had given their consent; and the aforesaid five-and-twenty shall swear that all the premises they shall faithfully observe, and cause with all their power to be observed.

75. And we will not, by ourselves or others, procure anything whereby any of their concessions and liberties be revoked or lessened; and if any such thing be obtained, let it be null and void; neither shall we ever make use of it either by our selves or any other.

76. And all the ill-will-anger, and malice that hath risen between us and our subjects, of the clergy and laity, from the first breaking out of the dissension between us, we do fully remit and forgive. More over, all trespasses occasioned by the said dissension, from Easter, in the sixteenth year of our reign, till the restoration of peace and tranquility, we hereby entirely remit to all, clergy as well as laity, and, as far as in us, do fully forgive.

77. We have, moreover, granted them our letters patent testimonial of Stephen, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Archbishop of Dublin, and the bishops aforesaid, as also Master Pandulph for the Pope's security and concessions aforesaid.

78. Wherefore we will and firmly enjoin that the Church of England be free, and that all men in our kingdom have and hold all the aforesaid liberties, rights, and concessions, truly and peaceably, freely and quietly, fully and wholly, to themselves and their heirs, of us and our heirs, in all things and places, for ever, as is aforesaid.

79. It is also sworn, as well on our part as on the part of the barons, that all things aforesaid shall faithfully and sincerely be observed.

Given under our hand, in the presence of the witnesses above-named and many others, in the meadow called Runnymede, between Windsor and Stanes, on the fifteenth day of June, in the seventeenth year of our reign. . . . So as we are first acquainted therewith, or our justiciary, if we should not be in England . . . and in the same manner about administering justice, deforesting, or letting them continue.

## Scottish Nationalism

No doubt with all the other Walter Scott spirits looking on, Malachi Malagrowther's ghost is urging again what his original urged, and oddly enough in practically the same terms: i.e., a better deal for Scotland; away with the "despotic authority of English Boards"; an end to London assuming complete management of Scottish affairs. Against suggestions that complaints so old can't really be very strong or dangerous, London "Times" editorially asserts that in point of fact they are growing, with the most forcible activity that of a movement for a Scottish National Assembly and a new National Covenant. This movement, which has very solid backing, aims at securing for Scotland "a Parliament with adequate authority in Scottish affairs."

—*The Bulletin*, Jan. 25.

## 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."

*Constitutional Barriers To Serfdom* 7d

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## SENATOR McLEAY'S PLAN

*Although Senator McLeay's ten-point plan for industry has been hailed in many quarters as a basis for genuine industrial peace, we have no hesitation in saying now that this or any other plan is futile while industry continues to be governed by present financial rules. Senator McLeay's plan does not touch upon real fundamentals.*

*Employers are urged to treat their employees more liberally by the payment of bonuses, the provision of amenities, etc. Profit-sharing schemes are recommended and employers urged to "provide guarantees of economic security for every employee, subject to good conduct, up to a fair retiring age." All this and much more is very nice, but most employers do not need Governments to tell them that they will get better service from their employees if they can offer them the maximum of inducements. What many employers would like to know is how can they provide, say, permanent economic security for employees, when the present economic and financial system does not provide them with any guarantee of stability.*

*While agreeing wholeheartedly with the urgent necessity of increased production of certain essential goods and services, the Government is going to make little impression upon employees unless it can prove to them that a steady increase in production by harder work and greater efficiency is going to benefit them individually. Under the present financial rules, which are automatically inflationary, the employee has been compelled to resort to increasing demands for higher wages. Although these higher wages give the employee a temporary increase in purchasing power, it is not long before the increased wage costs are reflected in a general increase in prices, which wipes out the temporary advantage. The present financial rules condemn employers and employees to an increasing battle over wages and make it impossible to achieve genuine peace in industry. Anyone who doubts that greater efficiency and more production automatically result in genuine peace in industry should take note of what is happening in the U.S.A. today.*

