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SIXPENCE WEEKLY.

The Profits of the Community

Must be Distributed to the Individual

Whatever else may be said against the Socialists and Communists, it must be admitted that they clearly understand the objective towards which they are striving. Their propaganda is red-blooded material which vigorously and uncompromisingly attacks the "profit motive," private ownership, and inheritance. How do the opponents of Socialism and Communism usually answer this propaganda? By bold counter-attack? Far from it, unfortunately.

The majority of those who say they support the "profit motive" are unable clearly to define sound reasons in favour of their attitude. And, even worse, the very people who say they believe in the distribution of profits amongst the shareholders of any private organisation resist any suggestion that the members of any community have made profits which should be distributed direct to the individual members of that community. It is claimed that a general extension of the distribution of profits would be "demoralising." This, of course, is exactly what the Socialists and the Communists say. It is not surprising, therefore, that the making and distribution of profits is not wholeheartedly supported as a most excellent principle.

Inheritance

Then there is the question of inheritance. Here again the Communists and Socialists are very definite in their attitude. They are opposed to inheritance because they believe that "something for nothing" is also demoralising. Most of those supporting the idea of inheritance are hopelessly confused about the matter.

They have no objection to a son receiving for nothing a property pioneered and built up by his ancestors. But suggest to these people that there is such a thing as a cultural inheritance which has been passed down and built up over generations, and that some financial technique should be devised to enable every member of the community to make use of his inheritance, and they will again parrot the old cry about "something for nothing" and demoralisation.

Centralised Credit

The Collectivist menace, which shows no sign as yet of diminishing as the result of a change of politicians at Canberra, will not be defeated until all genuine anti-Collectivists fight consistently on such issues as the "profit motive" and inheritance. The individual today is being pro-

gressively and increasingly robbed of the profits of the community because centralised control of financial credit has enabled the controllers to ensure that the individual's profits are spent in such a way that they become an instrument for enslaving the individual. The individual is not permitted to spend his own profits. It is particularly significant that Communists and Socialists are opposed to any suggestion that financial policies be decentralised in order that effective control can be exercised by the individual. They are well aware that decentralised financial policy would enable free enterprise to work satisfactorily, to produce adequate goods and services with less and less manhours worked. They know that this would mean increasing freedom for the individual.

The Increment of Association

The major point we want to make can be simply demonstrated by the following: Six men are marooned on an island. Working as individuals, each going his own way, little could or would be achieved. But six men working together can produce more than six individuals can, working separately. There is a definite increment of association. Can any reasonable person deny that every one of the six individuals is entitled to share the benefits of this increment? Then there is the principle of the division of labour. One man may specialise in catching rabbits, another in spearing fish, while yet another in making a dam for water storage. Improvements in production result in adequate production of goods and services with three hours' work a day. Every sensible person will surely agree that the increased leisure time thus made available for all individuals is genuine progress—it gives the individual greater freedom for more diversified activities?

But, unfortunately, when we get away from our island to a continent, with a large population, and the complexities of a civilised community, very few people are apparently sensible. They passively sub-

mit to the proposition that every improvement in production capacity should not enable the individual to enjoy more leisure time for self-employment, but should enable the central planners to provide him with "full employment." If this madness is persisted with, Collectivism is inevitable, irrespective of the label of the Government. Those who claim to be staunch supporters of free enterprise and profits must examine their position and frankly ask themselves can they maintain it while at the same time endorsing the mumbo-jumbo that passes as sane finance.

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

A Dangerous Minister

It is rapidly becoming obvious that Mr. R. G. Casey is perhaps the most dangerous Minister in the Liberal Country Party Government. Many people were surprised when Mr. Casey was given what they thought a comparatively unimportant portfolio. There is reason to believe that Mr. Casey personally requested that he be made Minister for Development. He is a convinced planner and knows just what he wants to do. He believes he can run Socialism much more efficiently than the declared Socialists.

Although pledged to reduce Governmental expenditure, one of the first major acts of the Menzies Government was to "abolish" the Department of Post-War Reconstruction—how? By absorbing into Mr. Casey's new Department of Development!

Staunch advocates of free enterprise will surely be surprised to learn that Mr. Casey really has little faith in this system of enterprise. Mr. Casey is going to open up this continent in a really big way by government planning. Apart from taking it upon himself to start importing heavy machinery, Mr. Casey says that he is personally going to strengthen the field for industrial design in Australia. More ominous still is the report that he will shortly be visiting Washington for the purpose of getting assistance for his large-scale resource planning projects. While in Washington Mr. Baruch, Mr. Lilienthal, and other leading planners will no doubt be consulted.

It can be taken as certain that Casey's influence will be used to bring Australia more within the orbit of "American" influence. Coming events cast their shadows before them, and there is no doubt where the policies of Mr. Casey will lead Australians unless they resist them. Genuine Liberals should take appropriate action.

Big Business and Communism

Bearing in mind the insistence of Mr. Casey and Co. for economic centralisation, it is appropriate to consider Socialist H. G. Wells' comment on Big Business: "Big business is by no means antipathetic to Communism. The larger big business grows the more it approximates to Collectivism. It is the upper road of the few instead of the lower road of the masses to Collectivism."