*Genuine peace and stability in industry will only be obtained when financial policy ensures that every increase in efficiency is passed direct to the consumer. This can be most satisfactorily achieved by a progressive reduction in the price level. Events of the past fifty years, to go back no further, have demonstrated that, apart from depression periods, the present financial rules ensure that increased efficiency merely leads to increased prices. The major cause of these price increases is the fact that increased efficiency in industry, resulting in less purchasing power being distributed to consumers via wages, salaries, and dividends, has led to the creation and use of increasing amounts of new financial credits for capital works, both public and private. If there is any slackening in the programme of increasing capital development, there is a depression.*

*Our suggestion is that, instead of new financial credits being applied to an inflationary programme, they be applied to a price-subsidy system, which would reduce prices for all individuals. The greater the efficiency in industry, the greater the price reductions — i.e., the greater the increase in genuine purchasing power.*

*Senator McLeay should consider this matter.*

## Purchasing Power

A comparison of British and American living costs, based on how long a man has to work to buy what he needs, has been issued by the National Industrial Conference Board in New York.

For the whole range of commodities listed, ranging from potatoes to toothpaste, the average British worker, says the Board, has to work three and a half times as long as the average American worker. He has to work:

Nine times as long as the average American to buy twenty cigarettes.

Two and half times as long to buy a pound of sugar.

Four times as long to buy a hat, and three times as long to buy a suit or a wireless set.

Only two items are "cheaper" in London—haircuts and newspapers.

The National Industrial Conference Board is a reputable body. It is a non-political and non-profit organisation for "research and education in the field of economics." Immediately after devaluation it flew a team of research workers to London to work out comparative costs in terms of average wages.

The average hourly wage in America, based on official figures, was taken as \$1.417 (about 10/2). That of the British worker, based on a Ministry of Labour publication, was taken at 2/6.

Nearly all American goods quoted in the survey are dearer in price than similar British goods. It is the big difference in wage rates between the two countries, which results in the "hours-for-goods" equation apparently favouring the American worker so much.

—British United Press. — *The Sunday Times*, England, Nov. 27, 1949.

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## German Advice:

### "How to Eat Like Us"

BONN (Germany), Wednesday. —Western Germany's Food Minister gave this advice to Britons today: "Throw away your ration books and try free enterprise, then maybe you will be able to eat like us."

The Minister, Wilhelm Niklas, has just taken everything except sugar off the ration in Western Germany.

Since then prices have been falling, and his biggest problem is what to do with the surplus meat.

Mr. Niklas's programme is to abolish all internal food controls, raise home production, and stop Government bulk buying and leave import buying to private merchants.

—*The Herald*, Melbourne, Jan. 19.

Come! Come! This is terrible. This fellow can't possibly know what he is talking about. He completely ignores the dollar shortage and the export drive. Just imagine Britishers eating like Germans. It's simply not done, Old Boy. Well, not since we "won" the war.

# The New Slavery

By "CANUTE"

*Rule, Britannia! . . . WOT! NO SLAVES? Who can deny that England has become a slave State? Its disheartened inhabitants are being continuously exhorted to work better and harder and longer by their head slave-driver, Mr. Clem Attlee and his motley gang, whilst their bodily defects are carefully tended from the cradle to the grave, so as to ensure their forming efficient units in this depressing ant-hill.*

They lack incentive because the products of their labours are not allowed to be employed to alleviate their own pressing needs, but are intended, as a sop for Cerberus, the many-headed watchdog of the modern Pluto, the plutocracy of Wall Street, who are the real masters of these latter-day helots. Moreover there is no guarantee that the monster will ever be appeased. Whenever a little progress can be reported, and hope, seldom absent from the human breast, rises once again in the belief that the goal can be ultimately reached, a playful twist of the financial screw by the fiscal wizards dissipates all the hard-won advantage, and hope is re-interred. In fact, the expansion of the export trade to hard currency countries is very similar to the labours of Sisyphus, whose punishment by the aforesaid Pluto took the form of rolling a huge stone up a hill, which, on reaching the summit, invariably returned to the bottom, thus providing the poor mutt with an everlasting but distinctly thankless task. Nice cheerful prospect.