An Impudent Claim

In his recent eulogy of the Jews, in which he claimed that Sir John Monash was the "greatest Australian" this country had produced, Mr. Menzies made a plea for "tolerance" towards the Jews. He made no mention of the impudent claim by the majority of Jews, that they can always enjoy national benefits without renouncing international loyalties. The Zionist Professor Brodetsky outlines the Jews' viewpoint in the following words: "The Jew living in Britain can call himself British and not raise queries. He may raise queries when he calls himself an English-

man, or a Scotsman, or a Welshman; but for practical purposes it is sufficient if he calls himself British . . . Where the acceptance of a wide designation is possible the Jew is in a comparatively favourable position."

The "Capitalist" Press

It is interesting to note that Dr. Lloyd Ross, former leading Communist, and leading publicist for the Labour-Socialists at the last Federal elections, is now contributing featured articles to the Melbourne "capitalist" *Herald*. Perhaps he has taken the place of Socialist Clive Turnbull, now one of the leading feature writers of the Melbourne *Argus*'?

"Progress"

The perversion of history has been one of the most subtle methods used to reduce mankind to its present sorry pass. "History" has presented mankind as having consistently progressed. But this myth can only be maintained so long as people do not obtain some real understanding of the conditions under which their forefathers lived, so long as there is no genuine comparison.

It is an undisputed fact that in the thirteenth century in England there was no National Debt, meat was 1d. per lb., a fat goose cost 2d, beer was 1d. a gallon, there was a four-day working week, and 152 holidays a year. The arts flourished, while great cathedrals were erected.

All this and more was accomplished by a people whose only source of power was man, animal, water and wind.

Mr. Churchill and Credit Power

Mr. Churchill, the ex-Liberal who helped Mr. Lloyd George introduce his Germanic Socialist legislation early this century, and his associates have the audacity to call themselves Tories. If they were genuine Tories they would be fighting the centralisation of credit power—just like the early Tories did.

In his *History of His Own Times* (1693), the Whig writer, Bishop Burnet, wrote: "The fear of centralisation of money power was indeed the grounds upon which the Tories and Commons fought so bitterly against the founding of the Bank of England, thinking that the bank would grow to be a monopoly."

Press reports make no reference to Mr. Churchill making any election references to the Monopoly of Credit.

Who Won the War?

Speaking in the British House of Commons on December 15, 1949, veteran Socialist Rhys Davies discussed the infamous Control of Engagement Order imposed by the British Socialists: "I have been in Germany since the occupation. Our Government controls part of Germany. I do not think that a Control of Engagement Order is imposed in Germany. Just imagine a people we defeated in war being more free to choose their jobs than our own people who conquered them."

Prices and Development

It may be that continuous and considerable development of Australian resources is both necessary and desirable; but the real nature of this operation should be clearly understood by public opinion before any Government is given *carte blanche* to proceed with it. The immediate effect of resource and capital development on the community is exactly the same as war. It diverts materials and power from ordinary consumers, and raises either prices or taxes or, more probably, both. But development differs from war in that ultimately it raises the standard of living. A good deal depends on that "ultimately." Some projects give returns within a relatively few years, while others are likely to be of use only to our descendants and are, therefore, so far as this generation is concerned, a dead loss. Since we have inherited assets, it is right that we should pass on an increase; but it is not necessary or desirable that the increase should be very great, in so far as it is done *at the unrequited expense of the existing generation*. That is to say, there is a reasonable rate at which development should be undertaken, and an excessive rate is plain robbery of the community.

At the present time, it is a case of first things first. Over the past few years the rate of increase of prices has accelerated out of all reason, even on conventional economic views. This is an approximate measure of unnecessary exploitation of the community, and it is urgently necessary that it should be reversed.

As a perfectly practical step, a large proportion of the new financial credits, which it is proposed should be devoted to "development", should be devoted to subsidising a reduction of prices, and this process should be pursued until prices are back to the pre-war level. And thereafter "development" should be authorised only on the basis of a proper analysis of its purpose and cost, and an exact statement of the benefits to accrue to consumers on its completion. The benefits should include a further reduction in the general price level.

The Menzies Government has promised "to put the shillings back in the pounds;" and it is of the utmost importance that they be held to it. At the moment, there are indications that between Mr. Casey and Asia, an alibi is being prepared. It should never be forgotten that the higher levels of the Federal Public Service are packed with London School of Economics trained or tainted officials—convinced Socialists, whose prime concern will be to create the conditions, and offer the advice (always acceptable to the modern type of politician), leading to further centralisation of power—which is all that Socialism is. Unless effective public opinion is awake and determined, a few months with their hands on the controls will see the new Government carrying on where the old left off.

--*The Australian Social Crediter*, Jan. 14.

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The New Conscription

Strangest story of our time is the disappearance of the tax gatherer.

To our forefathers he made regular visitations. Sometimes he didn't complete his round, for collecting taxes was a hazardous occupation.

Nowadays, we have a taxation department where a large aggregation of unpopular snoopers into our affairs busy themselves. They don't even oblige by sending us forms to fill in. You have to get them yourselves and complete them. Penalties for not doing so are set out to terrorise you into truthful compliance.

But nobody comes round to ascertain what actually you earn if you work for a wage or a salary. Your employer has to deduct the wage tax and employ staff to see that you toe the line each week. He has to bear all the obloquy of filching from your pay envelope what the Treasury insists that you ante up.

It's the same way with "indirect" taxes. The picture show proprietor must collect the tax on your entertainment. The distiller and brewer must render unto Caesar the excise on every gallon from still or vat. Similarly, with tobacco and matches. Thus every time you have an alcoholic drink the Treasurer has one or two with you as your unseen guest. He smokes most of your cigarettes and strikes your matches.