Do any people in their right minds imagine for one moment that human beings have been granted the inestimable privilege of living on this lovely globe for no better purpose than to spend all their lives in sweated labour for the benefit of alien autocrats? Nevertheless, this will always be the case as long as the control of their economic lives does not lie in the hands of their own countrymen, but in those of foreigners who may have no reason for wishing them well. And towards this false Utopia our myopic internationalists are leading us.

We are told that we have just won a great war; but the sweets of victory are unusual, to put it mildly, when the winners become hewers of wood and drawers of water to an alien dynasty, a perquisite which is usually reserved for the vanquished. The only signs of victory that I can see are those displayed by Mr. Churchill's race-horse, carrying the silk jacket presented by Mr. Bernard Baruch, an augury which some may consider of symbolic significance.

To remedy our unfortunate plight, all the old political quacks are falling over one another to provide nostrums distilled from their own particular witch's cauldron. Mr. Aneurin Bevan, the modern Merlin from Ebbw Vale, tries an old, old, confidence trick well known to the racecourse frequenter, who would probably call it "Finding the Lady." Mr. Bevan says that the Government is entitled to ask for people's confidence because its members are just ordinary chaps who have got into an extraordinary set of circumstances. With his estimate of the ability of himself and colleagues I could not agree more, but when I investigate the extraordinary set of circumstances, I find that they have largely arisen from the very ordinary quality, almost amounting to imbecility, upon which Mr. Bevan establishes a claim for our trust. Four years of experiment with half-baked social-

ist theories in a country already ravaged by war would have proved sufficient to polish off any nation less pertinacious than the British. So much for A.B. Now for C.D.—Duff Cooper, one of the stars of lesser magnitude in the other camp. He dismisses any idea of the British Empire becoming economically self-sufficient with the airy opinion that the age of the scattered Empire is passing, and offers only two courses in his indigestible menu, closer union with the United States or with Europe, with a predilection in favour of the latter. We suffer from too many Duff Coopers who are ready to forgo their British heritage for a mess of foreign potage. My discreet dictionary fails to provide me with epithets sufficiently scathing to apply to those politicians who have assisted in trying to wreck the Ship of State in recent years. Starting the voyage with a prosperous Empire of unlimited potential, they have deliberately abandoned its development in favour of some vague international clamjamphrie advocated by their alien mentors, and full of unwholesome possibilities. The golden carrot dangled in front of their noses has proved an invincible lure, and they have completely neglected Samuel Johnson's advice:—

"Turn from the glittering bribe thy scornful eye  
Nor sell for gold what gold could never buy."

It is a curious fact that many of those who advocate unpatriotic policies are themselves of mixed stock, and seem to favour the development of human freaks. I only hope that those who practise what they preach will find the Darwinian theory working overtime in reverse, and that their descendants will be discovered in the Zoos or throwing nuts at one another in the treetops, whilst the good earth is left to those who have preserved more conservative views on the production of coming generations.

The only secure and happy future for those who are proud of their British descent, and who have no affinity with the would-be mongrelisers, will be found in a return to the Empire with a firm determination to develop its latent possibilities on British lines, so that they will not find themselves constructing a modern Tower of Babel. Under these conditions slavery would disappear overnight. The British people, filled once again with that national pride of which they are being deliberately deprived, would return with fresh enthusiasm to the task commenced by their wiser forefathers, who got on very well without Marriage Guidance Councils or any of the other paraphernalia intended for the furtherance of the One-Man species in the One-World Elysium, which some appear to desire in these crazy times.

So—Rule, Britannia! But learn to mind your own business, old lady, or you will find yourself left with no waves to rule—only slaves.

## Evil Effects of Price Control

The discharge of mothers from the Women's Hospital after five days shows the "deplorable condition of Victorian hospital facilities." The president of the Private Hospitals Association (Mr. D. M. MacGregor) said this yesterday.

Mr. MacGregor said the community was no longer able to care adequately for mothers and the sick.

Private hospitals could do much to provide additional facilities if they had greater freedom of operation and could charge fees to meet the greatly increased costs of labor, equipment and other items.

"Under the ill-effects of price control, private hospitals are reducing their services and the number of beds available, and many are closing," he said.

Mr. MacGregor pointed out that in June 1944, 329 private hospitals were registered with the Health Commission. By June 1948, the number had dropped by 67.

—*The Age, Melbourne, Jan. 12, 1949.*

Obviously a case for price-subsidy financed by new credits and not from taxation. How about it Mr. Menzies and Mr. Hollway?

## Gas Nationalisation

In no circumstances will the State Government agree to the nationalisation of the gas industry.

This was made clear by the Premier (Mr. Hollway) yesterday in a reply to a statement by the assistant secretary of the Trades Hall Council (Mr. M. C. Jordan) that the council would press for the nationalisation of gas undertakings.

Mr. Hollway said the socialisation of private enterprise was not the effective answer to rising costs.

### Delusion

"Those who think nationalisation of the gas industry will cheapen the price of gas are only deluding themselves," he continued.

"It is just playing the ostrich to imagine there is no justification for rising gas prices."

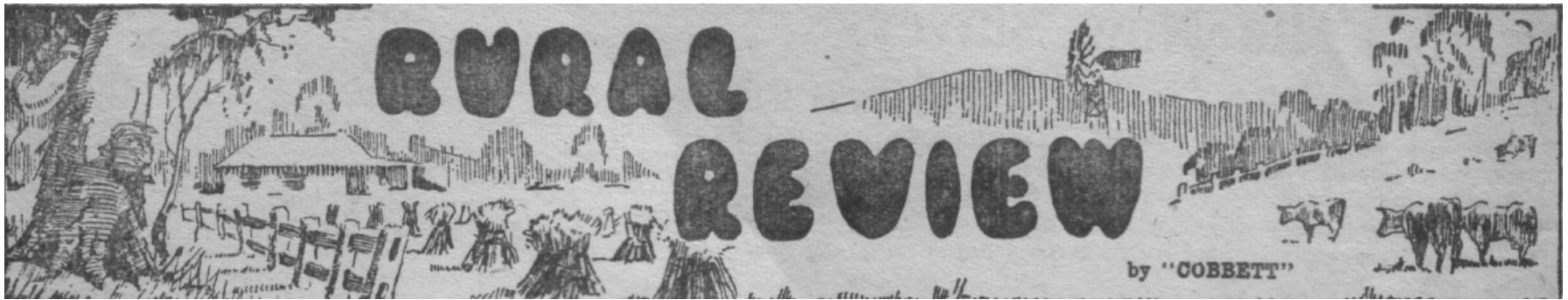
Mr. Hollway said the price of gas could not be kept stationary when coal costs had increased by 147 percent, and the price of fuel oil by 213 percent.

Wages had also risen by 84 percent, since 1939.

"The recent Government was returned to office, not to aid socialism, but to fight it with all the forces it can command," he added.

—*The Age, Melbourne, Jan. 17.*

Good, as far as it goes, Mr. Hollway. But, unless Mr. Menzies and yourself are prepared to challenge existing financial rules Socialism is inevitable. For instance, how about challenging the assumption that new money or credit must be created as a debt to an institution either public or private? Having negotiated this hurdle, you would be in a position to deal with price inflation, which, if not checked without a depression, will destroy free enterprise and the independence of the individual.



## Further Progress at Chantry

Some distinguished visitors from Sweden said recently on their visit to this farm, "The eyes of the world — friends and foes alike — are on Chantry."

The significance of this observation will be understood when it is realized that every year some 2,000 visitors journey to this Mecca of humus farming. Many have already been here once, twice or thrice before. They are observing and noting the progress, if any, which the writing on the land sets forth; for better or for worse, the account of our husbandry is there on record.

It is now well known that this land was for the most part in very poor heart when we began. The 10,000 rabbits, which were killed in our first year, were so poor that they could not be marketed locally, and our workmen refused to take them home for their own consumption. Today the Chantry acres are growing some of the heaviest crops to be found anywhere in Britain, including the richest lands in Lincolnshire, the Lothians or anywhere else. Our grasslands, too, are always the subject of comment since bullocks and sheep are sold from them direct to the butcher, while cows milk well and keep up their yields on grass alone.