When you buy clothing at a store the sales tax is the Treasury profit. Whatever comes through the Customs, the impact of duty is in your purchases . . .

The irony of it all is that we are supposed to be a free and intelligent people. Anyone who swallows that notion should have his head read. For we are a nation of submissive slaves. Such is our docility that we have been subdued into collecting our own taxes.

Our own idea is that a people who willingly deputise for the tax collector and mulct themselves have sunk to final abasement.

The employer duns the employee; the retailer, brewer, picture show proprietor and the rest are willing agents of government. Base is the slave who pays in circumstances so humiliating. Governments should come and get it, incurring all the odium which is their due. If they came out in the open and did their own dirty work, we would very soon have taxation at the irreducible minimum. While we collect our own taxes we may; and more of the same chore will be piled on us to perform.

Smith's own view is that there is no constitutional sanction for compelling anyone to collect government taxes. We have no knowledge of it every having been put to the people. Nor have the people, so far as we know, ever volunteered to collect taxes on behalf of the government. So how did it happen that, under all sorts of pains and penalties, we do so? It entails payment of staff, which the government gets to work for them for nothing.

Manifestly it's a monstrous imposition to fasten this obligation on businesses. The clerical cost of becoming an ancillary service to the Treasury is an intolerable form of conscription.

Smith would like to see the government have the hardihood to ask the people to vote on it. Thus it is safe to say that never did anything involving such compulsion appear in the policy of any party nor was it put by way of referendum.

There is no warrant for the trick. The insolence of it should be resisted. The place to test it is before that last refuge of our liberty, the High Court of Australia.

—*Smith's Weekly*,

February 4, 1950.

Government, a "Subsidiary Function"

. . . The British electorate today is so huge, with over 34 million voters, that a very small movement of floating votes will determine whether there is a Conservative majority comparable to that which the Labour Party has enjoyed for five years, whether the Labour Party comes back having held most of its majority, or whether, as seems in general the most likely result, this election proves to be the first of several in succession, because neither Party will have a majority of a hundred. Governments with small majorities do not live long, certainly not five years. They are too much at the mercy of their dissatisfied wings, and each party sufficiently broadly based to be a national party has groups who make up its flanks and not its centre.

The parties fighting the election will, of course, proclaim it as immensely important, and in one sense they are right: modern Governments have so much power to do harm, and some lesser power of doing good, that it does matter immensely who the men are, with what prepossessions and abilities they take far-reaching decisions. Mr. Ernest Bevin's personal instincts and feelings, for instance, have been exceedingly

important. But there is another sense in which both the main parties will proclaim that the election is critical, where it is very doubtful how far they are right. The real movement of opinion, the formation and the modification of the underlying decisive public opinion, takes place at a deeper level than the party political, and with a different time-scale from Parliamentary life . . .

We can easily get the worst of both worlds if the election produces a Conservative Government before public opinion is ready for it. It is only too easy to envisage what bad results could follow from this combination, for a Conservative Government needs something more than a victory won because of the irritations aroused by Mr. Strachey and Dr. Summerskill among the kind of voters whose irritation is entirely due to a false idea that it is the easy duty of government to provide for them abundantly and cheaply. They will be changing their Minister of Food in the same way, and for the same reasons, that they transfer their custom from one shop to another, and Lord Woolton and his friends will promise to give better service. But to the extent that

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the electorate is a proletarian electorate, like that of ancient Rome, not feeling itself responsible for a great country but merely looking to see who is likely to do most for it, there is little point in a Conservative victory gained on such terms and under such conditions. And it would be likely to delay the only real and abiding victory the rejection by the mind and heart of the nation of the collectivist philosophy and its replacement by an understanding that all the good things that a rising national income makes possible can be secured in a much better form provided public opinion enforces upon the politicians the great and salutary Catholic principle whose clumsy name, 'subsidiary function,' tends to conceal its immediate daily relevance . . .

—*The Tablet*.

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LIBERAL-SOCIALISM

Under the heading, "State Can Place New Thousands," the following item appeared in the Melbourne "Argus" of January 26:-

"Hundreds of thousands of migrants could be absorbed in Victorian developmental schemes in the next few years, Mr. Hollway, Premier, said last night. 'There will be no difficulty in placing the two million migrants expected to reach Australia before 1960,'" he said . . .

" 'There would be unlimited employment on the brown coal scheme in the Latrobe Valley, Kiewa hydro-electric project, water conservation, forestry, road construction, development of outer ports, and land settlement.' "

The above remarks by a so-called anti-Socialist Premier indicate the manner in which the very technique used for imposing slavery in Soviet Russia, Germany, and other totalitarian countries is now being applied in Australia and other English-speaking countries. Not only will the ever-increasing number of large-scale resource planning projects prevent any increase in the real standard of living for the individual; they will gradually ensure that more and more individuals work for the State. Thus will the independence of the individual be broken down.

Genuine democracy requires a high degree of individual responsibility. Do Mr. Hollway and others who think like him really believe that democracy can be saved on this continent by flooding the country with migrants who upon arrival are immediately encouraged to believe that democracy in Australia means that the State looks after the individual from the cradle to the grave. Or are they merely the unthinking and unconscious mouthpieces of alien forces that are using a variety of techniques to break the traditional independence of the British peoples everywhere?