But this is not all. In the early days, when a heavy tonnage of foods had to be brought in from outside to keep alive the cattle with which we started, we had many diseases. Tuberculosis, mastitis, contagious abortion, Johnes' disease, were all-too-familiar acquaintances. Touching wood as I write, and in a spirit of thankfulness rather than of vain boasting, it is pleasing to be able to note that these appear to be things of the past. We are apparently proving that our heavy crops of grass, cereals and roots are also crops of high quality; for the life-sustaining character of the foods the cattle are now consuming, has built up so exalted a standard of health that disease no longer dogs our steps, either in crops or in livestock. As each year goes by, visitors remark upon the noticeable improvement in our stock, as well as on its exceptionally high standard.

We believe that a contributory factor is the mixed character of our grazing management. Too many horses make land horse-sick; too many cows, cow-sick; and the same applies to sheep and poultry. But if these different species are allowed to graze together, or in sequence, sickness ceases to be evident. We have at Chantry five distinct kinds of livestock—Guernsey dairy cattle (attested), Galloway beef cattle, Half-bred ewes crossed with a Suffolk ram, a flock of poultry and some 18 thoroughbred horses.

Somewhat similarly, we have got away from excessive simplicity of leys. It has been believed for generations that the one-year mixture of clover and ryegrass was a sound feature of the Norfolk four-course husbandry evolved by Coke of Holkham and Townsend of Raynham. But our opinion is that it has very little to recommend it, and that a large variety of grasses and legumes is as necessary as a large variety of livestock. Our own leys approximate to the following mixture:

	Lb. per acre.
Cocksfoot .....	5
Perennial Ryegrass .....	5
Italian Ryegrass .....	1
Timothy.....	3
Rough-stalked Meadow-grass . . . .	1
Crested Dogstail.....	1
White Clover, Aberstwyth S.100 ..	1
Late-flowering Red Clover .....	3
Alsike.....	1
Lucerne.....	3
American Sweet Clover.....	3
Sainfoin, common milled .....	10
Burnet.....	
Chicory .....	2
Yarrow .....	½
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>42½</b>

The high proportion of deep-rooting species in our leys will be noted. These act in several capacities. They are, for instance, Nature's own sub-soilers, going down deep into the bowels of the earth for minerals and trace elements, which may not be available in the topsoil. If the sub-soil is of limestone, they bring up calcium into the topsoil, thus neutralizing the natural accumulation of acidity. They improve, too, the natural drainage, giving sour accumulations of moisture easy access to deeper layers and so sweetening the top six inches. Most important of all, they provide an interesting and varied diet, which shows itself in the contentment of the cattle, their bloom of coat and their general well being.

As the minerals from the sub-soil pass through the animals and are voided in dung and urine, they are brought into circulation in the top few inches of soil. By employing these means, there need never be such a thing as a shortage of mineral plant foods.

It will be seen that the simple one-year ley of clover and ryegrass failed completely to achieve any of these objects, first, because both species are shallow-rooted, second, because its duration was too short. It was, too, almost invariably cut away for hay, making yet another

crop removed from the land under the old Norfolk four-course system.

It is true, of course, that an essential feature of that system used to be a heavy dressing every four years of muck made by yarded bullocks from the straw of the cereal crops. Turnips for sheep folding were also an integral part of the fertility scheme. It is a matter of regret to all students of agricultural history that there are no written records, supported by photographic evidence, from which we might have been able to ascertain just how effective this four-course system was. For during the last hundred years, and especially during the last twenty-five, artificial fertilizers have been used in increasing quantities, so that any assessment of the parts played respectively by the good old-fashioned dung and by the artificials is extraordinarily difficult.

It is indeed frequently asserted that, rather than helping in the permanent fertilizing of the soil, the fertilizers set it back; but the case is not officially proven. Those of us, however, who have been farming long enough to have proved it, do know to our own satisfaction that a regular supply of dung — or, alternatively, of the humus made by the sheet-compost of the four-year ley — adds to the permanent fertility of the land. We have proved it over the last thirteen years at Chantry, where there is no comparison between the land as it was and as it is now. But we were already fully satisfied of it years before we came here, having proved it at Richings in Buckinghamshire. We have no doubt whatever that if the good of the land and its lasting fertility is the farmer's objective — and, after all, these are its main capital assets — the only way to farm is exclusively with humus.