As the various big resource planning projects get under way, more and more new towns will be necessary. Having seen at Morwell and other centres in Victoria samples of these towns—rows and rows of standardised mass-produced houses—we are horrified at the prospect of creating ideal conditions for the conditioning of that type of individual so indispensable to all totalitarians.

The above criticism does not mean that we are so foolish as to suggest that no further capital development is required in Australia. But we do believe that this development should be directly controlled by the individual in order that it is consciously directed towards his individual betterment. In a nutshell, we believe that the Government should have no direct access to the nation's credit for capital development, but should be compelled to submit a proper prospectus of all projects to the people, and ask them whether they are prepared to make the necessary immediate sacrifice in their standards of living by financing the projects.

If, of course, large-scale resource planning is not designed to benefit the individual, but to provide work for all—the bigger the population the more work will have to be found—or to provide an "industrial bastion" to develop South-East Asia, slavery is inevitable.

Alger Hiss

WASHINGTON, Wednesday. —The Secretary of State (Mr. Acheson) said today that he would not "turn his back" on Alger Hiss, former State Department official who earlier in the day was sentenced to five years' gaol on perjury charges.

Hiss was convicted on charges that he lied when he denied before a Congressional committee that he had passed State Department documents in 1938 to Whittaker Chambers, self-styled courier for a Soviet spy ring.

Hiss was an associate of Mr. Acheson in the State Department during the war. Some Republican senators have demanded that President Truman should dismiss Mr. Acheson because of his past association with Hiss. . . .

"TRIAL AS SPY"

In the Senate today, Senator Karl Mundt (Republican, South Dakota) demanded a Congressional investigation to determine what influence Hiss had on the formation of present American foreign policy.

Senator Mundt urged a revision of the Statute of Limitations, "so that men like Hiss can be tried for their true crime—espionage."

Hiss will appeal against his sentence.

He was an adviser to President Roosevelt at the Yalta conference in 1945, and was secretary-general of the United Nations conference at San Francisco in 1945. He held an £8,900 a year post as president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace when the perjury charges were made against him.

—*The Herald*, Melbourne,
January 26.

Hiss is a Jew. This conviction is important, because it is further confirmation of the fact that Roosevelt was the mouthpiece of Jewish policy—a policy of centralisation of power. The disastrous results accruing to us are the direct outcome of this policy. Until the power of International Jewry is smashed, there will be no genuine and lasting peace.

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The British Elections

The following London comment by Bruce Kneale in the Melbourne *Argus* of January 31, although obviously written to suit the Socialist controllers of the *Argus*, makes some points which further emphasize the contention that the British Conservatives are really disguised Socialists:

This is bargain week in Britain's biggest political emporia.

On the left of the street is Clement Attlee's general providers, to the right Winston Churchill's cash and carry. Both scintillate with glittering bargains for British voters.

It is hard to pass by Winston's store. It is newer. It seems to offer more. It has something for everybody.

But, of course, the people have raided provider Attlee of so many of his best lines already.

Churchill's new offering is a smooth line in manifestos, "This is the right road for Britain."

Let me say that this *is* a well-finished and convincing little number Never before has British conservatism offered so enlightened a statement of social policy. It fairly glows with radiant promise.

So advanced is its social thinking that if, prewar, someone else had tailored it the Tories would have denounced it as wicked Socialism.

The Tory manifesto is better written than Labour's, too. Handy, that. The defects of substance are less obvious.

"By Their Fruits Ye Shall Know Them"

An apparently innocuous bit of news, which appeared in the Daily Graphic of The 16th November, seems to indicate to the thinking mind the shape of things to come. The news was to the effect that Alexander Kerensky, the man who was used as a stepping stone for fastening on the Russian people the worst tyranny ever known to humanity, was in this country and was about to disclose the anti-Bolshevik work being done in Russia by his organisation. With the accent on Federal Union, U.N.O., World Government and the fulfilment of the Protocols, it is not unreasonable to suspect that those forces, which put Lenin, Trotsky and Stalin in power in Russia, are thinking that the time has come for a different type of puppet Government to be installed in Russia. The dramatic announcement of Russia's possession of the atom bomb, followed by various insinuations of a third war to come, is but a conditioning of people's mind to accept anything rather than the repetition of slaughter with atomic horrors thrown in. The replacement of Stalin's Government by that of Mr. Kerensky, with unreserved willingness to submit to world government, would bring Soviet Russia into line, and help the realisation of the Messianic dream of world domination by one race. It is always the same *Deus ex machina*, which seems to be responsible for the apparently disconnected happenings in the world. There is nothing more desirable than to have an end put to the bestial regime in Russia today, but it will not be accomplished a la Kerensky.

—*The Patriot*, Eng.,
Dec. 1949.

Defects? Oh, yes. The thing is not as good as it looks. That coruscating exterior masks certain inward inequalities.

Take, for example, taxation. The four-page version of the manifesto (there are two) pulls no punches. Boldly it promises substantial cuts in taxes, direct and indirect. Naturally, our mouths water at once. But in the full manifesto that ringing assertion is toned down.

In fact, the whole thing rests on an assumption that if a tenth or even twentieth of our national yearly expenditure of £3,300 million were saved our "whole financial position would be relieved" and taxes cuts.

It is not so. Saving one-twentieth or even a tenth of British spending might indeed relieve "our whole financial position" or it could provide tax cuts.

It will not do both. Even from a Tory pint pot you can't pour quarts.

Promises by Tories

The Tories say, "We hope to make sufficient economies to start upon reducing indirect taxation."

About controls. Anyone hearing Churchill's last speech might well assume we'd be "set free" of them in one fell swoop. The manifesto doesn't say so. Cautiously it mumbles they may be reduced "only as the situation improves." That's what the Socialists have said all along.

The British voter now flattening his nose against Churchill's opulent display window will do well to examine the works of this new toy before he buys. There's a spanner in them. Or two or three.

Britons Bitter Over Rationing

Issue of the report of the British Transport Commission for 1948—the first year of nationalised transport — showing a deficit of nearly £43/4 million, moves "The Motor," which usually does not join issue in politics, to caustic editorial comment.

"The ordinary private motorist in Britain to-day is filled with bitterness at the treatment which he has received since the end of the war. The cause -of this discontent centres almost entirely around petrol rationing, and, as the Government are always able to invoke the magic word 'security' whenever questions regarding petrol stocks and imports are raised in Parliament, there is very little chance of proving publicly whether the present ration is even remotely justified or whether petrol should flow as freely as it does in almost all the other European countries, including even those of our former enemies," "The Motor" says.

"Frustrated by what he strongly suspects to be a political smoke screen, the British motorist therefore casts around in an effort to discover why he should be singled out for this particularly vicious discrimination. If he so desires, he can buy as much dollar-acquired tobacco as his pocket permits.

"If he wishes to spend an evening at a theatre or cinema, he can see American productions which have only reached this country in return for vast sums of hard currency. It cannot cause surprise if the motorist feels that the leaders of present-day Britain are prepared to victimise individual transport for reasons obvious only to themselves.

"The news that nationalised transport cost £4.7 million in 1948 is one which will shock this country, despite the clear warning given by other State-sponsored deficits of recent months . . . The railways of Britain are subject to a vast political experiment, which must be made to pay. Small wonder that the several million would-be motorists regard the situation with apprehension and disgust," it concludes.

Now that Australia is to be free of petrol rationing, British motorists will be more bitter still and petrol probably will become a major issue at the forthcoming elections.

—*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Jan. 2.

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Mongrelisation

Speaking at the Australian Citizenship Convention, held at Canberra on January 23, the Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies, congratulated Mr. Calwell on the excellent job he had done on immigration and then went on to make it clear that he was not going to offend International Zionism. Australians must not criticise the Jews, says Mr. Menzies. "Mr. Menzies said that Australians must strike down insularity of mind which attacked immigrants on the grounds of race or religion." Perhaps Mr. Menzies may not realise it, but he is in effect supporting a policy of mongrelisation — the very policy that the International Jew advocates to destroy all other peoples, particularly the British.

"New Times," February 10, 1950—Page 5



Fertile Garden Soil Without Digging

"GIVE SURFACE TILLAGE a 20-YEAR TRIAL BEFORE GOING BACK TO THE SPADE,"

Says F. C. King, Organic Advisor to *The Farmer*, and originator of the system of organic gardening by surface tillage.

We may not be directly responsible for the condition of the soil we are called upon to till, and few of us are satisfied with it. Would it not seem a wise thing to seek a return to the more natural condition of the soil, and, when this has become established, collect data, which will be useful in aiding our future operations?

Some few have explored the innate powers of undisturbed soil, thus touching the fringe of knowledge of its great potentialities, and are not rebuffed in this exciting adventure by the adverse criticism of more timorous souls who believe that only evidence of cultural operations supporting traditional practices are sound.

Under present circumstances, we find conditions of soil vastly inferior to those of earlier times, but, because the spade was used to seemingly good effect in those far-off days, we are to assume without further ado, that by the use of the spade we can improve or even maintain the condition of soil?

Most of my gardening experiences have been collected while working in large private gardens, in which many changes have occurred during the last forty years.

GARDEN HOTBEDS

As a youth, I can remember the enormous hotbeds, which were a feature in all such gardens. The construction of these entailed the collection of large quantities of autumn leaves mixed with stable manure to induce heat by fermentation processes. Upon these monumental heaps were placed portable frames for the production of early or tender vegetables or the raising of seedlings. In many instances, the surfaces of such hotbeds were covered with the sprawling vines of vegetable marrows after the portable frames had been emptied of their early crops. In the autumn, the heaps were wheeled into the vegetable garden and labourers would dig or trench into the soil what seems now to have been an extravagant amount of first-class humus forming material.

Such like material just had to be dug or trenched into the soil and often extravagantly for the amount of material and the size of the vegetable garden were disproportionate to the real needs of the soil.

We are still urged from many quarters to continue digging, but with the meagre amount of organic matter now available to us, are we sure to obtain the same good results, as did our fathers?

If in those "good old days" the surface of the soil had not been artificially aerated by the use of the spade, owing to the relatively slow rate of decomposition of this organic matter, the level of the garden plots would quickly have been raised to embarrassing heights, making the permanent paths appear unduly sunken.

The regular use of the spade was a necessary expedient to avoid this obvious condition arising, but does the same hold good for present day use of the spade? Had we enquired of the old labourer why he dug his soil, he would have answered that he did so to bury the muck.