### Humus Farming for Profit

We would like to remind readers of *Mother Earth* that we are no dilettante farmers. We are not in receipt of any princely income from some industrial investment, taxed at 19/6 in the £, yet enabled, owing to the ridiculous incidence of taxation under the present Finance Act, to farm at a considerable loss and still add enormously to our capital resources. Our only source of livelihood is farming, and we are actuated not by altruism, but by a much more mundane motive, the making of the greatest profit which our capabilities can achieve.

We have been farming long enough to have tested muck and artificial as against humus alone, and we know that the latter provides us with a better profit than any other system we have tried. Because of this, and of this alone, we shall continue to be humus farmers. Are there farmers anywhere in the world who can afford to plan their farming programme from any angle but that of profit?

(Continued on page 7)

## FURTHER PROGRESS AT CHANTRY

(Continued from page 6)

I seem unwittingly to have given the impression in *Humus and the Farmer*, that I am possessed of the noblest of motives. I hope I am not entirely without such motives, but I beg my readers to grasp the fact that the stern economics of farming compel me to farm for profit, first, last, and all the time. If the world at large can be made to realize that by farming with humus, and with humus alone, more profit will result, there will be a greater chance of humus farming becoming the accepted method of husbandry. All talk of "the good of the land" is sheer waste of time if it is dissociated from legitimate profit.

It is impossible in the space of this article to include everything bearing on this point; but a few convincing facts may, nevertheless, support my claims. An example is our yield of milk, which, with the same number of cows in milk, was 8,000 gallons more in 1948 than in 1947, while the butterfat and solids-not-fat was 5 percent higher. At 3/- a gallon, without any additional production costs, such an increase would seem to suggest a further £1,200 per annum profit as a result of using humus-grown foods. When I mentioned this interesting fact in one of my lectures last winter, a cynical listener pointed out that 1948 was a consistently wet and drippy year, when grass flourished, and that much of our increased yield might be attributed to the season. But we keep records every year, and we find that our 1949 yield shows a further useful increase, both in gallonage and in quality, over 1948. In 1949, we have had a drought, the like of which I do not remember since 1921; so I cannot help wondering to what my cynical friend will attribute this further rise in output.

### Good Farming Means Continuity

This increasing output, year by year for twelve years without a check, is one of the pleasing features of humus farming.

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Although we have had drought to contend with, our grass and cereals this year are the heaviest crops we have ever had. Yet farmers through this neighbourhood, and in fact, throughout England more or less, have been complaining of the lightness of their hay crop, the short straw of their cereals, and the general lack of growth. One of the most valuable characteristics of humus is its physical quality of retaining moisture, and in a dry season like this that virtue stands out at Chantry for all to see.

Good farming can be described in a single word — continuity. If a farmer is to continue in his occupation, in every sense of the word, he must not only grow good crops, but continue growing them: not merely having a burst of health in his livestock, but maintaining an exalted standard of health year by year: being as free as possible of any need to buy seeds from outside sources: and getting crops high both in output and in vigour, with increasing freedom from disease.

When I speak of reproduction, I mean reproduction of every species we grow on the farm, both crops and livestock. One of the great problems of today is the serious increase in sterility in all kinds of stock. Among thoroughbreds some 33 to 40 percent, of mares are recorded as barren each year; cows are becoming increasingly non-productive. Records at Chantry are illuminating. This year, we had six mares at stud, all in foal; in sheep, we have averaged two lambs to a ewe for the whole flock; in our large herd of Guernseys, nearly 100 percent, are breeding. There could be no better evidence of the soundness of good husbandry. Herein, moreover, lies a source of much improved profits for the farmer; for if he has to carry, say, one-third of his livestock as non-producers, his income is seriously affected, while veterinary bills become a substantial outgoing.