DISAPPEARING SOIL

I can recall visiting a garden in the Kendal vicinity during the spring of 1920, where for many years this routine of making hotbeds each autumn and using the residue the following year had been religiously practised, with the result that the vegetable garden which consumed this large amount of good humus-forming material contained soil so rich in character and beautiful in texture as is seldom seen in any garden today. Revisiting the same garden after a lapse of fifteen years, I was told by the gardener that the soil was so shallow that it was impossible to dig a full spit deep before touching rock. Such innovations as the substitution of heating pipes in the frames in place of the old-fashioned hotbeds, the letting of the home farm to a tenant farmer, the installation or expansion of modern water-borne sewage, the quick reduction of all combustible material from the garden by bonfires, had all played a part in reducing the amount of organic matter to negligible proportions, while the organic particles once in the soil had been used up quicker than they were replaced, eventually allowing the underlying strata of rock to be easily touched with the spade.

Yet the gardener persisted in digging this shallow soil like his predecessor had done when conditions were so entirely different and just as persistently grumbled at the shocking results he obtained from his labour.

LOSING TIME

Once the vegetable garden was noted for the earliness of its produce; now it matures its crops no earlier than other gardens in the district.

The explanation of this is twofold. First, mineral matter unavailable as plant food forms the greater part of its bulk now, and the regular autumn digging just as regularly lowered the soil temperature. This latter cause of failure to produce early crops is one that is seldom mentioned, but is one charge that can be justly laid at the door of digging.

I do not propose to disclose the source of scientific evidence giving this fact, but leave it to the individual to search for the appropriate literature, hoping that, by so doing, he or she might find other points of interest by its perusal. But I will say that over a long period and in the case of very many crops, I have found this to be true.

WARMER

Scientific records show that on a given day the temperature of different types of soil gave the following minimum thermometer readings: —

Wet loam, friable to 3 inches depth	24.93
Wet loam, compacted.....	26.4
Dry loam.....	24.0
Wet sand.....	20.1
Dry sand.....	19.1
Wet peat.....	17.6
Dry peat.....	10.5

The difference between the temperature of wet loam soil, which had been disturbed to a depth of three inches, and the same soil left compacted is significant, as is also that between the wet compacted loam and the dry loam. No one studying the above little table will fail to note the wide difference in soil temperature between the wet compacted loam and the dry peat, yet how often do we read that it is a good practice to apply dry peat to the surface of the soil in spring when making up a seed bed?

Contrast this with my oft-repeated recommendation of applying compost to the surface of the soil during the autumn (not digging this in) in order to permit of earlier than normal sowing of seeds. The object of digging or forking, especially during spring months, is to allow the surface to dry so that seed sowing may be facilitated, but the object of applying a covering of compost to an undug soil is to ensure that it remains moist, and along comes scientific evidence to prove that, in a moist or even wet condition, soil remains warmer than when dry.

Probing into such subjects as soil management in relation to its effect upon spring radiation frosts, it is plain to see why the flowers of strawberries may be frozen

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FERTILE GARDEN SOIL WITHOUT DIGGING

(Continued from page 6)

through the fault of the gardener in stirring the surface soil at a critical time, for this tends to dry out the surface moisture and so lowers the temperature of the soil near the surface.

STRAWBERRIES AND SAWDUST

I have laid down an axiom that only when planting the crop should the soil in the strawberry bed be disturbed, and that, immediately after the fruit is gathered, the whole bed should be completely covered with resinous sawdust. Should this advice be followed by gardeners in the dry eastern counties, I would further recommend the heavy watering of the sawdust before the blossoms appear if the sawdust appears at all dry. This heavy watering will compact the sawdust and enable it to conduct latent heat from the subsoil and so create a warm zone around the plants, which will give ample protection to the blossom in the case of a mild radiation frost.

It will be seen from this that to conserve soil temperature during the absence of sunshine, it is necessary for soil to be compacted so that the natural flow of heat from the subsoil is continuous and uninterrupted. A dry surface has poor conductivity and little ability to retain the escaping heat waves, so that the loss of heat from the lower regions fails to benefit the loose surface.

This is the obvious reason for the mere spontaneous germination of seed placed near the surface of an undisturbed soil and why seedlings growing in firm soil appear to be making slow progress compared with similar seedlings in more friable soil nearby, yet in all my experiences I have always found the former to mature more quickly, due to the absence of further checks. Even in the artificial confines of a glass-house, it is the temperature of the soil which governs the growth of the tomato plant, so that if we cease to dig the soil before planting the seedlings, we have gone far towards conserving more of the natural heat within the soil and have given our seedlings a good send off in life.

AVOIDING DROUGHT

Perhaps one of the reasons why I have been so successful in the use of sawdust is because of our abundant rainfall, but if that is the only reason then others can overcome the disadvantages of dry sawdust by freely watering this during the *winter months*. The best time to protect your June maturing cauliflowers may well be in December and not in May, by rushing about with a watering can, for then it may be too late.

The proper management of the soil may well be a lifetime study, and that without the further complications arising from inverting the soil.

The control of pests and diseases is a matter of soil management, and it is high time we devoted some study to the requirements of certain soil pests in matters of diet.