### Sheet-Composting the Main Method

I should here like to correct another impression, which *Humus and The Farmer* seems to have created. The book covers a great variety of subjects, ONE of which is compost. This I discuss at considerable length, owing to its great importance. But I have tried repeatedly to make it clear that at Chantry the practical method by which we build up humus is the complex, deep-rooting, four-year ley, and its management by grazing with mixed livestock. I estimate that there are deposited, during the four years, at least 25 tons of dung and urine per acre. So heavy is this dressing that one must then plough, so as to use it as an activator for reducing the sod to humus. The humus then feeds the population of the soil, so that this unpaid labour force can multiply in untold numbers, working on the minerals, which, in their complex natural state, are unavailable as plant foods. Further, as the microorganisms die, their decomposing bodies provide just the kind of food the green plant needs.

At the end of four years, as the book points out, the bank of organic fertilizer is sufficient to grow three heavy cereal crops. But these crops have created another problem for me — a considerable tonnage of straw to be decomposed. It is taken into our stockyards and made into muck in the good old-fashioned way. We then try to make a systematic collection of all the

waste vegetation on the farm — roadside cuttings, hedge trimmings, ditch cleanings, bracken, waste leaves. This is mechanically mixed with the muck, and in the course of a year we sometimes make 1,000 tons of compost.

Unfortunately, however, the economy of the farm, with restricted labour stops us making anything like the tonnage of this invaluable material that we should like to use. It is clear that 1,000 tons a year spread at the rate of 20 tons an acre, will cover only 50 acres a year; and since we have 750 acres, it would take 15 years to go round the farm.

I would, therefore, again emphasize this fundamental point, which applies to all farms, namely, that the only way in which the humus content of the land can economically be built up, partly because of cost, partly for lack of labour, partly because sufficient material for heap-compost is seldom available, is by means of the all-important, deep-rooting, four-years' ley.

-FRIEND SYKES in *Mother Earth* (Eng.)

Autumn, 1949.

## Full Employment

Far-reaching plans for ensuring full employment, including individual domestic full employment programmes and schemes for developing and stabilising International trade, have been recommended by the United Nations' expert group.

Despite the world's differing economic systems the full employment pledge in the United Nations charter is clearly based on the conviction that full employment can and must be maintained within each of the various systems under which countries have chosen to live, the experts have told the secretary-general, Mr. Lie.

The group's domestic proposals included: Setting a full employment target and adopting a programme for maintaining it, planning of compensatory measures in case the full employment programme failed, and adoption of price stabilisation policies.

International proposals included: Establishment of United Nations programme to eliminate the world's trade lack of equilibrium, a plan for the stable flow of investment to the under-developed areas, and the adoption of an international plan to prevent international propagation of deflationary pressures.

Australian economist Mr. E. R. Walker served as chairman of the group, which prepared the report, at the invitation of the Economic and Social Council.

—*The Age*, Melbourne, Jan. 16.

Serfdom on an international scale. We must reiterate the fact that in the face of increasing use of science and mechanism in the production of goods and services, a policy of full employment must lead to increasing State intervention in the affairs of the individual, with all of its consequent evils.

"New Times," February 3, 1950 —Page 7

# Nature Is Free

By Dr. W. H. Spoor, St. Germans, Cornwall, who declares that **NATURE is not a "planned economy" but a free abundance. The regulation free life of the Hunza people is described as an example of true natural living.**

WHAT IS "NATURE?" To avoid possible confusion over 22 different meanings given in the dictionary I use the term to mean what most of us understand by it when used by the Editor of *The Farmer*, that is the outward and visible manifestation of the activities of God. "The Creator of Heaven and Earth, who so loved the world that He gave, His only begotten Son . . ." as opposed to the activities of man where the latter are in conflict with the former.

And what do we mean by "free?" A man in prison has the so-called "four freedoms" but is not free. By "free" I mean possession of freedom one and indivisible, freedom of choice and action, freedom to choose or refuse one thing at a time without fear of consequences, the freedom possessed by every bird to build her nest where she thinks fit without asking permission of some "authority" . . .

## Man and Nature

If God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son we should expect to find that "Nature" in the above sense works to the advantage of man — provided that man does not abuse nature. If anyone doubts that this is so, let him consider for a moment one very small example — the properties of water. If the physical properties of water tallied with those of every other known liquid, a hard frost would cause ice formed on the surface of a lake to sink to the bottom as fast as it formed, so that within a few hours the lake would be a solid block of ice to the extinction of all life in or dependent on it. But water is unique in expanding on cooling from 4 degrees C. to 0 degrees C. (freezing) so that a layer of ice forms on the surface and insulates the rest of the water from solidification. The same property, as every farmer knows, causes water-laden soil to be broken up and aerated in a hard frost. It also causes burst pipes! Are pipes "natural"?

It is worth examining some of the pronouncements of His only-begotten Son in the light of the so-called "trends" into which modern thought is being misdirected today by those having the blasphemous presumption to think that they can "Conquer Nature" and "improve" on the works of the Almighty and "plan" the lives of their fellows by compulsion and punishments.

Christ consistently laid stress on the sanctity of the individual human being— body, soul and spirit — and his right to freedom of thought and action in accordance with the dictates of conscience. "The very hairs of your head are numbered"; "are ye not of more value than many sparrows"; "The Kingdom of Heaven is within you"; "Even as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me." One could continue indefinitely. Christ made no such remarks about collectivities, or the state, or urged his fellows to sink their individualities "for the benefit of the community."

In Nature, unmolested by planning man, there is no planned economy; on the contrary there is unplanned abundance, as he promised — "good measure, pressed down, and shaken together and running over": so much so that those who are determined to plan our lives are driven to such expedients as burning wheat for fuel and sinking shiploads of coffee to produce those shortages without which they cannot exercise control.

## No Compulsion in Nature

In Nature there are no regulations. Before Christ, there were laid down by "them of old time," Ten Commandments for the conduct of human society (how many of us can recite them correctly from memory?). Jesus reduced them to two, only, on which hung "all the Law and the Prophets." Those who have forgotten what these are can easily look them up, and I will merely suggest that no one having regard to the first could approve of artificial insemination or the battery method of exploiting hens.

In Nature there is no compulsion — not even to work. "If a man will not work neither shall he eat" is a mis-quotation from something said in quite a different context by the Apostle Paul which has been deliberately perverted as a pretext for compelling men to work against their will. Christ's teaching was all to the contrary: "Consider the lilies of the field, how they toil not, neither do they spin . . ." "Mary hath chosen the better part, which shall not be taken from her." etc. If a man chooses to work to the glory of God and relief of man's estate, that is accounted to him for good; but if he choose to spend his life on a South Pacific Island watching the waves come in and living on coconuts, who shall condemn him?

## The Healthy Hunzas

In Hunza, North India is a remarkable tribe of people who are living, obviously, in a state of "Nature" (in the above sense) as God intended. If not theoretically professing Christians, there is no tribe on earth which carries so far into practice Christ's two fundamental commandments. They are famous already, for their health. But much can be learned about them from a book by Mrs. E. O. Lorimer, *Language Hunting in the Karakoram*, which does not mention their health at all. Their intelligence is at least as remarkable as their health. She reports their children as being better educated (in the true sense of the word) than ours. From the photographs she shows their cast of countenance would pass for north-western European. They have turned a wilderness of rock into an orchard, and the aqueduct with which they have brought their water supply past a colossal precipice sounds, having regard to their resources, like one of the wonders of the world comparable with the pyramids of Egypt.

In Hunza there is no law, no regulations, no police and no prison. They are unnecessary. Their code of social conduct — which evidently approximates to Christ's

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two commandments — is enforced purely by public opinion, which has been known to override the edicts of their ruler. They live a very hard life — voluntarily. There is nothing to prevent them going down to the plains of India and leading a far easier life — if they preferred it. But only those leave Hunza who are virtually obliged to do so by limited food supply; and, if possible, they return. It is not to be wondered at. So far they are uncontaminated with planners and controllers and have no knowledge of the slums or slave-labour camps of modern civilised countries. Long may they remain an example to us, in practice, of what life should be in theory if lived in accordance with Christian freedom and those rules of nature which are evident to those with eyes to see.

—*The Farmer* (England), Summer, 1949.

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