I see no reason why wireworms should destroy the roots of chrysanthemum plants when a little sawdust sprinkled on the surface of the soil might cover their requirements better. Although entomologist friends of mine will not agree, I still main-

tain that slugs can be reduced to negligible proportions in a garden well stocked with earthworms, and I certainly prefer the efforts of worms to those of slugs. Apart from other considerations, what better harbour for slugs can be found than those provided by the rough digging we are urged to practise each autumn? Let us consider how this rough surface frustrates efforts of the earthworms in attempting to place their casts upon the surface soil. Let us relate our actions with cause and effect and not with smug thoughts of complacency that a dug garden is a good garden. Seek the cause of present troubles in past actions, and please be ruthless in your examinations.

Give the system of non-inversion of the soil a fair trial and, after twenty years, if not satisfied with the result, then abandon the practice; but, for goodness sake, do not try the system for one year and pass judgment on the results obtained. The advantages of non-digging are cumulative and are expressed in many unexpected ways. Think of your wet, compacted soil being warmer and not colder than a dry, loose one, and try to keep your surface firm and moist, if not actually wet by applying a covering of organic matter. Remember that, while this will to a certain extent disappear before spring, if applied in the autumn, its benefits will by no means be lost, for the underlying soil will be and compacted and, in such a condition, capable of retaining its natural heat much better.

TREATMENT OF FRUIT TREES, BUSHES AND PLANTS

Advice is sought for the management of an orchard of bush plums interplanted with black currants and strawberries. The area is an acre, and the plum trees are planted approximately 20 feet apart, with soft fruit between the rows. To prepare the land for planting the grassland was ploughed and planted to potatoes as a first crop, the idea being to achieve some measure of control over weeds and to facilitate the planting of fruit bushes and plants. The growth of the plums is stated as now vigorous, but black currants are not so strong.

The system of intercropping permanent trees with soft fruit is not usually recommended, although with organic methods of cultivation it may well succeed. The usual objection to this practice of intercropping is that it adds to the difficulty of spraying, but, as there is little to be gained from sprays if the proper treatment of the soil is understood, to intercrop for a few years is not considered harmful.

In a district of ample rainfall, the question of grassing down might well be considered, but a decision on this question can be deferred until such times as the strawberries and black currants begin to be too badly shaded by the growth of the plums.

In this mixed orchard, the spade or the plough can be rested and full use made of sawdust, compost, straw, or bracken as mulch, used either separately or mixed. The immediate effect of such mulch will increase the number of earthworms, so that aeration of the soil will be effected without soil inversion.

Fertility will be built up as in Nature from the top downwards, and this will encourage the production of fibrous roots lying near the surface.

Sawdust mulch will invariably produce a crop of Dutch white clover, which means that the soil will receive combined nitrogen from the air. Whatever cover crop is used should be mown at least twice in the year, making the last cut late in the year, so as to avoid the growth of long grass early in the spring, when radiation frosts may damage the fruit blossoms. Cold air tends to thicken over coarse herbage, so the closer the grass is in the early spring, the less risk of radiation frosts damaging fruit blossoms.

According to the vigour of the trees, animal manure can be applied, generously if the trees appear stunted or sparingly if they are making much growth. Poultry folding beneath the trees will spread their dung evenly over the surface of the soil and collect many pests, which would otherwise harm the trees. I have seen folded poultry convert a rough grass field into a clover field in a very short time.

Pruning of established plum trees should be light, consisting of the removal of unwanted branches, but black currants should be hard pruned every year to ensure the production of good, strong fruit bearing wood.

Although far more insects will be found in an unsprayed orchard, by far the greater number of these will be beneficial ones and few of the injurious kinds.

While scab may be a disfigurement to many fruits, it by no means follows that this fungus is harmful to the consumer. Indeed, a fungus which develops on the cheek of the fruit exposed to sunlight may be most valuable to the consumer.

—*The Farmer*, Eng., Spring, 1949.

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(J. E. Harding & A. E. Webb)

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"THERE IS ONLY ONE DISEASE OF ANIMALS:

Its Name Is Man"

Fertility Farming eliminates DISEASES of Crops and Stock

By F. NEWMAN TURNER, Editor, *The Farmer* (England). In this article in the series on Fertility Farming, Mr. Turner introduces the subject of crop and stock diseases and the value of organic methods in the elimination of disease.

I left university with the deep bewilderment about animal and crop diseases, which I imagine is common to all agricultural students. The only certain thing about animal diseases seemed to be man's inability to prevent or cure them. It was not until I had experienced the common diseases in their most virile forms and started at the beginning in my attempt to eliminate and keep free of them, instead of accepting the diseases and treating them as inevitable, that I discovered their simplicity. Until in fact I discovered that there is only one disease of animals, and its name is man.

The solution was then simple. If we could detach man from the domesticated animals we should free them of most, if not all, of their most disastrous diseases. If we could get the animals back to a life as nearly as possible what it was before man perverted them to his own use, it was reasonable to assume that health would be restored and maintained.

That, in fact, was my experience.

I have previously written briefly about the disease which drained my resources and nearly ruined two herds of cattle; how artificial manures were dispensed with entirely, and how manuring entirely by natural means and feeding my cattle mainly on compost-grown food, I restored my herd and my farm to health and abundance, from the stage when 75 percent, of my animals were suffering from contagious abortion sterility, tuberculosis and mastitis.

THE GERM THEORY

I spent large sums of money on vaccination and the orthodox veterinary treatment of sterility, and the only result was increasing disease. Some cows aborted their calves as often as three times after being vaccinated, and one after another the cows were declared by the veterinary surgeon to be useless and incapable of further breeding, after he had applied a succession of orthodox treatments and failed. He told me that I should never be safe from these diseases until I adopted a system of regular vaccination of all my cattle as they reached the age of six months; I must also fatten the sterile animals and all my tuberculosis reactors. In spite of extreme pressure, I resisted all this advice, largely because I had not the capital to replace the "useless" animals, which I was advised to dispose of, and partly because I was, in any case, becoming convinced that we had been tackling the disease from the wrong end.

My faith in the germ theory had already been severely shaken by experience of nature cure in my own family, and when 25 percent, of my cattle continued normal and healthy lives in the midst of millions of brucella abortus, staphylococcus pyogenes, streptococci of all kinds and tuberculosis bacilli, I became convinced that the

much maligned bacteria were not the primary factor in the cause of disease. And after five or six years' working on that assumption, with the gradual elimination of so-called contagious diseases from my farm, although I am regularly taking diseased animals in for treatment, I have reached the conclusion that bacteria are not only not the main cause of disease, or abnormality in the body, but they are Nature's chief means of combating it. What we choose to call harmful bacteria are ineffective or inactive except where the abnormal conditions exist to make their work necessary. If we allow them to clear up a diseased condition, which is their natural job, and do not continue the malpractices which gave rise to the abnormality, leaving the body entirely free of external sustenance until the cleansing work of the bacteria is done, and then only introducing the patient to natural food grown from compost, good health is the natural outcome.

MASTITIS

In experimenting with a particularly troublesome disease of the cow's udder, mastitis, I have taken the discharges of cows suffering from it and applied the virulent bacteria to the udders of healthy cows, with no ill effect whatever to the healthy cow. This is a disease, which is said to be spread from one cow to another by invasion of the udder with bacilli. Strict germicidal measures are claimed to be the most effective form of prevention and treatment, yet mastitis is costing the farmer more and more. My own cows suffered most severely with this disease when everything to do with them was continuously submerged in disinfectant and when I was using all the orthodox treatments. Every farmer knows that his cows will get mastitis under orthodox methods of management, and would continue to do so even were they kept under glass cases. The fact is that this disease is merely a catarrhal condition of the udder, brought about by feeding cows for high yields on foods in which the natural elements, vitamins and plant hormones, essential to proper endocrine functioning, either never existed because the food was grown from a soil dying of chemical poisoning, or in other ways deficient, or were removed in the process of manufacture.

THE REVOLUTION

For many years now my farm has been manured exclusively by natural means, and the animals fed almost exclusively on naturally grown crops. Up to the time of meeting Sir Albert Howard, I had used a form of compost, which resulted from my efforts to utilise all available organic matter to replace the chemical manures. Since Sir Albert first came to the farm, I have followed more closely the Indore system of composting, and, encouraged by him, I have evolved an adaptation of his system, which makes turning unnecessary or reduces it

to one turn at the most. This is done by reducing the proportion of animal manure and increasing the proportion of green vegetable matter without the deliberate addition of water, but more details of this will be printed later in "The Farmer." I have also taken Sir Albert's advice about subsoiling, and bought a subsoiling plough, so that all my land gets a routine shattering of the subsoil every time a field is ploughed, thus tapping reserves of minerals previously locked in the subsoil.

Kept under this regime, the sterile animals I was advised to have slaughtered have come back to breeding again and formerly useless cattle have been turned into a valuable pedigree herd, the only cost being hard work and a respect for Nature. Had I taken the veterinary surgeon's advice, I should have been ruined, but, instead, I am that rare specimen, a happy farmer.

OTHER FARMERS' REJECTS

Encouraged by success with my own animals, I advertised for other farmers' rejects, particularly those that had been declared incapable of breeding by veterinary surgeons. Regularly, now, I am curing these cows upon which orthodox treatment has failed, and only in cases where physiological defects prevent breeding, has cure been impossible.

Similarly with tuberculosis, I have reclaimed reactors, which would otherwise have been useless. Among these is my present senior stock bull, a most valuable pedigree Jersey, whose dam won the national trophy for production of milk and butter fat against all breeds, and whose grandsire won supreme championships at all the main shows, both in England and in Jersey. His reaction to the tuberculin test was so violent that the Ministry would not allow a re-test, and insisted on the disposal of the animal. But I could not afford to lose him, and, after moving him to some off-land, I gave him natural treatment and restored the deficiencies, which gave rise to his toxemia by a careful diet of fresh food grown in virile soil. He was tested three times in the space of a year, and showed a gradual improvement, until at last he was clear. The Ministry of Agriculture veterinary surgeon then gave him two clear tests at two-monthly intervals and readmitted him to the herd, free from disease, in which condition he has continued to do his work for the past two years, showing no further sign of reaction. I am engaged on more work with tuberculosis, and I am satisfied that it can permanently be prevented and cured on food grown in properly managed soil.

HEIFER TEN DAYS UNCONSCIOUS

Magnesium deficiency, which is a disease arising from the destruction by potassic manures of a trace element in the soil, has also been cured at Goosegreen Farm. One animal suffering from this deficiency lay stretched out as though dead for ten days. By a course of warm water enemas, plain water drinks and no foods until the animal was so emaciated that some sustenance was indicated, then introducing diluted molasses and fresh mineral-rich green food, I got the animal back to health. She has since given me two heifer calves, 900 gallons of milk in one lactation, and is again producing four gallons a day, and is one of the healthiest animals on the farm, in spite of her ten-day fast.